

In MEMORIAM

Conductor Seiji Ozawa, who led the Boston Symphony Orchestra, dies at age 88.

TOKYO (AP) — Seiji Ozawa, the Japanese conductor who amazed audiences with the lithe physicality of his performances during three decades at the helm of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, has died, his management office said. He was 88.

The internationally acclaimed maestro, with his trademark mop of salt-and-pepper hair, led the BSO from 1973-2002, longer than any other conductor in the orchestra's history. From 2002-10, he was the music director of the Vienna State Opera.

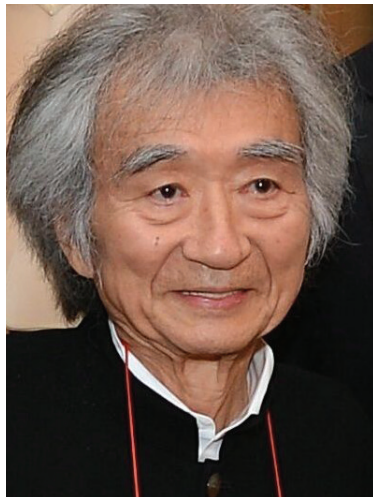
He died of heart failure at his home in Tokyo, according to his office, Veroza Japan.

He remained active in his later years, particularly in his native land. He was the artistic director and founder of the Seiji Ozawa Matsumoto Festival, a music and opera festival in Japan. He and the Saito Kinen Orchestra, which he co-founded in 1984, won the Grammy for best opera recording in 2016 for Ravel's "L'Enfant et Les Sortilèges (The Child and the Spells)."

In 2022, he conducted his Seiji Ozawa Matsumoto Festival for the first time in three years to mark its 30th anniversary. That turned out to be his last public performance.

That year, Ozawa also conducted the Saito Kinen Orchestra to deliver Beethoven's "Egmont Overture" live to Japanese astronaut Koichi Wakata at the International Space Station. The event was co-organized with the Japan Aerospace and Exploration Agency, just as the world was divided by the coronavirus pandemic.

"Music can link the hearts of



Seiji Ozawa, seen in this public domain State Department photo.

people — transcending words, borders, religion and politics. It is my hope that through music, we can be reminded that we are all of the same human race living on the same planet. And that we are united," Ozawa said in a statement.

Ozawa exerted enormous influence over the BSO during his tenure. He appointed 74 of its 104 musicians, and his celebrity attracted famous performers including Yo-Yo Ma and Itzhak Perlman. He also helped the symphony become the biggest-budget orchestra in the world, with an endowment that grew from less than \$10 million in the early 1970s to more than \$200 million in 2002.

When Ozawa conducted the Boston orchestra in 2006 — four years after he had left — he received a hero's welcome with a nearly six-minute ovation.

Ozawa was born Sept. 1, 1935, to Japanese parents in Manchuria, China, while it was under Japanese occupation.

After his family returned to Japan in 1944, he studied mu-

sic under Hideo Saito, a cellist and conductor credited with popularizing Western music in Japan. Ozawa revered him and formed the Saito Kinen (Saito Memorial) Orchestra in 1984 and eight years later founded the Saito Kinen Festival — renamed the Seiji Ozawa Matsumoto Festival in 2015.

Ozawa first arrived in the United States in 1960 and was quickly hailed by critics as a brilliant young talent. He attended the Tanglewood Music Center and was noticed by Leonard Bernstein, who appointed him assistant conductor of the New York Philharmonic for the 1961-62 season. After his New York debut with the Philharmonic at age 25, the *New York Times* said "the music came brilliantly alive under his direction."

He directed various ensembles including the San Francisco Orchestra and the Toronto Symphony Orchestra before beginning his tenure in Boston in 1970.

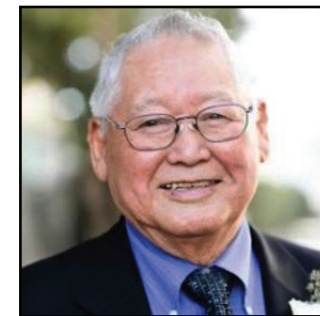
At the time, there were few nonwhite musicians on the international scene. Ozawa embraced the challenge, and it became his lifelong passion to help Japanese performers demonstrate they could be first-class musicians. In his 1967 book "The Great Conductors," critic Harold C. Schonberg noted the changing ranks of younger con-writing that Ozawa and Indian-born Zubin Mehta were the first Asian conductors "to impress one as altogether major talents."

Ozawa's management office said his funeral was attended only by close relatives as his family wished to have a quiet farewell. ■

Arakaki, Ellen Leiko, 91, Gardena, CA, Oct. 21, 2023; she was predeceased by her husband, Eugene; brother, Thomas; she is survived by her children, Darlene (Armando), Brian (Virginia) and Craig (Maria); siblings, Dennis (Karen) and Stan (Ruth); sister-in-law, Doris; gc: 3; ggc: 1.

