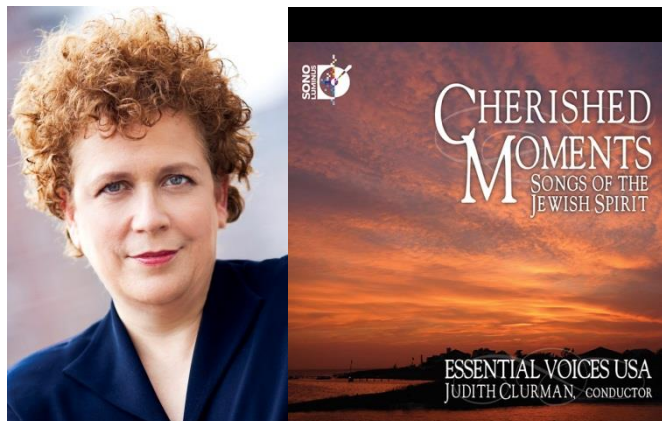


ESSENTIAL VOICES USA

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CHERISHED MOMENTS: SONGS OF THE JEWISH SPIRIT Judith Clurman, Conductor With Essential Voices USA Ron Raines, Bruce Ruben and Michael Slattery

CD TO BE RELEASED OCTOBER 28, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, New York, NY

CHERISHED MOMENTS: SONGS OF THE JEWISH SPIRIT, a new cd on Sono Luminus (DSL-92182), will be released on **October 28, 2014** with **Essential Voices USA**, conducted by **Judith Clurman** with soloists **Ron Raines, Bruce Ruben** and **Michael Slattery**. This new cd combines the expertise born of Judith Clurman's thirty years as a prominent conductor with memories of her own childhood in synagogue and an intimate knowledge of this poignant repertoire to create the unique recording *Cherished Moments: Songs of the Jewish Spirit*. The recording introduces exciting arrangements of traditional songs that represent the Jewish holidays and life cycle events from the centerpiece *Songs of Freedom: A Celebration of Chanukah*, a cycle for chorus, soloists and orchestra that premiered at Carnegie Hall, to the 19th-century lyrical classicism of **Louis Lewandowski** and **Emanuel Kirschner**, to works by folk artist **Debbie Friedman**, cantor-composer **Bruce Ruben**, and Canadian composer **Ben Steinberg**. The recording also features important new works, among them a minimalist setting of *Set Me as a Seal* by **Nico Muhly**, **Larry Hochman's** *Shomeir Yisrael*, and **Paul Schoenfield's** *Al Hanisim*, all written for Ms. Clurman. The recording features the singers of **Essential Voices USA** and renowned guest instrumentalists, including composers **Larry Hochman** and **Paul Schoenfield** accompanying their own works.

Nico Muhly says "Judith Clurman's *Cherished Moments: Songs of the Jewish Spirit* is a wonderful compilation of Jewish sacred music spanning several centuries. Some is original, some folk-derived, and some a

combination. This disc is a celebration of a long-unbroken tradition, and I am honored to have a work of mine included in it. The music on this well-curated disc is exuberant, introspective, forceful, and solemn.”

TRACKS

ENOSH	Louis Lewandowski, adapted Larry Hochman
OSEH SHALOM	Debbie Friedman, arranged Sally Lamb McCune
SET ME AS A SEAL	Nico Muhly
V'ERASTICH LI	Ben Steinberg with soloist Michael Slattery
M'CHALKEIL CHAYIM*	Solomon Braslavsky, arranged Bruce Ruben
SONGS OF FREEDOM: A CELEBRATION OF CHANUKAH	
	Traditional Melodies arranged Larry Hochman, Judith Clurman, Brian Stokes Mitchell with soloist Ron Raines
TZADIK KATAMAR	Emanuel Kirschner, arranged Larry Hochman
KADEISH URCHATZ*	Babylonian Chant
CIRCLE OF LIFE	Bruce Ruben, arranged Larry Hochman with soloist Bruce Ruben
BORUKH ATE ZINGT DER TATE	Solomon Golub, arranged Zalmen Mlotek
AL HANISIM	Paul Schoenfield
MEDITATION	Larry Hochman
SHOMEIR YISRAEIL	Larry Hochman, Traditional Melody, arranged Judith Clurman
HAN'SHAMA LACH*	Traditional Melody, arranged Judith Clurman

* instrumental interlude

ARTISTS :

