

ESSENTIAL VOICES USA

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. The ensemble is comprised of a talented roster of seasoned professionals and auditioned volunteers, dynamically fitted to the unique needs of each project.

Regularly on stage with The New York Pops in its Carnegie Hall subscription series, EVUSA held a month-long residency at National Public Radio, participated in President Obama's Inaugural activities, and performed on NBC's July 4th Macy's *Fireworks Spectacular* and at the Rockefeller Center Tree Lighting.

The ensemble has premiered works and collaborated with composers Milton Babbitt, Robert Beaser, Jason Robert Brown, Shawn Crouch, Marvin Hamlisch, Rupert Holmes, Sheldon Harnick, Jake Heggie, Jennifer Higdon, Andrew Lippa, Nico Muhly, Stephen Schwartz, David Shire, Howard Shore, James Sizemore, Georgia Stitt, and Jonathan Tunick. The group has produced *The Composer Speaks* at the DiMenna Center for Classical Music, a series of musical performances complemented by panel discussions with composers and lyricists. Their recordings include *Celebrating the American Spirit*, *Cherished Moments: Songs of the Jewish Spirit*, *Holiday Harmonies: Songs of Christmas*, *Season of Light: Songs of Thanksgiving, Christmas, Chanukah, New Year, and Rejoice! Honoring the Jewish Spirit*.

The group's educational program, EVUSA Youth Workshop, provides high school students the opportunity to participate in anti-bullying workshops focused on the piece *Testimony* by Stephen Schwartz. The ensemble sang the New York premiere and recorded the piece.

Plans for 2020 include Carnegie Hall appearances and recordings for Acis Productions. The group will return to NPR, in the spring of 2020, to record a Tiny Desk concert and perform the world premiere of *Washington Women*, a cycle for chorus, cello, and piano, written by David Chase and Judith Clurman.

The group has premiered works by composers such as Milton Babbitt, Jason Robert Brown, Jennifer Higdon, Nico Muhly, Howard Shore, and Stephen Schwartz. The ensemble's youth program provides select high school students the opportunity to participate in anti-bullying workshops with members of the chorus. EVUSA has recorded for Acis, Sono Luminus, and Broadway Records. The group will return to NPR, in the spring of 2020, to record a Tiny Desk concert and perform the premiere of *Washington Women*, a cycle for chorus, cello, and piano, written by David Chase and Judith Clurman.