

ESSENTIAL VOICES USA

Judith Clurman, Music Director and Conductor

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**Judith Clurman will conduct her ESSENTIAL VOICES USA in
A Concert and Family Carol Sing-Along
at St. Malachy's - The Actors' Chapel
on Saturday, December 16, 2023 at 7:30PM.**



Judith Clurman will conduct her **ESSENTIAL VOICES USA** in **A Concert and Family Carol Sing-Along on December 16, 2023 at St. Malachy's - The Actors' Chapel** (239 West 49 Street), **New York City, at 7:30PM.** The chorus will be joined by **The Essential Strings** (**Suliman Tekalli & Rita Wang** violins, **Caeli Smith** viola, **Aaron Wolff** cello), Organist **Stephen Fraser**, and **David Chase** and **Paula Leggett Chase**, who will read beloved Christmas poetry. The event is part of EVUSA'S The Community Project, a program which provides concerts and sing-alongs and is **free of charge to the NYC community.**

The evening will include the World Premieres of the three new works that are featured in the ensemble's recent holiday recording "Christmas Joy" (Albany Records): "**Christmas Joy**" – arranged, with text adaptation by Josh Clayton and Judith Clurman; "**Illumination**" - by Pierre Jalbert (music) and William Schermerhorn (lyrics); and "**The Snow**" - by Bill Cutter (music) and Lewis Carroll (lyrics). The poems that will be read include "**The Night Before Christmas**" (Clement Clarke Moore), "**little tree**" (E.E.Cummings), and "**Love Came Down at Christmas**" (Christina Rossetti). Organist Stephen Fraser will play an organ fantasy on the beloved carol "**O Holy Night,**" and the audience will sing-along with EVUSA on traditional carols, with newly arranged accompaniments for string quartet by Bill Cutter.

QUOTE

Judith Clurman

"It is my hope that this concert/sing-along will bring families a sense of joy, hope, and fulfillment during the holiday season."

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Judith Clurman's Essential Voices USA (EVUSA) is one of New York's preeminent choral ensembles. EVUSA boasts a talented roster of seasoned professionals and auditioned volunteers, dynamically fitted to the unique needs of each project. EVUSA has appeared at Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center, on NPR'S Tiny Desk Concerts, at the Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree Lighting, at the Washington National Cathedral, and in collaborative programs with the NYC public schools. In addition, they celebrated newly commissioned American music with their "The Composer Speaks" series at the DiMenna Center for Classical Music. During the 2023-2024 season, EVUSA will release their "Christmas Joy" recording (Albany), return to Carnegie Hall, and perform their "The Community Project" concerts in NYC and Brooklyn. Their "Cherished Moments" recording will be heard at the Indianapolis Art Museum – Newfields Winter Lights program. **Conductor Judith Clurman** has worked with many of the world's finest symphonies at Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center and has commissioned and conducted new works by over seventy composers. She has received two Emmy nominations and conducted Tania Léon's music on the Grammy and Latin Grammy nominated CD, *In Motion*. Judith currently teaches voice at the Manhattan School of Music. She was Director of Choral Activities at The Juilliard School and the vocal specialist at the National Endowment for the Arts/Columbia University Institute of Classical Music. Her own music and arrangements have been performed by major symphony orchestras and choruses.

The Essential Strings (Suliman Tekali & Rita Wang violins; **Caeli Smith** viola; and **Aaron Wolff** cello) was formed for EVUSA'S recent recording project, "Christmas Joy." **Dr. Stephen Fraser** is Director of Music and Organist at St. Malachy's - The Actors' Chapel in Times Square, and an Organist at St. Patrick's Cathedral, where he plays regular weekday and Sunday Masses. Stephen has also worked as Organist for "The Sunday Mass" on the ABC Family Network and Musical Director for "Broadway Blessing." **David Chase** and **Paula Leggett Chase** have, between them, worked on 50 Broadway shows; David as a music director and arranger; Paula as a performer. They live in NYC, where they have raised two sons, Kyler and Dashiell.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Essential Voices USA www.essentialvoicesusa.com

Judith Clurman www.judithclurman.com

Pierre Jalbert www.pierrejalbert.com

William Schermerhorn www.williamschermerhorn.com

St. Malachy's <https://actorschapel.org>

Albany Records www.albanyrecords.com