

# ESSENTIAL VOICES USA

Judith Clurman, Music Director and Conductor

For immediate release

November, 2019

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Acis Productions (APL 97092) of  
**REJOICE! Honoring the Jewish Spirit**  
with

recording release by Essential Voices USA conducted by Judith Clurman

Premiere recordings by theater composers, arrangers, & others including:  
**David Chase, Judith Clurman, Jeremiah Klarman, Mikhail Lermontov, Ryan Nowlin, Mikhail Lermontov Trude Rittmann, David Shire and Jonathan Tunick**  
**November 19, 2019**

**Available online, or for purchase**

For generations, musicologists have shown the influence of Jewish music on American musical theater. **Judith Clurman** reverses this by commissioning theater composers to create and arrange Jewish music, including new pieces by orchestrator **Jonathan Tunick** and an arrangements of melodies by Clurman herself, set by dance arranger and conductor **David Chase** and arranger **Ryan Nowlin**. **Trude Rittmann**, who collaborated with Richard Rodgers, Frederick Loewe, Burton Lane, Kurt Weill and others, wrote a forgotten arrangement of the beloved Passover song "Dayeinu." The selections also show the reverse pattern. "Shlof Mayn Fegele," is a Yiddish lullaby that Clurman's mother sang to her as a child. Musicologist Chana Mlotek and composer Jack Gottlieb noted that George Gershwin used the melody of the lullaby as the basis of his song "My One and Only." Also included is "Everlasting Light," a piece by composer **David Shire** and lyricist **Sheldon Harnick** Clurman and her Juilliard Choral Union premiered with the New York Philharmonic in 2003. Always on the lookout for new talent, Judith Clurman has mentored Boston's **Jeremiah Klarman**, who has composed two songs of peace.

**Judith Clurman says** "I have assembled a diverse group of composers and musical styles to illustrate some of the rich variety of Jewish music. All of these songs are world premiere recordings and are published by Hal Leonard. "

**REJOICE!****HONORING THE JEWISH SPIRIT****Essential Voices USA****Judith Clurman, Conductor****James Cunningham** piano**Daniel Miller** cello, track III**Raman Ramakrishnan** cello, track V

I Eight Days of Lights	Judith Clurman and David Chase	3:14
II Dayeinu	arr. Trude Rittmann	1:47
III Ki Hineih Kachomer	Judith Clurman, arr. Ryan Nowlin	5:45
IV Shlof Mayn Fegele	Mikhail Lermontov, arr. Ryan Nowlin	3:15
V Yeish Kochavim	Jonathan Tunick	3:18
VI Everlasting Light	David Shire	2:20
VII Songs of Peace: Hineih Ma Tov	Jeremiah Klarman, arr. David Chase	2:39
VIII Songs of Peace: Oseh Shalom		3:09

**ABOUT THE ARTISTS**

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 4<sup>th</sup> 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. ([www.essentialvoicesusa.com](http://www.essentialvoicesusa.com))

**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 teaches 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.

**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,

**Websites**[www.judithclurman.com](http://www.judithclurman.com)[www.essentialvoicesusa.com](http://www.essentialvoicesusa.com)<https://acisproductions.com/contact/>**For further information**[essentialvoicesusa@gmail.com](mailto:essentialvoicesusa@gmail.com)[geoffrey.silver@acisproductions.com](mailto:geoffrey.silver@acisproductions.com)