

HEAR ME OUT

HEAR
MY
VOICE

conspirare
Craig Hella Johnson A COMPANY OF VOICES

Refresh your soul with songs of today.
Live and livestreamed
Friday, October 7, 2022 and Saturday, October 8, 2022 at 8 pm

MEDIA RELEASE For Immediate Release

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Conspirare and Miró Quartet to Perform 15 World Premieres in Extraordinary Two Night Event

Commissioned Composers include Alex Berko, Abbie Betinis, Christopher Cerrone, Saunder Choi, Carlos Cordero, Eliza Gilkyson, Jocelyn Hagen, Ted Hearne, Craig Hella Johnson, Shara Nova, Gabriela Ortiz, Graham Reynolds, Michael Schachter, Derrick Skye, and Dale Trumbore.

AUSTIN, Texas (August 31, 2022). Conspirare, the GRAMMY® Award-winning choir known for expanding the boundaries of choral performance, and the acclaimed [Miró Quartet](#) will premiere 15 commissioned works for voices and string quartet in [Hear Me Out](#). This two-concert event on **October 7 & 8, 2022** at 8 pm Central at University Presbyterian (2203 San Antonio St., Austin). Both concerts will be streamed on YouTube and posted for on-demand viewing at a later date.

An unprecedented creative act for our time over three years in the making, Hear Me Out is two evenings of emotionally potent, provocative music on socially conscious themes. The commissioned composers and poets are diverse in age, geographic, religious, and ethnic background and all of the composers are scheduled to be in Austin for the world premieres, attending the concerts and participating in community conversations. Several composers commissioned poets to create new texts and others set existing texts.

The project originated with a look back two centuries – at the late quartets of Ludwig van Beethoven – but was catapulted to become a response to today’s world as our nation endured the pandemic. Artistic Director Craig Hella Johnson expanded the scope of the project, inviting composers to “Write what you need to write right now, write from the soil of you.” Composers found inspiration Beethoven’s music, in Beethoven himself, and/or set Beethoven aside and responded to the times we’re all living through.

Carla McElhaney will offer a pre-concert talk each evening that will foster connection between listeners and composers.



Commissioned composers include:

[Alex Berko](#)

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[Carlos Cordero](#)

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[Craig Hella Johnson](#)

[Shara Nova](#)

[Gabriela Ortiz](#)

[Graham Reynolds](#)

[Michael Schachter](#)

[Derrick Senam Eugene Skye](#)

[Dale Trumbore](#)

The National Endowment for the Arts awarded Conspirare a \$35,000 grant for Arts Projects to support Hear Me Out. Conspirare's project is among the more than 1,100 projects across America totaling nearly \$27 million that were selected during this second round of Grants for Arts Projects fiscal year 2021 funding.

About Our Sponsors Conspirare thanks concert sponsors Tina and Dale Knobel, DeeAnne and Steven Paulson, Anonymous, and The Eva and Marvin Womack Foundation. Conspirare's Season Underwriter is H-E-B. Conspirare Season Sponsors include BlackFeather Vintage Works; Still Water Foundation; Tejemos Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts; Texas Commission on the Arts; City of Austin Economic Development Department - Cultural Arts Division; Hella Circle; and Legacy of Sound 2. KMFA is Conspirare's Media Sponsor and Gusto/Flavor is this season's Hospitality sponsor.

ATTENTION MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES

To arrange interviews or access high-resolution images please contact Ann McNair at 512-476-5775 or amcnair@conspirare.org.

[Conspirare Press Kit](#) (images for download, info pdf)

About Conspirare Conspirare is a professional choral organization under the leadership of Craig Hella Johnson. Inspired by the power of music to change lives, this ensemble engages singers from around the world who join voices to deliver world-class, extraordinary live musical experiences and recordings. Their discography includes 13 commercial albums and 20 self-produced live albums. Johnson and Conspirare are nominated for a 2022 GRAMMY® for Best Choral Performance for *The Singing Guitar* and were awarded a 2014 Grammy® for Best Choral Performance for *The Sacred Spirit of Russia*. Conspirare was awarded the Texas Medal of Arts in 2019. Based in Austin, Texas, they perform an annual concert series and tour in the United States and abroad.

About Miró Quartet The Miró Quartet is one of America's most celebrated and dedicated string quartets, having been labeled by *The New Yorker* as "furiously committed" and noted by the Cleveland *Plain Dealer* for its "exceptional tonal focus and interpretive intensity." For over twenty-five years the Quartet has performed throughout the world on the most prestigious concert stages, earning accolades from critics and audiences alike. Based in Austin, TX, and thriving on the area's storied music scene, the Miró takes pride in finding new ways to communicate with

audiences of all backgrounds while cultivating the longstanding tradition of chamber music.

[Miró Quartet Press Kit](#)

Craig Hella Johnson is the founding artistic director and conductor of Conspirare and music director of Cincinnati's Vocal Arts Ensemble. Known for crafting thought-provoking musical journeys that create deep connections between performers and listeners, Johnson is in frequent demand as a guest conductor of choral and orchestral works. Johnson joined the faculty at Texas State University as Artist in Residence in fall 2016 and was awarded the 2022 Presidential Award for Excellence in Scholarly/Creative Activities. He is a published composer and arranger, guest conductor and educator. Johnson's first concert-length composition *Considering Matthew Shepard* was premiered and recorded by Conspirare for a 2016 CD release. *Considering Matthew Shepard* continues to be performed around the world, most recently in Berlin and around the United States. Johnson's accomplishments have been recognized with numerous awards and honors. Notably among them, he and Conspirare won a 2014 Grammy® for Best Choral Performance, Chorus America awarded him the Michael Korn Founders Award for Development of the Professional Choral Art in 2015, and the Texas State Legislature named him Texas State Musician for 2013. In 2021, the Matthew Shepard Foundation recognized him with the Dennis Dougherty Award for Community Leadership.

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