

ESSENTIAL VOICES USA

Judith Clurman, Music Director and Conductor

503 words

Judith Clurman's **Essential Voices USA (EVUSA)** is one of New York's preeminent choral ensembles. The ensemble performs in many of the city's iconic venues and events, and records and premieres works by America's finest composers and lyricists. EVUSA 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, performed at Lincoln Center, 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 public 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. The chorus premiered works and collaborated with composers, arrangers, and lyricists Samuel Adler, Milton Babbitt, Jason Robert Brown, David Chase, Josh Clayton, Shawn Crouch, Bill Cutter, Michael Gilbertson, Marvin Hamlisch, Rupert Holmes, Sheldon Harnick, Jake Heggie, Jennifer Higdon, Larry Hochman, Nora Kroll-Rosenbaum, Robert Sirota, Victoria R. Sirota, Pierre Jalbert, Katie Jenkins, Andrew Lippa, Paul Moravec, Nico Muhly, Stephen Schwartz, William Schermerhorn, David Shire, Howard Shore, Roberto Sierra, Mark Sirett, James Sizemore, Georgia Stitt, and Jonathan Tunick.

EVUSA has recorded with opera and musical theater luminaries, including Jamie Barton, Brian Stokes Mitchell, Ron Raines, 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*, *Holiday Joy*, *Cradle Hymn*, *May You Heal*, *Season of Light: Songs of Thanksgiving*, *Christmas*, *Chanukah*, *New Year, Rejoice! Honoring the Jewish Spirit*, *Remember-Revere-Rejoice*, *Washington Women*, *Winter Harmonies*, and *Words Matter*.

The group's educational program, Project Youth Chorus, 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 in NYC, where they studied the piece *Testimony* by Stephen Schwartz and sang the NY Premiere of the Chase/Clurman *Washington Women* with students at the Celia Cruz High School for Music in the Bronx.

During the 2023-2024 EVUSA released their *Christmas Joy* recording, returned to Carnegie Hall, performed community sing-alongs, and recorded newly commissioned music. Their recording of *Songs of Freedom: A Celebration of Chanukah* was heard at the Indianapolis' Art Museum – Newfields holiday light show. During the 2024-2025 season, EVUSA will release the recording *Holiday Joy*, return to Carnegie Hall, present a Sing Along of Handel's *Messiah*, and record music by Stephen Sondheim. Their recordings will be heard at the Indianapolis holiday light show.

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