



RELOCATED: Two years after he was relocated to an internment camp, Fuyuumé relocated of his own accord to the Eastman School of Music.

REMEMBRANCE

From Keyboard to Farm, and Back Again

John Fuyuumé '48E, '50E (MM) arrived at the Eastman School of Music in 1944 by way of the Gila River Relocation Center in Arizona, an internment camp for Japanese-Americans.

Fuyuumé, who died in September at age 91, was allowed to leave the camp for Rochester under the sponsorship of the Presbyterian Church. His family had been relocated from Los Angeles in 1942, and he had played the organ in the camp's church but hadn't had lessons in more than two years when he arrived at Eastman. He earned two degrees and planned to pursue a doctorate. But then Charles Seabrook, founder of Seabrook Farms, one of the world's largest frozen food companies, urged him to begin a career at Seabrook in southern New Jersey instead.


Fuyuumé's parents were among the nearly 500 Japanese-American families who accepted Seabrook's offer of work and a place to live after being released from the camps in 1944. They were joined by thousands of refugees from other countries, all of whom worked on the 20,000-acre complex before the company's demise in the 1970s.

"We were a multicultural community long before those words were used," said Fuyuumé in an interview with *Rochester Review* in 2004.

He rose through the executive ranks and traveled the world. After retiring, he and his wife, Setsuko Hada, established the Seabrook Educational and Cultural Center in Upper Deerfield Township, New Jersey. In 2011, the Japanese government recognized him with the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays, for his efforts to preserve the history and culture of the Japanese-American community at Seabrook.

Fuyuumé and his family never moved back to California, where his parents had been forced to give up their small grocery store. And the \$20,000 in reparations Congress authorized to internees in 1988 was not enough, he once noted, even to buy back the Steinway piano that as a boy he had to leave behind.

He eventually returned to his own musical roots, serving on the Eastman School's board of managers. And to help others pianists achieve their own aspirations, he and his wife created the Setsuko and John Fuyuumé Piano Endowment Fund at Eastman.

In his final years, he lived at a retirement home in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, where—with fellow alumni Horace (Hap) Apgar '49E and Alice Pillischer Kujala '48E, and after many years away from the keyboard—he began to play and perform once again. 

- George R. Kraft** '50, November 2016
Aaron Miller '50M (MD), October 2016
K. David VanHoesen '50E, October 2016
Marjorie Latham Malzahn '51E, '52E (MM), November 2016
Joseph T. Bagnara '52, October 2016
Mary Lou Wormer Harrison '52, November 2016
David L. Kuehne '52, '56 (MA), October 2016
William C. Luft '52, '56M (MD), August 2016
Donald H. White '52E (PhD), October 2016
Gordon D. Currie '53M (Res), November 2016
Richard B. Daniels '53E, October 2016
Wilbur Y. Hallett '53M (MD), November 2016
Doreen Mahaney Prigel '53, '54N, November 2016
Diana Scott-Smith Quin '53, October 2016
Theodore C. Max '54M (MD), '61M (Res), November 2016
Wilfred Newman '56W (Mas), November 2016
Alfred E. Wecksler '56, '72S (MBA), November 2016
Robert J. Baliff '57M (MD), July 2016
Marilyn Bickle Kinney '57, February 2016
Ruth Miller Nielson '57N, May 2016
Arthur M. Pappas '57M (MD), March 2016
Muriel Hill Ward '57, September 2016
David E. Roberts '58, May 2015
William H. Bowen '59D (MS), November 2016
John R. Flynn '59 (MS), October 2016
Kathryn Newell Heilmann '59N, July 2016
George A. Krikos '59M (PhD), October 2016
Esther Sprenkel-Segel '59 (PhD), September 2016
Victoria Argana Rosato '60 (MS), October 2016
Barbara Seligman Ruben '61, '78W (MS), November 2016
Benjamin L. Ten Eyck '61S (MS), October 2016
Richard J. Romig '62, October 2016
Gerard E. Schoenherr '62S (MS), October 2016
Leslie D. Simon '62, September 2016
Alan Bernstein '63, October 2016
June Gouaux Sweeney '64, September 2016
John B. Webster '64M (MS), October 2015
Derek T. White-Stevens '64, October 2016
Richard J. Heschke '65E (DMA), October 2016
Vincent J. Byrne '66W (Mas), October 2016
Nancy Howe-Webster '66E, November 2016
Marian McMillan Ralph '66W (MA), November 2016
Rexford J. Abbott '67, March 2016
Susan Hibbard Graham '67, October 2016
Florence Blekking Holley '67W (MA), August 2016
Albert L. Burnett '68S, March 2015
John M. Ferguson '68S (MBA), October 2016
Raymond F. Hobart '69, October 2016
Jacob N. Kluger '69 (MS), October 2016
David M. Terry '69 (MS), August 2016
Warren S. Corbin '71W (EdD), November 2016
Eric L. Loberg '71D, '73D, March 2016
Stanley D. McKenzie '71 (PhD), November 2016
Nick B.T. Wilson '72E, '73E (MM), September 2016
Ann Connors-Adler '74M (PhD), '82M (MD), '85M (Res), November 2016
Christopher M. Weiss '74, November 2016
William J. Kehoe '76 (PhD), October 2016
Gary A. Stewart '76, October 2016
Richard J. Coluzzi '77E (MM), September 2016
Janet Klein Patlow '77 (MA), October 2016
John M. Rominger '81M (Flw), November 2015
Karen Keel Richardson '83N (MS), May 2016
Peter M. Gagan '88, October 2016
John Hainey '90, October 2016
Gregory C. McCallum '90E (MM), February 2016
Jonathan E. Biggers '91E (DMA), September 2016
Andrew J. Jans '92, October 2016
Sarah Lazarus '15, June 2016