

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

CONTACT: Ann McNair / [amcnair@conspirare.org](mailto:amcnair@conspirare.org)

---

## **Conspirare to be Honored with Texas Medal of Arts**

**AUSTIN, TEXAS (January 17, 2019)** – Conspirare, Austin’s own internationally recognized Grammy®-award-winning choral ensemble, joins a stellar array of fellow Texans honored with the 2019 Texas Medal of Arts. The [Texas Medal of Arts Awards](#) ceremony will be held at the Long Center for Performing Arts on February 27<sup>th</sup>; Conspirare will be among the performers for the awards ceremony. In addition to Conspirare, 2019 honorees include such luminaries as Matthew McConaughey, Stephen Harrigan, and Boz Scaggs.

Conspirare’s Artistic Director, Craig Hella Johnson, shared that “We are thrilled and deeply honored to be in the company of our wonderful fellow artists who are receiving the 2019 Texas Medal of the Arts. It is an unspeakable joy to see the world-class singers of Conspirare recognized as we celebrate 25 years of dynamic choral art. We are so grateful to the Conspirare family of artists, listeners and supporters who have taken this musical journey with us. And we feel especially proud to be making music here in the vibrant and diverse state of Texas.”



Since 2001, the biennial Texas Medal of Arts Awards has honored 108 Texas leaders and luminaries who have achieved excellence through their creative talents as well as those whose generosity has opened doors to artistic opportunity for Texans of all ages. The Texas Cultural Trust’s Texas Medal of Arts Award is Texas’ most respected arts recognition and underscores the power of the arts to improve children’s education, contribute to the unique and proud cultural heritage of Texas, and stimulate the state’s economy.

Currently celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> Season, Conspirare’s artistic excellence has been previously recognized with a Grammy® Award and multiple nominations, the Netherlands’ Edison Award and Germany’s Preis der Deutschen Schallplattenkritik. Conspirare’s singers perform worldwide to critical acclaim and Artistic Director Craig Hella Johnson was named Texas State Musician in 2013. Conspirare performs a full annual season in Austin and Central Texas where

it has received ongoing recognition from local organizations and critics. In addition, Conspirare has performed nationally and internationally, with appearances at Ravinia, Polyfolia (France), Norway's St. Olav Festival, and as a featured choir at the American Choral Directors Association annual conference and regional ACDA conventions. Conspirare recently performed at the interment of Matthew Shepard's ashes by invitation of the Washington National Cathedral as part of its ongoing national tour of *Considering Matthew Shepard*.

---

## UPCOMING 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary "I Dream a World" Season Events



### March Moderns <https://conspirare.org/event/march-moderns/>

March Moderns is a mini-festival featuring new works for voices and instruments. Conspirare will perform the world premiere of *Songs for Muska*, composed by 2017-2018 American Prize winner Jocelyn Hagen. Hagen's musical textures and colors sing in these settings of landays (2-line Pashto folk poems) translated by Eliza Griswold and Farzana Marie's translations of poems by young Afghani women.

Vanguard showcases extraordinary works for voices by three of today's boldest compositional voices: Caroline Shaw, Anna Thorvaldsdottir, and Andrea Clearfield. Kile Smith's ethereal new work, a setting of St. John of the Cross' Spiritual Canticle for voices, three cellos, and vibraphone, will surround listeners in a sensual sound bath to close the festival.

- Vanguard TUE, March 26 at 7:30pm St. Martin's Lutheran Church
- Songs for Muska FRI, March 29 at 8:00 pm Bates Recital Hall
- Canticle SUN, March 31 at 4:00 pm St. Martin's Lutheran Church

### Hidden Music

- FRI, April 26 at Hotel Van Zandt

### Conspirare Youth Choirs Moonrise

- FRI, May 3 at St. Martin's Lutheran Church
- SAT, May 4 at St. Martin's Lutheran Church

### Special Events

#### ***Considering Matthew Shepard: Encore Performances 2018-2019***

- SAT, 04/13/19 Stanford, California
  - TUE, 04/16/19 Tucson, Arizona
- 

### About Conspirare

**Conspirare** is a choral ensemble that creates exceptional concert experiences and world-class recordings under the incomparable direction of Craig Hella Johnson. The company is composed of three ensembles. The Grammy-Award winning **Conspirare** is the flagship

ensemble of the organization. Johnson and Conspirare were awarded the **2014 Best Choral Performance Grammy® for *The Sacred Spirit of Russia*** – one of eleven recordings released on [PIAS] harmonia mundi. The **Conspirare Symphonic Choir** is an auditioned chorus of both professional and volunteer singers who reside in the Austin, Texas area. **Conspirare Youth Choirs (CYC)** was formed as an outreach program to seek and train young musicians who share a love and commitment for creating music at a high level of excellence. CYC singers perform in three ensembles: Prelude, Kantorei, and Allegro.

[Conspirare press kit page \(images for download, info pdf\)](#)