

NEWS

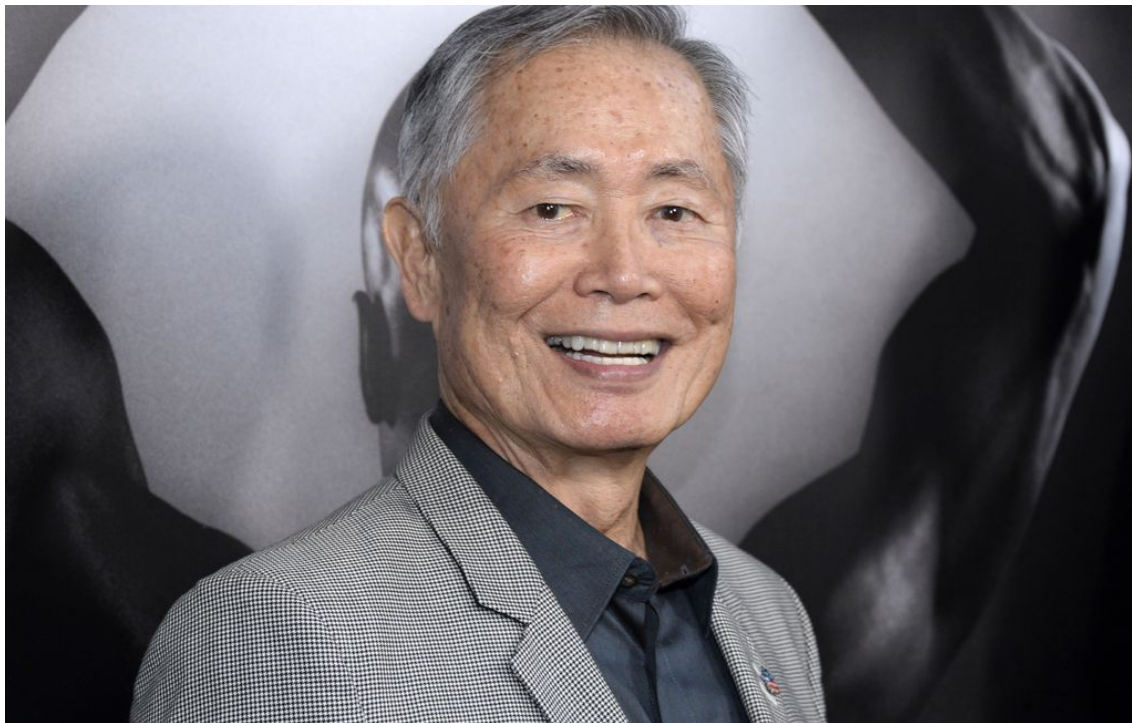


August 23, 2021

FAMED ACTOR COMES TO THE DESERT

George Takei Makes Moab Music Festival Debut in World Premiere

Lost Freedom: A Memory, Based on Takei's Recollections and Writings.



WHO: celebrated actor social justice activist, social media mega-power, and New York Times bestselling author **George Takei**. Composer **Kenji Bunch**, MMF Music Director **Michael Barrett**, Utah Senator **Jani Iwamoto** and Festival Artists.

WHAT: George Takei makes Moab Music Festival debut in World Premiere about his life.

On February 19, 1942, Executive Order 9066 changed the lives of 120,000 Japanese Americans in the U.S., by ordering the forced removal and relocation of residents as "enemy aliens." The Moab Music Festival shines a light on this shameful period in U.S. history with the commissioning and premiering of *Lost Freedom: A Memory* by Japanese American composer Kenji Bunch, featuring Takei narrating with a chamber

ensemble and Takei's words as the basis for the text. The new work is based on Takei's speeches, personal writings, and recollections, woven together by MMF Music Director Michael Barrett, and is the inaugural work in the Festival's new Commissioning Club. The piece is the cornerstone of *Lost Freedom: Japanese American Confinement in the U.S.*, a concert honoring Japanese Americans and, in particular, three Japanese American composers; Bunch, Andy Akiho, Paul Chihara (another camp survivor).

WHEN:

- **Sept. 2 6:30PM:** Private event at Dalton Wells detention camp site. (Brief performance by violist/composer Kenji Bunch & George Takei will see the site for the first time)
- **Sept. 4 5:30PM:** Pre-concert panel discussion including: Takei, Bunch, Floyd Mori, Utah Senator Jani Iwamoto.
- **Sept. 4 7:00PM** World Premiere concert 7PM
Book signing with Takei to follow concert

WHERE:

PRESS AND CAMERAS ARE INVITED TO ALL EVENTS. CALL OR E-MAIL FOR INFORMATION AND TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS. THIS IS A PHOTO AND VIDEO OPPORTUNITY, ANY INTERVIEW REQUESTS WILL BE CONSIDERED AND TO BE ARRANGED IN ADVANCE.

****MMF** adheres to local, state, and CDC health and safety guidelines. Social distancing and masking will be required regardless of vaccination status, and crews will not be admitted unless masked.

ALL MEDIA AND CREWS MUST BE ON THE PRESS LIST PRIOR TO THE EVENTS AND SHOULD CALL DWORKIN & COMPANY TO CONFIRM

914.244.3803 or info@dworkincompany.com

www.moabmusicfest.org

Artists: George Takei, narrator; Stefan Jackiw, Kristin Lee, Rubén Rengel, Cindy Wu, violins; Kenji Bunch, viola, Composer-in-Residence; Cynthia Phelps, viola; Jay Campbell, Tanya Tomkins, cellos; Conrad Tao, piano; Andy Akiho, percussion/composer; Ian Rosenbaum, percussion

Learn More About the Moab Music Festival:



Watch Now

Lost Freedom

Japanese American Confinement in the U.S.

Narrated by George Takei

Saturday, September 4, 7 pm

Red Cliffs Lodge

Kenji Bunch: *Minidoka*

Andy Akiho: *Murasaki (Purple)* from *Synesthesia Suite*

Paul Chihara: *Redwood*

Andy Akiho: *Karakurenai (Crimson)* from *Synesthesia Suite*

Paul Chihara: *Duo Lyrico*

Andy Akiho: *Aka (Red)* from *Synesthesia Suite*

Kenji Bunch: *Lost Freedom* (World Premiere) *MMF Commission

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