Joyce Johnson Rouse is a singer-songwriter, educator, and environmental activist. As “Earth Mama,” Rouse shares her passions through music in high-energy, high-content and entertaining performances that connect with audiences of all demographics.

Rouse is the composer of numerous published, recorded songs and commissioned works. A producer of 13 recorded CD projects used around the world for ecology, peace, and justice education, Joyce is a published author in educational literature, using arts/balanced brain learning to enhance critical thinking and problem solving.

Living in Independence, Virginia, for more than 24 years (currently and in the late 1980’s), she grew up in rural Iowa. For 16 years, Rouse lived in Nashville, Tennessee, drawn there to study songwriting and work in the recording industry. A 20-year voting member of the Grammy Awards, she has more than 140 recordings bearing her writer credits.

“Working alongside Bryan Sutton, Trisha Yearwood, Catherine and Kerry Marx, Dale Ann Bradley and others, seeing their work ethic, dedication, and precision is both humbling and inspiring,” says Rouse.

Maureen McGovern, Marie Osmond, Jana Stanfield, Ireland’s Drumalis Choir and others as well as other pop and country music artists have recorded Rouse’s songs.

Some of her work has been featured in movies and used as theme songs for local, regional, and national events. Her original music has been used extensively by educators and peace organizations such as the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, The Smithsonian Institution, UNESCO, and International Earth Charter in educational projects.

A true highlight of Rouse’s music career includes writing and recording “Standing on the Shoulders,” a song that became the official theme song of the 75th anniversary of the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution in 1995. The song has been featured at many official events in Washington, D.C. and is featured in a historical volume of significant songs for winning and maintaining the vote for women in the US, scheduled for publication in 2020.

In 2008, Rouse wrote and recorded Virginia Beauty, a Love Song for the Commonwealth, an anthem that has been circulated widely as a notable song for promoting Virginia history, geography, and tourism. Rouse notes that she is currently working with a school in the Tidewater area on a new arrangement for middle school singers.

“My 11th Earth Mama CD, ‘A Sense of Place,’ was recently released; ‘HerStory,’ my 12th CD, has also been recently released—just in time for Women’s History Month” said Rouse.

“With the 2020 Women’s Suffrage Centennial celebration, events in all 50 states are being planned along with a national celebration. I’m grateful that Standing on the Shoulders is again being played and sung at many ceremonies, including the unveiling of a new Suffrage Monument in Memphis, this summer, and a special performance by the Seattle Women’s Chorus to kick off the 2020 celebration.” She adds, "other songs written with some favorite co-writers from my Nashville days add a little punch of pop and rock to tunes like Women Rock the World and the title song, HerStory."

"Several new music videos of these songs, ideal for the young GIRL POWER movement are in process, as well as the eco music videos we continue to add to the Earth Mama YouTube channel. Teachers have been wonderful about creating teaching videos of the songs (with permission) then allowing my team to post them to our channel, of course with a shoutout to their school!"
Live Earth Mama performances can be seen regularly in a variety of community venues, including libraries, grade schools, universities, churches, retreat centers, conferences, museums, and festivals. As Earth Mama, Rouse also participates in workshops and seminars, with a focus on working with youth to plant the seeds of “earth wisdom” in the next generation.

A spiritually oriented educator, Rouse has worked with many faith communities as they explore their deep concern for earth and/or new understandings of our cosmological context.

Rouse says she and her husband are very happy to be again living in Grayson County where they are involved in a variety of community organizations.

“It gets harder to hit the road for music and teaching events when the garden is planted and sweet cool breezes are blowing here in the highlands” she adds. “But I love creating new music for changing times and reaching hearts of all ages with tunes for a healthy Earth and a just future.”

“Protecting water, soil, air and food for future generations is perhaps the most important contribution I can make in my lifetime,” says Rouse, “and as part of our commitment to ‘live what we preach,’ my husband and I have built an eco-efficient home where we generate sixty percent of our power with wind and solar energy. We grow much of our own food, and actively support local agriculture.”

Earth Mama songs and albums are easily found on all major providers of streaming and CD sales. Go to EarthMama.org and follow your preferred links.

Alexa, Siri or Google will all be happy to help you find Rouse’s music simply as your smart device to “Find Earth Mama Music!”