

music is life-caught in its essence  
 concentrated + put in an order  
 thought / emotion / sound / silence / rhythm  
 tools of the music-makers  
 who weave them together  
 reflecting the human condition  
 calling on the listener  
 for communion  
 of understanding + purpose



The music of WARRIORS OF THE RAINBOW is a fusion of many colors and sounds—music that speaks of our future as part of a struggle to build a new society.

Our music is inspired by the lives and labor of the people of this land. It comes from the realities of people of color growing up and living in America. It is born out of the motion of people struggling for the right to live and work and fulfill their potential.

We see culture as an important part of that struggle, and music, in our case, one way of our making a contribution—for education and direction, as well as food for the spirit.

We try to create music which reinforces our message—progressive sound with progressive thought. The use of the best of the old and the new, and the blend of Asian and other ethnic forms are the vital ingredients of our music.

Sharing our music has always been an uplifting and unifying experience for both the players and audience. Perhaps this is because art which is reflective of everyday people's lives, feelings and hopes is the most meaningful. It is the fruit of our labor of love. We hope you enjoy it too!

NOBUKO JOANNE MIYAMOTO singer/writer

Nobuko was born in L.A. and trained as a dancer from the age of seven. She earned her living in films, TV and Broadway shows but felt the limitations that most Asians face working in the industry. In 1968, she worked on a film about black people in America, which led to a four-year stay in New York. While in New York, she became an activist in Asian and Third World communities and developed a partnership with Chris Iijima. They traveled to Asian communities around the country and produced an album, *A Grain of Sand*, with Chris, Joanne and Charlie Chin. (Paredon Records) "Most of my life I worked as a tool for someone else's ideas," Nobuko says. "For me the real beginning happened when I met and worked with people who were pushing to change our social conditions. Now I have something to sing about..."



BENNY YEE piano/vocals/writer

"I grew up in the back of my folks' laundry in L.A. and when I wasn't working, I was playing the piano..." Benny's musical background is classical but as a teenager, he started his own popular music group. His musical and political philosophy was born at Cal State Long Beach, where he earned a degree in psychology, was involved in the antiwar movement and discovered the early stages of Asian-American identity. These experiences led to his work for five years with Hiroshima, one of the first Asian-American jazz-rock groups. Since then, Benny has been studying music and working with several club and dance bands. He also has been writing with Nobuko and developing the Warriors of the Rainbow.



Some of the musicians who play with Warriors:

In Los Angeles: Alan Furutani—flute, sax; Danny Yamamoto—traps; Bobbie Farlice—congas; Dennis Kawasaki—bass; Howard Tsukamoto—bass  
 In San Francisco: Kenny Endo—taiko drums, percussion; Russell Baba—flute, sax

Correspondence and bookings: WARRIORS OF THE RAINBOW  
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*we are Asians!*

**SOMOS ASIATICOS** Iijima/Miyamoto

nosotros somos Asiaticos,  
y nos gusta cantar pa' la gente  
hablamos la misma lengua,  
porque luchamos por las mismas cosas  
la lengua de libertad, liricos de amor,  
canciones de la lucha la musica del pueblo.

podemos hablar juntos  
podemos cantar juntos  
podemos pelear juntos, siempre juntos.

yo para tu bente, tu para la mia  
yo para tu gente, tu para la mia  
yo para tu gente, tu para la mia . . .

*An Indian legend tells of 5,000 years of evil  
followed by 5,000 years of good - the change  
brought by the coming together of warriors  
all the colors of the rainbow.*

**WARRIORS OF THE RAINBOW** Iijima

rainstorm, wind blows  
peace rides a rainbow  
hailstorm, rough sea  
chained things break free

look up, look down  
look on behind you, look around  
there's a bridge across the water,  
there's a bridge across the sky  
with a many colored army  
i can hear their battle cry  
hold the banner high, warriors of the rainbow  
hold the banner high . . .

earth shakes, trees bend  
rainbow, in the end

**SOMEWHERE/NOWHERE** Yee

somewhere i know, nowhere we go  
cry some for me, some cry for you  
feeling gone, holding on  
not much to do, then i'm a fool  
layin' dead, with nothing said  
another day to find my way . . .

i can't stand it, i'm going crazy  
i gotta work hard, i can't be lazy

hesitate, i can't relate  
dreams not found, bringing me down  
but i can't negate, i gotta create  
as time goes on, i sing this song . . .

i can't keep the beat, i can't sing in key  
will someone help me please  
and sing, sing, sing with me . . .

