



George Testuo Abe renowned taiko and flute performer, was born at Manzanar concentration camp in California.

He was one year old when his family relocated to Los Angeles, California. His mother was kibeï, born in the city of Orange, California, moved to Japan when she was about nine years old, and returned to Los Angeles at about 26 years of age. His father was an Issei. George grew up among artists and musicians, often attending biwa (lute) recitals with his mother.

He studied multiple instruments in his school band at Manual Arts High School including: the clarinet, saxophone and oboe and later graduated with a BA in Psychology at CSULA. As an adult, George remained fascinated with music of his culture and learned to play the shakuhachi, yokobue, taiko,

biwa and fue. Some of his music can be heard in KARATE KID II and in numerous productions at East West Players (OMEN; ...AND THE SOUL SHALL DANCE; PACIFIC OVERTURES).

George is also a founding member of Kinnara Taiko, a taiko group based at Senshin Buddhist Temple in Los Angeles, and remains associated with them today. Kinnara Taiko was one of the first taiko groups to form in North America, second only to Sensei Seichi Tanaka's San Francisco Taiko Dojo. He has been a workshop leader every year at Tasiko Conference, going back to the very first one. As a member of Japanese Festival Sounds (on the rosters of Music Center on Tour and From the Center) he has presented assemblies in schools throughout Southern California for over 15 years. He also is an Artist in Residence at Metropolitan State Hospital, providing drumming workshops for clients and staff for the last 10 years.

George believes in the influential power of art and the energizing effects of taiko. He uses his art to bring cultural, spiritual and community awareness to others.

GEORGE ABE INTERVIEWS

<http://www.discovernikkei.org/en/interviews/profiles/97/>

He continues to be a frequent guest artist and/or member with various ensembles including:

ANADI MUSIC

<http://anadismusic.weebly.com/>

ANCIENT GROOVES

<http://ancientgrooves.weebly.com/>

THE ON ENSEMBLE

<http://onensemble.org/>