



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN  
**TEXAS PERFORMING ARTS**

Conspirare  
we sing life™  
Craig Hella Johnson  
& Company of Voices

ACGG  
AUSTIN CLASSICAL GUITAR

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**HOW LITTLE YOU ARE FOR VOICES AND GUITARS**

**BY NICO MUHLY**

**COMMISSIONED AND PRESENTED BY TEXAS PERFORMING ARTS**  
**IN COLLABORATION WITH AUSTIN CLASSICAL GUITAR AND CONSPIRARE**

**WORLD PREMIERE PERFORMANCE**  
**APRIL 18 AT BASS CONCERT HALL, 8 PM**

**Presented in partnership with KMFA**

**Commissioning support provided by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation**

**PROGRAM:**

*How Little You Are* for voices and guitars

Nico Muhly, *composer*

Craig Hella Johnson, *conductor*

Featuring Conspirare Company of Voices, Dublin Guitar Quartet, Los Angeles Guitar Quartet,  
and Texas Guitar Quartet

Texas Performing Arts presents the exclusive world premiere performance of *How Little You Are* by composer Nico Muhly. The unprecedented collaboration between three of Austin's

esteemed arts organizations, Austin Classical Guitar, Conspirare, and Texas Performing Arts will take place April 18 at Bass Concert Hall. Conspirare artistic director Craig Hella Johnson will conduct Grammy® award-winning professional vocal ensemble Conspirare Company of Voices and three world-class guitar quartets in the performance, at which Nico Muhly will be present.

Commissioned by Texas Performing Arts with support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, ***How Little You Are*** is composed for the unusual combination of choir and three guitar quartets. Kathy Panoff, Associate Dean and Executive Director of Texas Performing Arts notes, “This project provided an opportunity for Texas Performing Arts to clearly demonstrate cultural leadership, one of the three key pillars of our mission-based work on campus and in the community. As the largest arts organization in the region, Texas Performing Arts at The University of Texas at Austin has an implied responsibility to both steward and elevate our cultural resources including classical music, so that they may continue to grow, thrive and retain relevance in today’s rapidly changing world.”

Continued collaboration with Kathy Panoff led Matthew Hinsley, executive director of Austin Classical Guitar, to appoint the internationally renowned Dublin Guitar Quartet, Los Angeles Guitar Quartet, and Texas Guitar Quartet to perform with Conspirare in the premiere. The evening’s program will also include performances by the Conspirare Youth Choirs and Austin Classical Guitar Youth Orchestra.

Nico Muhly is one of the most sought-after young composers in the new music world today. In ***How Little You Are***, he uses music and text to capture the sense of hope, fear, and loneliness that defined the experience of Texas’ original settlers as they pursued the promise of a better life.

“I had found a sequence of texts written by pioneer women in Texas and in other places in the 19th century. Their concerns range from the agricultural to the spiritual, and from the wonder of the open spaces to the horrors of infant mortality ... The piece is meant to capitalize on the extraordinary sonic possibilities of a dozen guitars, as well as vocal ensemble Conspirare’s ability to navigate the simple, the complicated, and the in-between,” says Nico Muhly.

“It is such an honor to be conducting this remarkable collaboration made possible by Texas Performing Arts,” comments Craig Hella Johnson. “This marks the first time Conspirare has teamed up with the amazing Nico Muhly as well as the phenomenal musicians provided by Austin Classical Guitar. It is going to be a breathtaking evening of music.”

“Every aspect of this project is positively thrilling. Nico has come up with an extraordinary and significant work, we’re convening some of the greatest guitar talent in the world to work with Conspirare’s amazing singers, and I cannot wait to share the whole experience with our community,” remarks Dr. Matthew G. Hinsley.

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**About Austin Classical Guitar (ACG):**

ASG is a world leader in community service through the classical guitar. Concerts, Education, and Outreach form the pillars of ACG’s broad programming, designed to eliminate cultural, economic, and geographic barriers to the power of great music. The Youth Orchestra and Community Guitar Ensembles also make up ACG and popular events include ACG Fest and the annual composition competition for Texas-based composers, for guitar ensembles. For more information go to [www.austinclassicalguitar.org](http://www.austinclassicalguitar.org)

**About Conspirare:**

Conspirare is a family of vocal ensembles known for delivering uniquely beautiful and transformative musical experiences. Its flagship ensemble is Grammy®-winning Company of Voices, a dream team of professional singers from around the country-under the leadership of artistic director Craig Hella Johnson. The Conspirare Symphonic Choir and two Conspirare Youth Choirs complete the Conspirare family. Conspirare’s repertoire is as diverse as its talent, spanning eras from medieval to modern. For more information go to [www.conspirare.org](http://www.conspirare.org).

**About Nico Muhly:**

Nico Muhly has composed a wide scope of work for ensembles, soloists and organizations including the American Symphony Orchestra, Boston Pops, Carnegie Hall, Chicago Symphony, countertenor Iestyn Davies, violinist Hilary Hahn, choreographer Benjamin Millepied, New York City Ballet, New York Philharmonic, Paris Opéra Ballet, soprano Jessica Rivera, and designer/illustrator Maira Kalman. Other projects include a full-scale opera, *Two Boys*, The Chamber Opera, *Dark Sisters*, and countless scores for film. Muhly has also lent his skills to many musicians including Doveman, Björk and The National. For more information go to [www.nicomuhly.com](http://www.nicomuhly.com).

**About Texas Performing Arts:**

Texas Performing Arts presents an international season of music, theatre, dance, and conversation in our multiple venues, as well as the best in touring Broadway productions and concert attractions. As a university-based arts center it is also committed to serving the

academic mission of the College of Fine Arts by supporting the work of our students, faculty and staff on our stages, classrooms, studios and production shops; and in the educational outreach programs it provides for the Austin community. For more information go [www.texasperformingarts.org](http://www.texasperformingarts.org)

### **CALENDAR LISTING**

**Saturday, April 18, 2015, 8 pm** –Texas Performing Arts at The University of Texas at Austin presents ***How Little You Are* for voices and guitars, by Nico Muhly; With Conspirare Company of Voices, Dublin Guitar Quartet, Los Angeles Guitar Quartet, and Texas Guitar Quartet at Bass Concert Hall** (2350 East Campus Dr.) A map of the campus: [texasperformingarts.org/visit/maps\\_directions](http://texasperformingarts.org/visit/maps_directions). Tickets (\$36 - \$45 / Limited \$10 student tickets / Limited \$12 serving & retired Military tickets /discounted tickets available for UT faculty & staff and seniors) are on sale now at authorized ticket outlets, which include the Bass Concert Hall Ticket Office and all Texas Box Office outlets, online at [TexasPerformingArts.org](http://TexasPerformingArts.org), or by calling (512) 477-6060 or (800) 982-BEVO.

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