*this piece was written for a reunion of  
Japanese-Americans & Indians who shared  
the same ground during World War II when  
the Japanese were put in a concentration  
camp on the reservation at Poston, Ariz.  
We used the rhythms of the 2 cultures to  
show our unity . . .*

**MOVING ALONG** Miyamoto/Yee

and when they came, what did they tell you?  
who could find a better place  
it is our pleasure to discover you  
evil plans behind a smiling face

and when they found they couldn't conquer you  
you were too strong and you knew the land  
they stole a people and brought them here  
to fulfill their plan, saying . . . (Chorus)

moving along, moving along, can't stop us  
moving along, moving along, can't stop us

and they claimed the land, and they claimed the rivers  
they claimed our labor and our minds  
and they said for this, we should be grateful  
just be patient, you'll get more in time

it was their right, Manifest Destiny  
in the name of god they were to maim and kill  
this is the way that it was meant to be  
and they continue still, saying . . . (Chorus)

don't you know that you can't stop us  
there ain't no use to try  
don't you know that this is progress  
we'll drink until the well runs dry

but from all directions they will come  
the ones who toiled/the ones who fought  
the ones who cleared the land  
from all directions they will come  
the ones who built/the ones who suffered  
the ones who created the wealth  
upon which this nation stands  
from Wounded Knee and Delano  
from Attica and Tule Lake  
from the fields and factories  
from the ghettos and barrios  
from Vietnam and South Africa  
from all directions they will come like a gathering storm  
and in the eye of the storm a place still and silent  
a terrible and beautiful place  
and from that place the tide will turn  
and it will rain and it will storm  
the blood, the sweat, the tears, the bones  
it will rain until the land is clean again  
the old replacing the new/the many replacing the ruling few  
and from those who labor/from those who struggle  
from those who fight  
will come a better way

don't you know that you can't stop us  
there ain't no use to try  
don't you know that this is progress  
HISTORY IS ON OUR SIDE (Chorus)

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**SONG TO A CHILD** Iijima

sleepy child you grow up fast  
I'd like to give you words to last  
not every wrong is righted  
some things go undecided  
the world at times will seem to you vast  
but all of this will pass

sleepy child the day is done  
so many battles to be won  
justice has many friends  
it may pause sometimes  
but never ends  
and sure as the day arrives with the sun  
a brighter new dawn will come

child on mine, work for those who labor  
weep for those who cry in pain  
fight for children weak from hunger  
fight for those bound up in chains

so rest your head and close your eyes  
the day will come, the sun will rise  
night is only half the day  
it comes at night and goes away  
and sure as the sun will light up the sky  
will light up the world, you and i

child of mine, work for those who labor  
weep for those who cry in pain  
fight for children weak from hunger  
fight for those bound up in chains

*Seeing the world-wide picture helps us  
view our lives and struggles in a more  
positive light . . .*

**NEW MOON** Miyamoto/Yee

new moon, has brought out all the stars  
lantern of the heavenly skies  
one by one their beauty is small  
but i must turn my head, turn my head  
to see them all

shadows, cast upon us all  
blocking the truth from our sight  
on and on we tread through the night  
searching all alone, alone  
to find the light

the light, the way  
the end of us alone, apart, afraid  
the beginning, of us together  
moving, leading, winning  
seeing future  
bringing nearer . . .

new day, is calling on us all  
dawn is chasing the night  
one by one we open our eyes  
to see the morning light, morning light  
we start to rise