

Conspirare presents

Conspirare Christmas
With special guest Ruthie Foster

Monday, December 9, 7:30 p.m.

Long Center for the Performing Arts, 701 W. Riverside Dr., Austin

Tickets \$25-75

Call for student and group prices.

512-474-5664 or www.conspirare.org

Five-time Grammy®-nominated, Austin-based professional choir **Conspirare** performs the 20th annual edition of its incomparable and beloved holiday concert. Always magical, always unique, “Conspirare Christmas” features artistic director **Craig Hella Johnson’s** renowned collage-style programming that melds music of many centuries and styles into one intensely meaningful whole.

The exquisite artistry of Conspirare’s professional singers is complemented this year by special guest artist **Ruthie Foster**, the twice Grammy-nominated singer-songwriter whose award-winning style starts with gospel and blues and goes on to cover the musical map.

Post-Concert Holiday Celebration Party

Monday, December 9, approximately 9:00 pm

Tickets \$50, in advance only, 512-474-5664 or www.conspirare.org

(not included in concert admission)

After the concert, guests may opt to extend their evening at Conspirare’s Holiday Celebration party. Party-goers can meet the artists, enjoy a signature Conspirare cocktail with elegant desserts, and enter a raffle for unique door prizes.

More Detail

Audiences for Conspirare Christmas will enjoy a spellbinding collage of musical styles including traditional songs of the season, Americana classics, touches of Britten and Beatles, and music from Ruthie Foster’s latest and Grammy-nominated album ***Let It Burn***.

Johnson says, “What a joy to collaborate with the amazing Ruthie Foster. She inhabits every song she sings and sings from the essence of the song in a wide variety of styles. I could not ask for a more engaging and perfect collaborator.”

Foster commented, “I love the way Craig’s mind flows. I really connect with that, [and] every time I work with him, I learn something new. I’m looking forward to the chance to sing with an incredible choir in a style of music that’s going to be a little bit of everywhere, and to use different portions of my voice. There might be a few surprises for folks out there!”

“Conspirare Christmas” is one of Austin’s most popular holiday experiences. Performances at its original venue The Carillon on Exposition – an intimate chapel-like space – always sell out early; this year’s performances at that venue were sold out by early October. The Long Center performance on

December 9 enables a larger audience to experience the world-class artistic quality and unique programming of Conspirare's holiday concert, at a range of ticket prices to fit every budget.

"Conspirare Christmas" and the Holiday Celebration Party are sponsored by season sustaining underwriter South Texas Money Management.

Conspirare Christmas will also be performed on [December 5 in Victoria](#) (tickets through Victoria Bach Festival) and [December 6 in San Antonio](#) (tickets through Conspirare).

About Ruthie Foster

Those who have followed Ruthie Foster's eclectic musical history know that she can burn down any stage with her combustible blend of soul, blues, rock, folk and gospel. Ruthie's astonishing voice has taken her on an amazing ride. She came from humble church choir beginnings in rural Texas, followed by a tour of duty with the U.S. Navy Band, and ended up in Austin, Texas.

Ruthie's list of achievements include Best Female Vocalist in 2007, 2008 and 2013 from the Austin Music Awards; 2012 and 2009 Grammy nominations for Best Contemporary Blues Album; Female Blues Artist of the Year, 2010 Living Blues Music Award Critic's Poll; the 2013 Living Blue Music Award Critic's Poll for Blues Artist of the Year (female); and recent Blues Music Award wins for Best Contemporary and Best Traditional Blues Female Artist of the Year.

Ruthie's latest, Grammy-nominated CD *Let It Burn* is a deeply intimate recording featuring a smoky mix of original songs coupled with inventive interpretations of an unexpected collection of covers. Ruthie is supported along the way by some very special guests - gospel legends The Blind Boys of Alabama and Stax Records soul man William Bell.

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Photos of Ruthie Foster available at <http://ruthiefoster.com/media/>

Photos of Conspirare and Craig Hella Johnson available at <http://conspirare.org/news/presskit/>