

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SYMPHONIC CHOIR SINGS CONNECTION

The 80 voice Conspirare Symphonic Choir presents a program of contemporary works examining our impulse for connection.

ALL TICKETS / INFO: <https://conspirare.org/event/symphonic-choir-sings-2017/>

10/27/17 (8:00pm) Friday

AUSTIN: University Presbyterian Church 2203 San Antonio St.

Artistic Director Craig Hella Johnson conducts Conspirare's [Symphonic Choir](#) in a program examining our impulse for connection. Program includes regional premieres of david lang's *the national anthems* and *Mass Transmission* by Mason Bates. Conspirare Symphonic Choir is an auditioned chorus that draws professional and volunteer singers from the Greater-Austin community. Symphonic Choir will be joined by instrumental collaborators the Artisan Quartet, Austin Haller (organ), Faith DeBow (piano and electronica), Thomas Burrirt (percussion) and Utah Hamrick (double bass).



Artistic Director Craig Hella Johnson reflects on the program: “Never before in my life have I felt so urgently the absolute necessity of coming together to sing and listen as a way to navigate our lives together and to express all we are holding in this intense and challenging time. It is a truly powerful experience when people from throughout the community come together to form an extraordinary



choir that not only sings great music but also represents our city proudly and holds the pulse of its people. I am greatly inspired by the members of the Conspirare Symphonic Choir who, through their singing, breathe life into the imagination of Austin. Their performances are about musical excellence, freedom of expression and love. Our fall program presents powerful music which I am very excited to share with Austin audiences. The major works on the program are composed by two of the most compelling composers on the musical scene today. It promises to be a stirring and deeply engaging evening of music and an inspirational way to come together.

Austin-based [Artisan Quartet](#) joins the Symphonic Choir for Pulitzer-prize winning composer david lang's *the national anthems*. “*the national anthems* scours the anthems of all the countries in the world, hoping to find common ground that might allow us to understand each other, across all our artificial boundaries,” observed David Lang in describing this piece for [Cantaloupe Music](#). This musical mediation is also being performed in Philadelphia and Toronto in Fall 2017.

[Mass Transmission](#) from Mason Bates also features prominently on the program. In a [blog](#) post, Bates said “*Mass Transmission* tells the true story of a distantly-separated family communicating over the earliest radio transmissions. It is a kind of 1920’s-era Skype: on one end of the line is a Dutch girl sent to be a page in the colonial government of the East Indies — and on the other end of the line is her mother, thousands of miles away in the Dutch Telegraph Office. Scored for chorus, organ, and electronica, the piece intimately examines the warmth of human emotions pulsing through a mechanistic medium.” Austin Haller, organist, and Faith DeBow, electronica, join the ensemble for this piece.

Additional works on the program include *Tsunangari (Connection)* by Kentaro Sato (1981) and selections from Will Todd’s *Songs of Love*.

Other Upcoming Conspirare Events

Conspirare Youth Choirs: Breath of Heaven

12/1 – 12/2, 7:30pm, University Presbyterian Church, AUSTIN

The stunning voices of our brilliant young artists will usher in your Holiday season in beauty. Join us to hear Benjamin Britten’s beloved Ceremony of Carols, interspersed with other favorites of the British choral tradition including Purcell, Rutter, Blake, Page, and Parry.

Info/tickets: <https://conspirare.org/event/breath-of-heaven-2017/>

Conspirare Christmas with Carrie Rodriguez

12/7 – 12/14 in VICTORIA, HOUSTON, AUSTIN, & SAN ANTONIO

Grammy® award-winning Conspirare delivers world-class vocal artistry in this celebration of love, connection and renewal. Please join us for an evening that will feed your soul and open your heart. Craig Hella Johnson’s unique programming breaks down the conventional boundaries of pop, classical, folk and seasonal favorites, revealing the music’s essence and embracing our shared humanity. Collaborating on this year’s concert is Austin’s own Carrie Rodriguez.

Info/tickets: <https://conspirare.org/event/conspirare-christmas-2017/>

About Conspirare

Conspirare is an internationally recognized, professional choral organization now in its twenty-third season. Led by founder and Artistic Director Craig Hella Johnson, Conspirare includes two adult performing ensembles and an educational program. Conspirare’s flagship ensemble is a Grammy® award-winning chamber choir of extraordinarily talented singers from around the country. They perform an annual concert series in Austin and other Texas communities, and also tour in the U.S. and abroad. Four other ensembles complete the Conspirare family: Conspirare Symphonic Choir, a large ensemble that performs works for chorus and instruments, and Conspirare Youth Choirs, an educational program for singers in 2nd – 12th grades who learn and perform in three separate ensembles, Kantorei, Allegro and Prelude.

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