



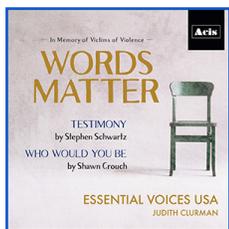
“...I am struck, as in recent years, by how much the small independent labels...have been breaking through with exciting recordings.”

ANTHONY TOMMASINI, *The New York Times*

## ESSENTIAL VOICES USA

“The pinnacle of vocal performance.”  
*Broadway World Classical*

“A model of choral virtue. Textures were velvety, diction was clear, phrases were carefully shaped...”  
*The New York Times*



APL18785



APL66533

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: NEW YORK, NY, NOVEMBER, 2020:**

EMMY-NOMINATED JUDITH CLURMAN CONDUCTS [ESSENTIAL VOICES USA](#) IN TWO NEW RELEASES ON AWARD-WINNING LABEL ACIS: [WORDS MATTER](#) & [WINTER HARMONIES](#)

**[WORDS MATTER](#)**: Dedicated to the memory of victims of violence this EP includes **Testimony** by Stephen Schwartz and **Who Would You Be** by Shawn Crouch. #itgetsbetter

**[Stephen Schwartz](#)** has said, “Testimony was written using interviews for the ‘It Gets Better’ project, but to me it has always had a broader implication, speaking for those who have experienced bullying or felt shame for who they are, whatever the reason. I have always hoped for a good SATB performance, and hearing the piece so beautifully sung by [ESSENTIAL VOICES USA](#) under the always impeccable direction of Judith Clurman is a real joy for me.”

**[Judith Clurman](#)** has said: “Rehearsing, conducting, and recording ‘Testimony’ and ‘Who Would You Be’ have been moving experiences for me and for my chorus members. Both pieces are poignant and heart breaking. I hope that these recording will help people realize that words matter.”

**ESSENTIAL VOICES USA**’s proceeds from this recording will be used to conduct anti-bullying workshops in New York City Public Schools.

**STREAM & DOWNLOAD:** <https://essentialvoicesusa.hearnow.com/words-matter>

**[WINTER HARMONIES](#)**: Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Chanukah selections by Judith Clurman, David Chase, Sheldon Harnick, David Shire & James Sizemore

**STREAM & DOWNLOAD:** <https://essentialvoicesusa.hearnow.com/winter-harmonies>

Music scores published by [Hal Leonard](#)

COVER ART: [acisproductions.com](http://acisproductions.com)

[#TraxTuesday](#) [#itgetsbetter](#)

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*The New York Times* ‘best-of-2016’, ‘best-of-2014’ lists, and *The New Yorker* top ten albums of 2014