ESSENTIAL VOICES USA

Judith Clurman's Essential Voices USA (EVUSA) is widely regarded as one of New York's preeminent choral ensembles. It comprises a highly talented roster of both seasoned professionals and auditioned volunteers. Within this group, Clurman has created a dynamic choral model in which the size of the ensemble is dictated by the unique needs of each project. EVUSA performs regularly on the Carnegie Hall subscription series with The New York Pops and at the DiMenna Center for Classical Music. The ensemble was in residence with National Public Radio during the month of February 2011. That same year, the ensemble launched The Composer Speaks, a popular series of informal concerts in workshop format designed to encourage dialogue with composers and lyricists and moderated by Judith. EVUSA performed on the critically acclaimed Sono Luminus CD Celebrating the American Spirit featuring Kelli O'Hara and Ron Raines. In 2011 and 2012, EVUSA "rocked the rock" on NBC's national broadcasts of the Rockefeller Center Tree Lighting. A highlight of the 2012-2013 season was EVUSA's participation in the Presidential Inaugural activities, including a sing-along of the "Sing Out, Mr. President" song cycle at the "Church of the Presidents" in Washington, D.C. The ensemble's CD was also featured on NPR on Inauguration Day 2013. They performed on Macy's 2014 Spectacular Fireworks broadcast on NBC television.

www.essentialvoicesusa.com

JUDITH CLURMAN

Conductor Judith Clurman has conducted and collaborated with world-renowned orchestras, dance companies, and music festivals. She served as Director of Choral Activities at the Juilliard School from 1989-2007, as Co-Director for Harvard University's Leonard Bernstein: Boston to Broadway Festival, as a faculty member and vocal specialist for the National Endowment for the Arts/Columbia University Institute of Classical Music, and as a Visiting Artist/Conductor at Cambridge University, the Curtis Institute of Music, the Zimriya in Israel, and the Janacek Academy in the Czech Republic. As Associate Music Director of Sesame Street, her work with the Muppets, cast members, and guest artists earned her a 2009 Emmy nomination for Outstanding Achievement in Music Direction and Composition. Her recording of music by Tania León, with the Son Sonora Voices, was nominated for the Grammy Award. Judith served as founding conductor of the New York Concert Singers and Project Youth Chorus and as music director of Prism Concerts and the 92nd Street Y's Music of the Spirit program. Judith currently conducts Essential Voices USA, serves as chorus master for the Omaha Symphony Sacred Voices concerts and collaborates with the New York Pops at Carnegie Hall.

www.judithclurman.com

RON RAINES

Born and raised in Texas, Ron Raines attended Oklahoma City University and The Juilliard School. He has had a long and illustrious international career that spans the worlds of musical theater, opera, cabaret, classical music, and television. He most recently appeared as Ben in the critically acclaimed revival of Follies at the Kennedy Center, Broadway, and Los Angeles, for which he received a Tony nomination for Best Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role in a Musical. He was a three-time Emmy and Soap Opera Digest Award nominee for his role as the villain Alan Spaulding on CBS's longest running daytime drama Guiding Light. He has appeared on four PBS "Great Performances" and on numerous cast albums, and has made two solo recordings. His voice is heard on the Sono Luminus Celebrating the American Spirit CD with Essential Voices USA.

www.ronrainesonline.com

BRUCE RUBEN

Bruce Ruben is the Cantor at Brooklyn Heights Synagogue and the Director of the Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. From 1982-2006 he served as the Cantor of Temple Shaaray Tefila in New York City. He has taught special classes on liturgical music at the University of Cambridge and The Juilliard School. He studied at Indiana University, The Jewish Theological Seminary of America and the City University of New York, where he received his Ph.D. in history.

MICHAEL SLATTERY

Michael Slattery made his New York Philharmonic debut this past year. His career highlights include the title role in Bernstein's Candide at Royal Festival Hall in London; The Very Best of Lerner & Loewe with the New York Pops at Carnegie Hall; the title role in Monteverdi's L'Orfeo at the Théâtre du Châtelet in Paris; Peter Sellars' Tristan Project with Esa-Pekka Salonen, and Philip Glass's Akhnaten with John Adams – both with the Los Angeles Philharmonic. His solo recordings include The Irish Heart and Dowland in Dublin, chosen by Opera News as one of the best recordings of 2012. Upcoming projects include Britten's Curlew River and Roland Auzet's Steve V, the world premiere of Steve Jobs digital opera, with Opéra de Lyon, and Britten's Midsummer Night's Dream with the Festival Aix-en-Provence.

www.michaelslattery.com

LARRY HOCHMAN (arranger/orchestrator)

Larry Hochman received the Tony Award in 2011 for his orchestrations for the Broadway hit musical The Book of Mormon. He has also received Tony nominations for Best Orchestrations of Monty Python's Spamalot (also Drama Desk nomination), Fiddler on the Roof, The Scottsboro Boys, and A Class Act. He has written orchestrations for The Addams Family and Jane Eyre, as well as additional orchestrations for many other Broadway shows including Shrek, The Little Mermaid, Chita Rivera: A Dancer's Life, and King David (Alan Menken & Tim Rice). He is the composer for Nickelodeon's hit series The Wonder Pets, for which he has received four Emmy awards. Larry has arranged the recordings and concerts for Sir Paul McCartney, Mandy

Patinkin, Audra McDonald, Marvin Hamlisch, and others. His original music and arrangements are on the Sono Luminus Celebrating the American Spirit CD with Essential Voices USA.
www.larryhochman.net

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