

Joyce Johnson Rouse, aka “Earth Mama”

“Helping Heal the Planet One Song at a Time.”

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Joyce Johnson Rouse is a singer-songwriter, educator, and environmental activist. As “Earth Mama,” Rouse presents her passions in high-energy, high-content and highly entertaining performances that connect with audiences of all demographics. She is the composer of numerous published and recorded songs and commissioned works; producer of 11 recorded CD projects used around the world for ecology, peace, and justice education; and is a published author in educational literature, using arts/balanced brain learning to enhance critical thinking and problem solving.

Rouse grew up near Cresco, Iowa, She holds a B.S. degree in Home Economics Education from Iowa State University, where she also gained considerable experience in music, theater and music composition. She later earned an M.A. degree in Earth Literacy from Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College.

For 20 years, Rouse lived in Nashville, TN, and worked in the recording industry; she is a 17-year voting member of the Grammy Awards, with more than 100 recordings bearing her writer credits. Rouse’s songs have been recorded by Maureen McGovern, Marie Osmond, Jana Stanfield, Ireland’s Drumalis Choir, and other pop and country music artists, and have 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 by peace organizations such as the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, UNESCO, and Earth Charter.

Highlights of Rouse’s music career include writing and recording “Standing on the Shoulders,” the song that became the official theme song of the 75th anniversary of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution in 1995. The song was featured at many official events of the celebration in Washington, D.C. In 2008, Rouse wrote and recorded “Virginia Beauty, A Love Song for the Commonwealth,” an anthem that has been widely circulated as a notable song for promoting pride in Virginia, state history and geography, and tourism.

The eleventh Earth Mama CD, "A Sense of Place," was recently released. Several new music videos highlighting critical Earth and climate issues such as climate change, sustainability, and water are in production.

Earth Mama live shows can be seen regularly at a wide variety of venues, including libraries, grade schools, universities, churches, retreat centers, conferences, museums, and festivals. As Earth Mama, Rouse also participates in workshops and seminars, particularly working with children to plant the seeds of "earth wisdom" in the next generation. As 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.

Currently, Rouse lives in the mountains of Southwest Virginia, where she is involved in a variety of community organizations and continues to write, perform and teach. Rouse feels that protecting water, soil, air and food for future generations is perhaps the most important contribution she can make in her lifetime, and as part of their commitment to "live what they preach," she and her husband have built an eco-efficient home where they generate 60% of their power with wind and solar energy, grow much of their own food, and actively support local agriculture.