

ESSENTIAL VOICES USA

415 words

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.

EVUSA held a month-long residency at National Public Radio, performed for many years with The New York Pops in its Carnegie Hall subscription series, performed on NBC's July 4th Macy's *Fireworks Spectacular* and at the Rockefeller Center Tree Lighting and participated in President Obama's Inaugural activities. On July 4, 2022, they performed *Washington Women*, the choral cycle they commissioned, on the National Public Radio Tiny Desk Concerts. They have recently performed in educational programs in the New York City schools.

EVUSA 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. EVUSA has premiered works and collaborated with composers Milton Babbitt, Jason Robert Brown, David Chase, Shawn Crouch, Bill Cutter, Marvin Hamlisch, Rupert Holmes, Sheldon Harnick, Jake Heggie, Jennifer Higdon, Katie Jenkins, Andrew Lippa, Nico Muhly, Stephen Schwartz, David Shire, Howard Shore, Mark Sirett, James Sizemore, Georgia Stitt, and Jonathan Tunick.

They have recorded with opera and musical theater luminaries, including Jamie Barton, Brian Stokes Mitchell, and Kelli O'Hara. Their recordings include *America at Heart*, *Celebrating the American Spirit*, *Appalachian Stories*, *Cherished Moments: Songs of the Jewish Spirit*, *Devotion*, *Holiday Harmonies: Songs of Christmas*, *Cradle Hymn*, *May You Heal*, *Season of Light: Songs of Thanksgiving*, *Christmas*, *Chanukah*, *New Year*, *Rejoice! Honoring the Jewish Spirit*, *Washington Women*, *Winter Harmonies*, and *Words Matter*.

The group's educational program, EVUSA Youth Workshop, has provided select high school students the opportunity to sing with the chorus on recordings and in concerts at Carnegie Hall. They recorded Howard Shore's work *Peace*, for the composer's *Palace Among Ruins* recording, at the Washington National Cathedral, with the St. Albans School for Boys and National Cathedral School for Girls. They participated in anti-bullying workshops with choruses at the Edward R. Murrow High School in Brooklyn, NY, where they studied the piece *Testimony* by Stephen Schwartz. They

During the 2022-2023, EVUSA will release their *Washington Women* recording, return to Carnegie Hall, perform their *Washington Women* cycle at Lehmann College during International Women's Month, record newly commissioned music, and collaborate in workshops and performances with high schools throughout New York State.

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3/23