

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Conspirare presents

Moving Light

Friday, March 28, 8:00 pm

Saturday, March 29, 8:00 pm

University Presbyterian Church, 2203 San Antonio St, Austin

Tickets \$20 general admission

512-474-5664 or [Conspirare.org](#)

Artistic director Craig Hella Johnson conducts the Conspirare Symphonic Choir in **James Whitbourn's *Luminosity*** and **Morten Lauridsen's *Lux Aeterna***. The choir is joined by featured guest artists Austin Haller, organ, Bruce Williams, viola, and members of the [Shay Ishii Dance Company](#).

Johnson says, "We are thrilled to bring together eighty of our Conspirare Symphonic Choir singers with instrumentalists and dancers to explore aspects of light and space through two choral works of extraordinary beauty. *Lux Aeterna* has rapidly become a cherished work in the choral repertoire with its memorable chant-like melodies and emotionally satisfying harmonies. In *Luminosity*, the composer sets mystical texts from several centuries and creates an enchanting visual and aural world. I am delighted that we are collaborating with The Shay Ishii Dance Company, whose participation will enhance the performance and deepen the audience experience."

More Detail

[James Whitbourn](#) is a Grammy®-nominated British composer, conductor, presenter, and educator. His 2008 composition ***Luminosity*** is a multimedia work scored for choir, dancers, viola, tanpura (drone instrument), tam-tam (gong), and organ, and will be performed with special lighting. John Quinn of MusicWeb International wrote of *Luminosity*, "Whitbourn uses the forces at his disposal to create some most imaginative and often subtle sonorities and textures—the way the husky tones of the viola are employed is most evocative ... The rapt concluding movement is particularly beautiful but the whole score is impressive and eloquent." In addition to Haller, Williams, and dancers, other guest artists for *Luminosity* are Mousumi Karmakar, tanpura, and Sean Harvey, tam-tam.

[Morten Lauridsen's *Lux Aeterna*](#) (1997) was inspired by late-Renaissance sacred music and is set to several Latin liturgical texts. The composer describes the work as "a quiet, direct, and introspective meditation on Light." *Lux Aeterna* ("Eternal Light") was commissioned and premiered by the Los Angeles Master Chorale and has since been performed by countless choirs around the world. Geraldine Rohling writes of Lauridsen for *Opera Today*: "A composer with the heart of a humanist ... [his] harmonic style, chromaticisms, dissonances and divisi writing reveal his contemporary soul." Lauridsen is an American composer, performer, and educator who received the National Medal of Arts in 2007 and is the subject of the 2012 film *Shining Night*.

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