

# Nobuko Miyamoto & Benny Yee

in concert

performing original music

presented by the  
Asian Alliance at Occidental College

**Nobuko Joanne Miyamoto**  
singer/lyricist

From Los Angeles, Nobuko trained as a dancer and worked for choreographers Jerome Robbins, Jack Cole, Eugene Loring, and Alicia Alonso in films, on Broadway and the concert stage ("Westside Story", "King and I", "Kismet", to name a few).



After spending time in the acting field, she returned to musical forms to enlarge her scope of expression. An eight month singing engagement at the Colony Club in Seattle led to a Canadian Broadcast TV special in which she performed a symphonic piece with voice written for her by American composer Alan Hovhannes.

The key to her present expression and energy is her involvement with the grass roots movements. Out of this has evolved music which reflect the Asian-American experience.

In New York City she performed with Chris Iijima and Charlie Chin at colleges and community centers across the United States. She also produced an album called, *A Grain of*

*Sand* for Paredon Records. After returning to Los Angeles, she began writing and performing with Benny Yee.

**Benny Yee**  
keyboards/voacsl/composer/musical director

Twenty years ago, Benny started playing the piano in the back of his folks' laundry in Los Angeles. His strong classical background added new dimensions to a rock group he started as a teenager.

While pursuing a degree in Psychology at Cal State Long Beach, he performed with *Hiroshima*, one of the first Asian-American jazz-rock groups, where he played keyboards and composed material for the next five years. Versatility in Asian musical forms in addition to years of experience with jazz and rock has contributed to the lyrical yet dramatic quality of his playing and writing.

His feeling for the community has added depth to his work and has motivated him to lead community workshops and concerts. For the past two years he has been writing and performing with Nobuko, touring the country doing college concerts. Their mutual concerns have resulted in a special musical relationship which shows in the songs they have written.

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Saturday, March 4, 1978

8:15 pm

Herrick Chapel

Occidental College

1600 Campus Road

Los Angeles, CA 90041

Donation: \$3; \$1.50 students





**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 along, 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

The music of Nobuko Miyamoto and Benny Yee 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 as 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!