We tell each other stories so that we will remember.” This is how Craig Hella Johnson’s fusion oratorio Considering Matthew Shepard begins, the story of an ordinary boy who became a movement. Part celebration, part tribute, part ritual, the performance for choral voices, spoken word, and instrumental ensemble tells the inspirational story of love overcoming hate.

With music in the styles of Bach, cowboy yodeling, folk songs, country-western, Gospel, and rock, Considering Matthew Shepard has broad appeal. “I left the concert wanting to make the world a better place and stop the hate,” one audience member shared. “It is a powerful show that everyone needs to see.”

Audiences and critics alike were captivated by Considering Matthew Shepard at its Austin premiere in 2016. Conspirare went on to perform the work around the United States, from Los Angeles to Boston to the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.

Now, a generation of singers and listeners who weren’t even born when Shepard was killed are experiencing this story. Considering Matthew Shepard has been performed by over 153 choirs worldwide—from Adelaide and Berlin to Nova Scotia and Moscow, Idaho. More than half of these productions took place in 2023, the 25th anniversary of Shepard’s death.

“2024 TOUR
OCTOBER 3 – BASS CONCERT HALL Austin
OCTOBER 10 – MANN CENTER Philadelphia

A galvanizing musical testament to hope, inclusivity, and love

Brian Giebler photo by J. Demetrie Photography All other photos: James Goulden

Writing by Matthew Shepard
2016 Performance
Brian Giebler (Matt, 2024)
We are creating Conspirare’s 2024 new staging of Considering Matthew Shepard in response to listener demand. The music’s message of unity and forgiveness is more relevant today than ever.

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Conspirare is excited to collaborate with presenting partners Texas Performing Arts and The Mann Center for this special two-city tour.

**Fall 2024 Performances**

**OCTOBER 3 – BASS CONCERT HALL**
in partnership with Texas Performing Arts, Austin

**OCTOBER 10 – MANN CENTER**
Downstage Series, Philadelphia

**“All of Us” Chorus Collaboration**
Conspirare is partnering with local choirs in Austin and Philadelphia for a special cameo appearance during the final “All of Us” movement of Considering Matthew Shepard. Choirs spend the afternoon working with Craig Hella Johnson and Conspirare, then join Conspirare in song from the audience during the performance.

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To inquire about sponsorships, please contact Nina Di Leo, Director of Individual Giving, at ndileo@conspirare.org or 512-893-1975.

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