

Arts ARE ESSENTIAL, Inc.

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NIKKI HU and GUY VAN DUSER

Dancer * Choreographer

Musician * Composer

Nikki and Guy are an award winning team, distinguished for working with school districts to design programs that link the creative processes of art to curricula at all grade levels.

NIKKI HU, a graduate of Oberlin College, has studied modern dance with Paul Taylor, Martha Graham, Merce Cunningham and Twyla Tharp. In Boston, she established her own dance studio and performing company. She has been a recipient of the Massachusetts Choreography Fellowship; and she has adjudicated for the National Endowment for the Arts. Nikki has also been a guest teacher and choreographer in England, Japan and the People's Republic of China.

Nikki was born in China at the outbreak of the Communist Revolution. Two months before her father had gone to study in the United States; then war prevented him from returning to his family and meeting his newborn daughter. Bravely, Nikki's mother decided to flee the mainland and escaped with her baby to Taiwan. Nikki spent her early childhood in Taiwan studying ballet. Nikki met her father for the first time at the age of six, when she and her mother came to join him in America.

GUY VAN DUSER was born in Rochester, New York. A graduate of Oberlin College, Guy is internationally recognized as a guitarist and recording artist. Guy performs throughout the U.S. and Europe as a solo guitarist, and with clarinetist Billy Novick as a jazz duo. Guy and Billy's classic swing-era jazz is often played on National Public Radio, notably *All Things Considered* and *A Prairie Home Companion*. Guy also composes music for television and film; his credits include *Nova*, *Frontline*, *The American Experience*, and the score for *Hellfire: A Journey from Hiroshima* – this film received an Academy Award nomination for Best Documentary. Guy also writes music for Disney's World of English, a language series. He creates original scores for Nikki's dance productions.

REFERENCES:

Tom King, Principal Northfield Elementary, Northfield, MA 413-498-5842

Nancy Feth, Parent Liaison North Pembroke Elementary, No. Pembroke, MA 781-829-4292

Bob Mahler, Principal Shutesbury Elementary, Shutesbury, MA 413-259-1212

Smith College Campus School, Cathy Hofer Reid, Principal, Northampton, MA 413-585-3270

The Lincoln School, Chris Gestay, Fourth Grade Teacher, Lincoln, MA 781-259-9400