



## Celebrating the American Spirit with Judith Clurman's Essential Voices USA and Soloists Kelli O'Hara and Ron Raines

**Date:** November 2, 2012

by **Judith Clurman**

**Choir type:** Professional Choirs

**Celebrating the American Spirit**, performed by **Essential Voices USA (EVUSA)** and conducted by **Judith Clurman** along with guest artists, Broadway stars **Kelli O'Hara** and **Ron Raines** and composer-arranger **Larry Hochman**, represents an American songbook for the 21st century. The centerpiece of this **Sono Luminus (DSL-92162)** CD is *Sing Out Mr. President*, a song cycle of sixteen newly commissioned compositions set to quotations by American presidents from Washington to Obama. Originally performed at the Library of Congress and broadcast on National Public Radio, the cycle showcases the American composers **Samuel Adler, Milton Babbitt, Robert Beaser, Jason Robert Brown, Thomas Cabaniss, Jake Heggie, Larry Hochman, Michael Gilbertson, Nora Kroll-Rosenbaum, Andrew Lippa, David Ludwig, Paul Moravec, Nico Muhly, Georgia Stitt, Zachary Wadsworth, and Jesse Wiener**. The CD also includes individual new and newly arranged works by composers and writers such as **Irving Berlin** (*It Gets Lonely In the White House* and *God Bless America*), **Leonard Bernstein** (*Take Care of This House*), **Sheldon Harnick** (*Reason to Be Thankful*), **Jennifer Higdon** (*A Quiet Moment*), **Larry Hochman** (*Two Paraphrases on American Anthems & American Dream*) and **Laurie Hochman** (*The Pledge of Allegiance and American Dream*), **David Ludwig** (*The New Colossus*), **Stephen Paulus** (*Hymn for America*), **Marc Shaiman** (*A Seed of Grain: Theme from The American President*), and **John Philip Sousa** (*Stars and Stripe Forever*).

**JUDITH CLURMAN** says: I am thrilled to present **Celebrating the American Spirit** with these wonderful artists: Larry Hochman, soloists Kelli O'Hara and Ron Raines, my Essential Voices USA, pianist Tedd Firth and Billy Test, and guest instrumentalists. The recording is inspired by my need to express a patriotic response to 9/11 through a complex affirmation of America's greatness. It provides me the opportunity to conduct music that I love - from Berlin to Babbitt.

CDs can be purchased through [SonoLuminus.com](http://SonoLuminus.com), [I TUNES](http://iTunes.com), [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com), or your favorite websites.

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