

## CD REVIEW

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*Celebrating the American Spirit (Dorian Sono Luminus)*

An intriguing portrait of America emerges on this disc that showcases the work of conductor Judith Clurman and her Essential Voices USA singing ensemble, as well as two star soloists: Kelli O'Hara and Ron Raines. At the album's center are 16 intriguing new pieces by the likes of Jason Robert Brown, Jake Heggie, and Andrew Lippa that provide brief snapshots of presidents from Washington to Obama. Both Raines and O'Hara are in fine form -- among their best work is his sparkling take on Irving Berlin's "It Gets Lonely at the White House" (from Mr. President), and her gossamer delivery of Leonard Bernstein's "Take Care of This House" (from 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue).