

Allegra

Glossary

The Camps

[Gila River](#), [Granada](#), [Heart Mountain](#), [Jerome](#), [Manzanar](#), [Minidoka](#), [Poston](#), [Rohwer](#), [Topaz](#), [Tule Lake](#)

“Ten specially constructed, longer term camps operated by the War Relocation Authority to hold Japanese Americans forcibly removed from the West Coast.”ⁱ



Assembly Centers

[Fresno](#), [Marysville](#), [Mayer](#), [Merced](#), [Owens Valley Reception Center](#), [Pinedale](#), [Pomona](#), [Portland](#), [Puyallup](#), [Sacramento](#), [Salinas](#), [Santa Anita](#), [Stockton](#), [Tanforan](#), [Tulare](#), [Turlock](#)

“Short term camps—mostly adapted from existing facilities such as fairgrounds and horse racing tracks—hurriedly prepared and opened by the Wartime Civil Control Administration in the spring of 1942 to house Japanese Americans upon their initial forced removal from the West Coast.”ⁱⁱ

Awaseru 合わせる

In Gagaku, musicians find a shared rhythm through listening, adjusting to one another without a conductor. In daily life, awaseru is not simply about conforming to others, but about attunement and finding a way to move together even in differences.

Balanchine, George

Balanchine on ballet: “A lot of people go to the theatre to see their own life, their own experience. We don’t give them that in the ballet. We give them something less. When you see flowers, do you have any emotion? You’re moved by the color and the beauty.”ⁱⁱⁱ

Jerome Robbins on Balanchine’s reaction to Kabuki: “He thinks they’re just a lot of old men standing around.”^{iv}

Bugaku 舞楽

“Japanese court dance. For Balanchine’s 1963 ballet, see Bugaku (ballet).”^v

Bugaku (Ballet)

“Balanchine’s 1963 ballet. For the Japanese musical form [sic,] see Bugaku.”^{vi}



Gagaku 雅楽

Gagaku is the broader name comprising three performance styles: Kangen (wind and string music), Bugaku (dance and music), and Kayō (songs). Gagaku, literally “elegant music,” is Japan’s ancient classical music and is regarded as the oldest living tradition of orchestral music in the world. Its roots come from continental Asia over 1500 years ago, and evolved into its present form around the 10th century during the Heian Era, performed mainly at the Imperial Court, in aristocratic society, and at shrines and temples.

The Joy of Life 「生きる喜び」

Performance ballet by Jikken Kobo artist collective, premiered at the 1951 Picasso Festival in Tokyo, to music by Toru Takemitsu and Hiroyoshi Suzuki. It was presented only once and there’s no surviving recording.^{vii}

Kent, Allegra

Author of *Allegra Kent’s Water Beauty Book*

“Lyrically Limber Lollapalooza—with toehold and magical career in ballet, has been described as elegant, spellbinding, spontaneous, and fun—with a love for flora, fauna, forests, oceans, theater, and travel (has been to Botany Bay, Baku, and Boulder Dam), hopes to meet a man, 40-60 or so, who likes the unusual, hears grace notes, has an antic eye, is creative, passionate, and secure, has exquisite sensibilities and perhaps a sense of the absurd.”^{viii}

“Arlene Croce said that my performance ‘brought out the acid below the surface,’ that I achieved ‘complicity carried to the point of mockery—so the piece becomes nearly a feminist statement,’ and that I made ‘the movements look insinuating and delicious at the same time.’ I found her comment about my interpretation uncannily perceptive. She could have been describing the way I was conducting my life.”^{ix}

Question 28

“Will you swear unqualified allegiance to the United States of America and faithfully defend the United States from any or all attack by foreign or domestic forces, and forswear any form of allegiance or obedience to the Japanese emperor, or any other foreign government, power, or organization? _____”^x

Redress

[\\$20,000](#)

Samai 左舞

Dances of the Left.

Umai 右舞

Dances of the Right.



Yuriko

"When she arrived in New York she knocked on Ms. Graham's studio door. When Ms. Graham asked where she came from, according to her biographer, she replied, "My name is Yuriko and I came from an Arizona concentration camp, where I spent almost 18 months."^{xi}



Edited by Jeffrey Gan and Benjamin Akio Kimitch, 2026

Allegra by Benjamin Akio Kimitch, premiere on October 8, 2026 at New York Live Arts

ⁱ "Sites of incarceration," *Densho Encyclopedia*
<https://encyclopedia.densho.org/Sites%20of%20incarceration>.

ⁱⁱ Ibid.

ⁱⁱⁱ Arlene Croce, "Balanchine Said," *The New Yorker*, January 19, 2009,
<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2009/01/26/balanchine-said>.

^{iv} Duberman, Martin. *The Worlds of Lincoln Kirstein*. Northwestern University Press, 2009.

^v Wikipedia contributors, "Bugaku," *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*,
<https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Bugaku&oldid=1365644254>

^{vi} Wikipedia contributors, "Bugaku (ballet)," *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*,
[https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Bugaku_\(ballet\)&oldid=1318145126](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Bugaku_(ballet)&oldid=1318145126)

^{vii} Miwako Tezuka, "Experimentation and Tradition: The Avant-Garde Play *Pierrot Lunaire* by Jikken Kōbō and Takechi Tetsuji," *Art Journal Open*, November 7, 2019, <https://artjournal.collegeart.org/?p=2349>.

^{viii} Kent, Allegra. *Once a dancer...: An autobiography*. Gainesville, Florida: University Press of Florida, 2009.

^{ix} Ibid.

^x 1943 Selective Service Form 304A: Statement of United States Citizen of Japanese Ancestry "Loyalty Questionnaire"

^{xi} Anna Kisselgoff, "Yuriko, Keeper of Martha Graham's Flame, is dead at 102" (published 2022), accessed September 23, 2026, <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/03/12/arts/dance/yuriko-dead.html>.

Images: Mine Okubo, Martha Swope, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, *The King and I* film still