

Media Inquires:

Joyce Rouse: earthmamajoyce@mac.com

Singer, Songwriter, Educator and Activist

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More About "HerStory"

The album's opening track, "HerStory," includes a singing list of historic and contemporary women rarely mentioned in history textbooks: Harriet Tubman, Malala Yousafzai, Lucy Burns, Alice Paul, and Wilma Rudolph. Rouse uses an infectious melody and upbeat arrangement to help listeners know how much women have contributed to science, engineering, the arts, humanities and mathematics.

"The important work of suffragists often got only one line in a history textbook," Joyce Rouse noted. "To have the whole story, we also need to know 'HerStory.'"

Rouse collaborated with songwriters Lindy Gravelle and Lisa Palas for more than a year to pen the rock anthem "Women Rock The World." The song, which was inspired by the movie "Hidden Figures," spotlights some of the "first" accomplishments of women in important fields.

"This song gave us the opportunity to lift up the names and lives of courageous females everywhere," the artist added. "It is filled with the joy of womanhood and capabilities that were long ignored."

The album includes a new recording of her popular choral anthem "Standing On The Shoulders." The song has been licensed and performed on six continents since it was first released in the mid-1990s. More recently, the song has been performed at a large number of local, regional and national dedications of women's suffrage monuments and legislative events.

Students in Ontario, Canada, have sung it to honor World War II veterans. Catholic sisters have performed the song in Rome and South Africa. A choir in Tasmania sang it to honor veterans for ANZAC Day in Australia. Many chapters of organizations such as the Daughters of the American Revolution, the National Organization for Women, the American Association of University Women, and the League of Women Voters plan to use it at upcoming centennial celebrations.

"I am surprised by the variety and diversity of ways the song is used to honor a person, history or occasion," Rouse said. "I wrote it straight from the heart after hearing a woman speak while accepting a leadership award at a Nashville YWCA event. You never know where a song might spring from, or travel, to lift up a spirit, touch a heart, or comfort someone in need. I'm thrilled that the renowned Seattle Women's Chorus and Bodi Tree Productions in San Diego have featured the song in shows to celebrate the Suffrage anniversary."

In 1995, the song was chosen by the National Park Service as the theme song for events in Washington celebrating the 75th anniversary of the 19th Amendment.

A video of the song honoring many suffragists and pioneering women can be viewed at www.YouTube.com/earthmamajoyce and may be licensed for public showing.

Rouse will give talks and perform songs from the album at a host of upcoming events. Highlights include a dedication of the Memphis Suffrage Monument later in 2020; the Suffrage Film Series in Galax, Virginia, in May; the Women in Arts and Mountains of Music Week in Independence, Virginia, in June; a concert and song-weaving at the Sisters of Earth biennial conference in St. Louis in July; the Children's Music Network's "History of Suffrage Songs Workshop" in Leesburg, Virginia, in October; and a 100-year-anniversary celebration in Independence, Virginia, in November.

Rouse's album honoring Women's Suffrage is receiving rave reviews:

Patricia Pierce, a board member for the National Women's History Project, says, "'HerStory' expresses the strong, fearless feelings of the suffragists. Turn up the volume and let the passion expressed in these songs take you back in time. I loved the music."

"'Standing On The Shoulders' -- It is such a beautiful and important song," exclaims Paul Caldwell, artistic director of the Seattle Women's Chorus.

"I am thrilled with the new Earth Mama CD," raves Paula Casey of Memphis, co-founder of the Tennessee Woman Suffrage Heritage Trail. "The songs are excellent, inspiring and memorable ... perfect for women's gatherings and suffrage teas."

Earth Mama performs regularly at a wide variety of venues across the nation, including libraries, schools, universities, church groups, retreat centers, conferences, museums and festivals. The artist weaves threads of science and art into each concert and continues to write inspiring music in many styles with one goal in mind: "Helping Heal the Planet One Song at a Time."

A 20-year voting member of the Grammy Awards, Rouse's songs have been recorded and/or performed by artists such as Maureen McGovern, Marie Osmond, the McCarter Sisters, and the Drumalis Choir. She has written theme and event songs for environmental and peace organizations such as the United Nations, UNESCO, and the International Earth Charter. Her music has been used by choral societies, children's choirs, and international choirs, as well as community-building events.

Rouse earned a bachelor's degree in consumer and family science from Iowa State University and a master's degree in Earth Literacy from Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College in Indiana. Rouse and her husband, Richard, live in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Southwest Virginia. Before returning to Virginia, they were long-time residents of Brentwood, Tennessee.

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