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## **New Conspirare CD to be released worldwide September 10**

**'Kevin Puts' album already receiving pre-release kudos**

**Ensemble's newest holiday CD 'One Voice' also to be released**

**Release party September 12 at Waterloo Records, Austin**

**Conspirare's newest CD *Kevin Puts* is scheduled for global release on September 10 by Harmonia Mundi USA**, the ensemble's seventh recording for the distinguished label. It features Puts's new works "If I Were a Swan" and "To Touch the Sky," jointly commissioned by Conspirare and The Thelma Hunter Fund of the American Composers Forum. Under the direction of artistic director and conductor Craig Hella Johnson, Conspirare premiered the pieces in live performance last September, when the recordings were also made in Austin. The CD also includes Puts's Symphony No. 4 "*From Mission San Juan*," performed by the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra and conducted by Marin Alsop.

Also in early September, **Conspirare will release *One Voice*, its live recording of the ensemble's 2012 holiday concert**, featuring vocal soloists Kathlene Ritch and Charles Wesley Evans. *One Voice* is the latest of Conspirare's ten self-produced CDs of its popular Christmas performances.

Austin's iconic **Waterloo Records will host a CD release party on Thursday, September 12, 5-7pm**. Both new Conspirare recordings will be in stock for immediate purchase. **KMFA Classically Austin 89.5 is media sponsor** for the event, which will feature live performances by Conspirare singers Mela Sarajane Dailey (soprano soloist in "To Touch the Sky") and baritone Charles Wesley Evans, with Craig Hella Johnson at the keyboard. All three will be available to sign CD copies purchased on site. Admission is free and beverages will be served courtesy of Shiner Beers. Waterloo Records is located at **600 N. Lamar Blvd**, Austin.

### **MORE DETAIL**

*Kevin Puts* is already receiving **national notice** in advance of its release. *Audiophile Audition* wrote: "This disc represents ... why you should definitely get to know the emotional, compelling and relevant music of Kevin Puts ... [It is] crystalline choral music, written superbly, with picturesque and meaningful texts, sung beautifully ... Conspirare is a stunning ensemble that performs with flawless diction, intonation and balance." (Full review [here](#).) *Broadway Classical World* chimed in, "'To Touch the Sky' (Nine Songs for Unaccompanied Chorus on Texts by Women) is an exquisite piece." (Full article [here](#).) Tracks have been broadcast on KMFA, Classical917 in Houston, and New York City's WQXR, which named *Kevin Puts* its Album of the Week in late July.

**Composer Kevin Puts** won the 2012 Pulitzer Prize for *Silent Night*, an opera commissioned by Minnesota Opera and co-written with librettist Mark Campbell. Puts has been hailed as one of the most important composers of his generation. His work has been commissioned and performed by leading orchestras in the U.S. and abroad including the New York Philharmonic, and by soloists and chamber ensembles such as percussionist Evelyn Glennie, cellist Yo-Yo Ma, the Eroica Trio, and the Miro Quartet. A native of St. Louis, he received his training as a composer and pianist at Eastman School of Music and Yale University. Since 2006, he has been a member of the composition department at the Peabody Institute in Baltimore.