

ESSENTIAL VOICES USA

Judith Clurman, Music Director and Conductor

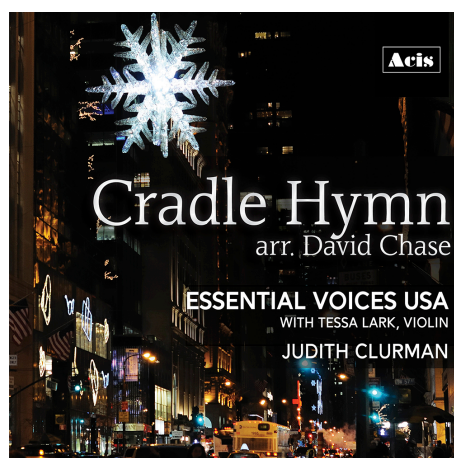
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS CONTACTS: Essential Voices USA: essentialvoicesusa@gmail.com

Acis: geoffrey.silver@acisproductions.com

646 320 8425



ALBUM RELEASE of *The Cradle Hymn* arr. by David Chase, violin obbligato by Tessa Lark, performed by Essential Voices USA, conducted by Judith Clurman, Tessa Lark, violin.

STREAMING and DOWNLOAD: iTUNES, AMAZON, APPLE MUSIC, CDBABY

The Cradle Hymn started life as a poem in the early 18th-century by Isaac Watts (best known for his lyric to *Joy to the World*). The music is based on a tune known as restoration and first appeared in the 1835 shape note songbook *Southern Harmony*. Over time, the words have been set to many different melodies. **David Chase's** arrangement, written for Essential Voices USA in 2019, is scored for mixed voices A Cappella or with violin obbligato. He based his arrangement on the Kentucky version found in Ruth Crawford Seeger's *American Folk Songs for Christmas*. **Tessa Lark** plays the violin in this recording. The score was recently published by Hal Leonard.

David Chase says, "I discovered this beautiful lullaby in Ruth Crawford Seeger's *American Folk Songs for Christmas*. It's a perfect mix of words and music, with all the intimacy and simple serenity of *Silent Night*."

Judith Clurman says, "This elegant piece can become a standard at Christmas time. It is tuneful and spiritual."

Geoffrey Silver (Acis) says, "The holidays are full of bustle and the single *Cradle Hymn*, like the star above 5th Ave depicted on the cover, is just a perfect moment of calm and beauty suspended in time and space."

Biographical Information

Judith Clurman's **Essential Voices USA (EVUSA)** is one of New York's preeminent choral ensembles. EVUSA performs in many of the city's iconic venues and events and records and premieres works by America's finest composers and lyricists. Regularly on stage with the New York Pops in its Carnegie Hall subscription series, televised on NBC's July 4th Macy's 2014 Spectacular Fireworks and the Rockefeller Center Tree Lighting, the ensemble comprises a talented roster of seasoned professionals and auditioned volunteers, dynamically fitted to the unique needs of each project. EVUSA has produced *The Composer Speaks* at the DiMenna Center for Classical Music, participated in the 2013 Presidential Inaugural activities, performed in Lincoln Center

programs, and has held a month-long residency at National Public Radio. The ensemble has performed with a diverse and impressive array of artists.

Judith Clurman is an Emmy and Grammy nominated conductor and educator. She currently conducts Essential Voices USA, The Symphony Singers, and the Singing Tree Float in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. She teacher solo voice and ensemble singing on the musical theater faculty of the Manhattan School of Music. Judith has conducted over commissions from over 60 American composers, ranging from Milton Babbitt, William Bolcom, and Jennifer Higdon to Jason Robert Brown, Howard Shore, and Stephen Schwartz. She has conducted The New York Concert Singers and collaborated with the world's major symphony orchestras. As an educator, she served as Director of Choral Activities at The Juilliard School from 1989-2007, has been a visiting artist/teacher at University of Cambridge, Harvard University, Curtis Institute of Music, Princeton University, and the Janacek Academy. She was the vocal/choral faculty specialist for the National Endowment for the Arts/Columbia University Institute of Classical Music and music supervisor for the Song Film *The Song of Names*. Her music and arrangements are published by G. Schirmer, Hal Leonard, and Schott and have been performed by the Detroit, Houston, National, and Toronto Symphonies, the New York Pops and the Boston Pops.

David Chase has been Music Director, Music Supervisor and/or Arranger for over 35 Broadway musicals, as well as for numerous productions in London's West End. He continues his longstanding associations with the Boston Pops, Radio City, and the Kennedy Center Honors, and has written and arranged numerous choral works that have been recorded by Judith Clurman's Essential Voices USA and published by Hal Leonard (The First Noel, Together At Christmas, Angles We Have Heard On High, Songs of Peace, God Rest Ye, Yuletide Carols, Adonai Roi, Eight Days of Lights, and Give Me Your Tired, Your Poor.) He is a regular guest conductor at the Lyric Opera of Chicago, having led acclaimed productions of *Carousel*, *The King and I*, and *My Fair Lady*. As Music Director and Arranger for NBC's *The Sound of Music Live!* and *Peter Pan Live!*, he was at the forefront of bringing live musicals back to television, and received Emmy nominations for Outstanding Musical Direction for both programs. Other TV includes arrangements and orchestrations for *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel* and *Crazy Ex-Girlfriend*. He received a Grammy nomination for his work on the album of the Broadway musical *Nice Work If You Can Get It*. His degree from Harvard University is in biology.

Tessa Lark, a recently GRAMMY™-nominated artist, is the recipient of a 2018 Borletti-Buitoni Trust Fellowship and a 2016 Avery Fisher Career Grant, Silver Medalist in the International Violin Competition of Indianapolis, and winner of the 2012 Naumburg International Violin Competition. Since making her concerto debut with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra at sixteen, Ms. Lark has appeared with dozens of orchestras, festivals, and recital venues including Carnegie Hall, Ravinia, San Francisco Performances, Amsterdam's Concertgebouw, the Buffalo Philharmonic, and Marlboro Music. Scheduled for May 2020 is a Lincoln Center recital debut on its prestigious Great Performers Series. Ms. Lark is a graduate of New England Conservatory with an Artist Diploma from The Juilliard School. She plays a ca. 1600 G.P. Maggini violin on loan from an anonymous donor through the Stradivari Society of Chicago.

Acis Productions Named after Handel's opera, *Acis and Galatea*, Acis is a critically acclaimed boutique label with a roster that boasts both emerging and Grammy-nominated classical artists. Specializing in early music, new music, choral and vocal, and organ, Acis has received praise for capturing their artists with all the energy and flair of a live performance. Acis was founded by the record producer and conductor Geoffrey Silver, who hails from the UK where he trained in the choral tradition in London and Cambridge. **The album was produced by multiple GRAMMY™-award nominee engineer, Silas Brown.**

www.JudithClurman.com
www.tessalark.com

www.essentialvoicesusa.com
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