



Yellow Pearl

William David “Charlie” Chin (b. 1944, Jackson Heights, New York City, New York)

Chris Kando Iijima (b. December 19, 1948, New York; d. December 31, 2005)

Nobuko JoAnne Miyamoto (b. November 14, 1939, Los Angeles, California)

Nobuko pursued a love for dance and music when World War II started; Chris’ parents were activists who inspired him to protest at a young age; and Charlie worked in a shirt pressing factory with his father. Chris and Nobuko began as a team writing and singing folk-inspired protest music. Charlie joined them later to form a band, calling themselves Yellow Pearl. Troubled by the many issues facing America, the three have been active in voicing the problems facing Asian Pacific Islander Americans. Nobuko writes songs about climate change, Asian hate, and Black Lives Matter. As a law professor and legal scholar, Chris wrote critical articles on discrimination against Asian Americans and Native Hawaiians, especially on the theft of Hawaiian ancestral land. Charlie performs history to educate the community about its past. The trio’s 1973 album, *A Grain of Sand: Music for the Struggles by Asians in America*, is recognized as the first album of Asian American music. The track list consists of twelve folk songs, political ballads, and protest songs.

Note: Some songs listed might have explicit content; listener discretion advised.