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Conspirare presents

Path of Miracles by Joby Talbot

In three Texas cities

Thursday, January 23, 2014, 7:30 pm, San Antonio

Laurel Heights United Methodist Church, 227 W. Woodlawn Ave.

Tickets \$25 general admission

512-474-5664 or Conspirare.org

Friday, January 24, 8:00 pm, Austin

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 8134 Mesa Dr.

Tickets \$24-60 (reserved seating)

512-474-5664 or conspirare.org

Saturday, January 25, 7:30 pm, Houston

St. Luke's United Methodist Church, 3471 Westheimer Rd.

Tickets \$30 general admission, \$20 students with ID

713-622-5710 or stlukesmethodist.org

Sunday, January 26, 3:00 pm, Austin

St. Martin's Lutheran Church, 606 W. 15th St.

Tickets \$24-60 (reserved seating)

512-474-5664 or conspirare.org

When Conspirare performed the southwestern U.S. premiere of *Path of Miracles* in Austin two years ago, audiences were transported by its mystical beauty and unique sonorities. Word spread quickly about this extraordinary choral performance with movement and special lighting, and the final shows sold out. Now Conspirare and artistic director Craig Hella Johnson reprise *Path of Miracles* in two Austin performances and bring it for the first time to audiences in Houston and San Antonio. Conspirare will also record *Path of Miracles* for a late 2014 release on the Harmonia Mundi label.

Reviewers said of Conspirare's 2012 performances of *Path of Miracles*:

"Extraordinary demands on the voice ... executed with astonishing precision. Talbot's singular vision has found its ideal interpreters." -*La Scena Musicale*

"The effect was tremendous ... the human voice directed and shaped by a significant musical mind like Johnson's has the power to do nearly anything." -*New Music Box* (full review [here](#))

Johnson says of the upcoming concert, "We really love *Path of Miracles*. After we previously did it, several audience members said they thought that of all the things we have performed, this piece is the very best fit for Conspirare. I agree; it's an amazing piece of musical storytelling that displays our singers' virtuosity, and it's also a thrilling piece of theatre that expresses a broad spectrum of emotions and colors. We are bringing it back because we want everyone to experience this great musical journey by Joby Talbot."

About *Path of Miracles*

An *a cappella* mystical marvel by classical and film composer Joby Talbot, *Path of Miracles* was inspired by the famous medieval pilgrimage on Spain's Camino de Santiago (Way of St. James), a route that still attracts thousands of seekers each year. The Camino is also the setting for the October 2011 feature film [The Way](#), starring Martin Sheen as an accidental pilgrim whose unplanned trek changes his life in unexpected and profound ways.

The work's movements – “Roncesvalles,” “Burgos,” “Leon,” and “Santiago” – are titled for the four main staging posts of the Camino Frances, the route's central axis. Intermittently during the performance, the artists move about the concert space while singing – a theatrical touch that brings them close to the audience and, along with special lighting, evokes a sense that all in the room are on a journey together.

Path of Miracles was commissioned by the British choral ensemble Tenebrae, who premiered it in 2005. The music encompasses eclectic styles from plainchant, polyphony, and ancient hymns to elements of Russian liturgical music. It even has “bouncy rhythms that seem entirely modern,” as described by Paul Robinson writing for *La Scena Musicale*. He continues, “Never did I feel that the composer was parading his virtuosity ... rather, I was convinced that he had simply found the perfect musical expression of the text.”

About the Composer

Joby Talbot (b. 1971) grew up in London and studied composition at Guildhall School of Music and Drama. He was composer/arranger for the British group The Divine Comedy, with which he performed as keyboardist, and served as resident composer for Classic FM. In addition to concert works for orchestra, soloists, and vocal ensembles, Talbot also composes for the big and small screen, with credits including *The League of Gentlemen* and *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*. His music has been performed by the London Sinfonietta, BBC Symphony Orchestra, Brunel Ensemble, Evelyn Glennie, and Duke Quartet, among many others. His recent work *Chamber*, a 2012 piece for Nederlands Dans Theater, made its U.S. debut in Los Angeles in October.

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Bios and images of Conspirare and Craig Hella Johnson are available at conspirare.org/news/presskit/. Photos from Conspirare's 2012 Path of Miracles concert are available [upon request](#). More about Joby Talbot, including photos, at jobyaltalbot.com.