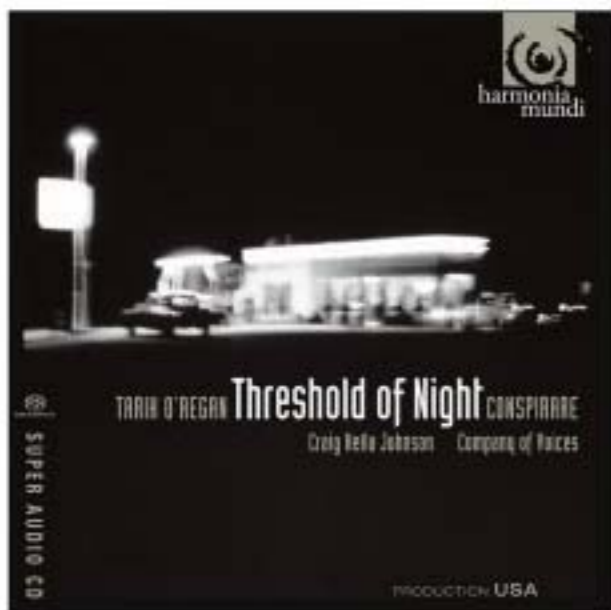


# O'REGAN

## Threshold of Night



**Genre:** Classical  
**Players:** Conspirare; Craig Hella Johnson, director  
**Label:** Harmonia Mundi 807490  
**Format:** Hybrid multichannel SACD  
**Key Tracks:** *The Ecstasies Above*; *Triptych*: "Threnody"

**PERFORMANCE** ●●●●○  
**SOUND** ●●●●○

**Further Listening:** O'Regan/Machaut/Bryars: *Scattered Rhymes* (Hillier) (SACD); *Baltic Voices 1-3* (Hillier) (SACD)

**PB says:** Up-and-coming composer Tarik O'Regan divides his time between New York City and Cambridge, England. He has an extraordinary gift for amplifying the meaning of poetry with accessible yet uncompromising music, which on this disc is accompanied quite effectively by string orchestra. Exquisite sound.



Conspirare

**LISTENING GUIDE:** The seven choral pieces on this SACD by London-born Tarik O'Regan, still just 30, are settings of texts from widely varied sources—Emily Dickinson, Edgar Allan Poe, Pablo Neruda, Elizabethan playwright John Fletcher, William Penn, ancient Indian verse. These seemingly dissimilar sources have in common a compelling lyrical imagery to which the composer responds with great imagination and sensitivity. O'Regan works with an advanced, tonally based harmonic language that sometimes evokes another great British vocal composer, Benjamin Britten. Textures vary continually; a soloist or two is frequently set against the larger ensemble. And the string accompaniments for several of the works add another musical dimension. For example, a driving orchestral setting underlies

the expansive vocal lines of "Threnody," from 2005's *Triptych*.

The recording originates from the famed Troy Savings Bank. Accordingly, the sound floats in exquisite delicacy in the air, completely detached from your speakers. Magic. —Andrew Quint



Craig Hella Johnson