

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Melissa Eddy, meddy@conspirare.org, 512-217-1264 (cell)

Conspirare announces 2013-2014 season “Traveling Mercies”

Conspirare and founding artistic director Craig Hella Johnson launch their third decade together by taking listeners on a musical voyage of adventure, joy, and compassion. The phrase “traveling mercies,” a benediction for safe travel, expresses both the transformative benefit of the Conspirare musical experience and the season’s expanded schedule of performances “on the road” in Houston, San Antonio, Victoria, and Fredericksburg.

The September opener and June finale feature works by J. S. Bach, the master Baroque composer whose music epitomizes transcendence. Our hugely popular Conspirare Christmas hosts charismatic singer-songwriter Ruthie Foster, and in January we reprise by popular demand Joby Talbot’s *Path of Miracles*, inspired by the legendary Camino pilgrimage. *Path of Miracles* will also be recorded for international label Harmonia Mundi. In March the Symphonic Choir performs contemporary music about the light of creation, and the season concludes in June with a five-event COMPASSION festival, exploring themes of suffering and mercy through music from traditional to cutting-edge.

Conspirare’s popular Big Sings include a program at the Blanton Museum of Art, a holiday sing, and a spring sing in partnership with Fusebox Festival. The Conspirare Youth Choirs, directed by Nina Revering, will again amaze audiences with their artistry as they perform Christmas music in December and a spring program featuring works of Benjamin Britten. The Youth Choirs will also make an invited appearance at the American Choral Directors Association-Southwest Region annual conference in March.

Complete details and ticketing information will be in Conspirare’s 2013-2014 brochure, to be mailed in late August, and online at Conspirare.org. Subscription and single ticket sales open August 31.

THE 2013-2014 SEASON

Bach Plus: Elegant Craft, Ardent Expression

J. S. Bach’s motets, gleaming pearls of elegant compositional craft, form a framework for expressive music across the centuries. Hear *Der Geist Hilft* and other Bach favorites, plus gems by Gustav Mahler, Steven Sametz, and young Estonian composer Pärt Uusberg.

September 26, First United Methodist Church, Victoria
September 27, St. Luke’s United Methodist Church, Houston
September 28-29, St. Martin’s Lutheran Church, Austin

Big Sing

Sing along with Craig Hella Johnson, enjoy the exhibit "Imperial Augsburg: Renaissance Prints and Drawings," and hear Conspirare Symphonic Choir perform a Renaissance chorale or two.

October 17, Blanton Museum of Art, Austin

Conspirare Christmas

Our beloved holiday concert that combines many musical genres into one intensely meaningful experience. Guest singer-songwriter Ruthie Foster has "a sound that ignores demographic lines and a charisma that can ignite any audience."

December 5, First United Methodist Church, Victoria

December 6, Laurel Heights United Methodist Church, San Antonio

December 7-8, The Carillon on Exposition, Austin

December 9, Long Center, Austin

Holiday Big Sing

Sing along with music for the holidays.

December 17, St. Martin's Lutheran Church, Austin

Path of Miracles

Audiences loved Conspirare's 2012 performances of Joby Talbot's *Path of Miracles* and clamored for its return. Both mystical and jubilant, the work is inspired by Spain's famous Camino pilgrimage and performed a cappella with movement and lighting. Also to be recorded for Harmonia Mundi.

January 23, Laurel Heights United Methodist Church, San Antonio

January 24, St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Austin

January 25, St. Luke's United Methodist Church, Houston

January 26, St. Martin's Lutheran Church, Austin

Moving Light

Conspirare Symphonic Choir performs James Whitbourn's intriguing *Luminosity* (2008), a multimedia work for choir, viola, tanpura, tam-tam, organ, and special lighting, on texts about creation's beauty. Plus Morten Lauridsen's popular *Lux Aeterna*.

March 28-29, University Presbyterian Church, Austin

Big Sing

A funky sing-along in collaboration with Fusebox Festival.

April 17, time and location TBA, Austin

COMPASSION

A FESTIVAL OF MUSICAL PASSIONS – GREAT ARCHETYPAL STORIES OF SUFFERING, EMPATHY, AND REDEMPTION

***Pietà* by John Muehleisen**

A contemporary Passion that explores hope and love as human responses to the tragedies and injustices we see every day. Pre-concert talks by the composer.

June 5, St. Mary's Catholic Church, Fredericksburg

June 6-7, St. Martin's Lutheran Church, Austin

***Considering Matthew Shepard* by Craig Hella Johnson & *Requiem* by Maurice Duruflé**

Interactive workshop performance of a Passion in progress, inspired by a young gay man's senseless murder on a snow-blown night, and in response, excerpts from a beloved Requiem.

June 8, St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Austin

***A Gnostic Passion* by Doug and Brad Balliett**

Texas premiere of new music on ancient texts, by cutting-edge composers who happen to be twins. Presented as a workshop reading of a newly realized piano version. Free admission.

June, date and venue TBA, Austin

Passion Dialogues: Conversations in Co-Creation

Craig Hella Johnson and composer Robert Kyr in dialogue with Conspirare Symphonic Choir members and the public about Kyr's *Passion According to an Unknown Witness*, a work in progress that Conspirare will premiere in a future season. Free admission

June, date and venue TBA, Austin

***St. Matthew Passion* by J. S. Bach**

Bach's great sacred oratorio recounts the persecution and suffering of Jesus, with tenor Dann Coakwell in his signature role as The Evangelist.

June 13, Fine Arts Center, Victoria

June 14-15, St. Martin's Lutheran Church, Austin

CONSPIRARE YOUTH CHOIRS

Spellbound

Gustav Holst's *Choral Hymns from the Rig Veda*, on sacred Hindu texts, combine with beautiful Christmas carols by John Rutter and Eleanor Daly to create a beautiful holiday mood.

December 13-14, St. Martin's Lutheran Church, Austin

Moonrise

CYC celebrates composer Benjamin Britten's centenary, performing *his Friday Afternoons* Op. 7 and *Missa Brevis* in D, Op. 6.

May 2-3, St. Martin's Lutheran Church, Austin