Edgerton, Karen Ito, 76, Los Angeles, CA, Nov. 23, 2023; B.A., M.A., Ph.D., UCLA (anthropology); professor and researcher, UCLA Asian American Studies; she was predeceased by her husband, Robert Edgerton; she is survived by her sister, Robbie Ito (Leland) Rorex; a nephew and a niece.

Hazama, Yoshiko, 92, Los Angeles, CA, Nov. 7, 2023; she was predeceased by her husband, George Valentine Hazama; siblings, Taro Ishimoto and Nori Komorita; she is survived by her sons, Dr. Mark Hazama (Merlin) and Wayne; sisters, Michi Nishimura and Susan (Dr. Morris Nakamura); sisters-in-law, Mae Hazama and Mary Ishimoto; gc: 2.

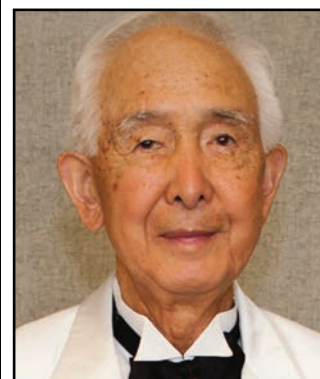


Kushida, Akito, 94, Sacramento, CA, Nov. 13, 2023; veteran, Army; during WWII, his family and he were incarcerated at the Tule Lake WRA Center in CA; he was predeceased by his wife, Lillian; siblings, Hattie Sumida, Shigeko, Shig and Yuki; he is survived by his sons, Gerry (Wendy), Bruce (Martha), Duane (Stacey) and Cary; siblings, Tak and Marion; gc: 5; ggc: 2.

Yoshihiro, Akira, 75, Huntington Beach, CA, Nov. 12, 2023; he is survived by his wife, Marilyn; brother, Eiji (Susan); sisters-in-law, Doris (Richard) Romero, Carol Kumai and Marlene (Pat) Britt; and nephews. ■

TRIBUTE

HIROSHI TAUCHI



Hiroshi John Tauchi, 94, passed away peacefully in his sleep on Feb. 2. He was a resident of Saratoga, Calif., since 1970.

John was born Hiroshi Saiga in Saihaku in Tottori Prefecture, Japan, on Nov. 19, 1929. In 1950, at the age of 20, he was adopted by his aunt and uncle who were living in Los Angeles and changed his name to Hiroshi John Tauchi. He received his bachelor of science in statistics and accounting in 1955 and his MBA in

1957, both from UCLA.

After graduation, John served as Computer Systems manager for the UCLA Health Science Computing Facility. There, he helped develop and program the BMDP (Bio-Medical Data Package) statistical program, which was widely utilized in research for over 50 years. He then worked at IBM in statistical programming and computer language development for 28 years, including two overseas assignments in Tokyo. At both UCLA and IBM, he wrote scholarly works and gave scientific presentations that were included in bibliographies for teaching statistics.

John was known for a lifetime of community service and building cultural bridges through his bilingual abilities and love of travel. Soon after arriving in the U.S., he helped build a preschool at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Los Angeles. After moving his family to Saratoga in 1970, he joined the West Valley Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League, where he served as president and longstanding board member. He helped found the Daruma Cultural Festival, helped purchase a senior citizen community center, and received an outstanding chapter service award in 1974.

In 1984, John became involved in Saratoga's Sister City program with Muko-shi, outside of Kyoto, where he volunteered to lead many group trips to Japan, as well as all across the Pacific Rim. John also served as president of the Hakone Foundation board and was named the Rotary Club's Volunteer of the Year in 1996. His last trip to Japan as a group leader was in 2018 at age 88.

John received the Santa Clara County Asian American Hero Award in 2005, for many years of "time, talent and leadership" to the Saratoga Sister City, Hakone Foundation, Saratoga Rotary, West Valley JACL, Saratoga Chamber of Commerce, Saratoga Taiko and Bamboo Society.

John is survived by his wife of 63 years, Aiko; children, Pamela Tauchi-Nishi (Steven Nishi) of Honolulu, Byron Tauchi of New Orleans and Teresa Tauchi (Sam Boonin) of Oakland; and grandchildren, Ryan Nishi, Erin Nishi, Noah Boonin and Emi Boonin.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, March 30, at 10 a.m. at Hakone Gardens in Saratoga. In lieu of flowers or okoden, donations may be made in Hiroshi John Tauchi's memory to the Hakone Foundation at <https://www.hakone.com/donate>.

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'In Memoriam' is a free listing that appears on a limited, space-available basis. Tributes honor your loved ones with text and photos and appear in a timely manner at the rate of \$20/ column inch.

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