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***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

**THE SILK ROAD PROJECT ADDS CONCERTS IN DALLAS AND ATLANTA**

**Concerts Feature Cross-Cultural Commissions and Traditional Works from Silk Road Countries, Performed by Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble**

**Partner City Festival Tour**

PROVIDENCE, R.I., October 10, 2001 – In addition to the new concerts in Dallas and Atlanta, the Silk Road Project is in the midst of the Partner City Festival Tour, which reflects the cross-pollination of ideas, culture, music, and art that occurred along the ancient Silk Road—a vast network of trade routes that were active from the first millennium B.C. up to the middle of the second millennium A.D. At its height, the Silk Road extended eastward from China and Japan and westward through the oasis cities of Central Asia—Kashgar, Samarkand and Bukhara—to Persia, Turkey, Greece and Italy, serving as a crucible for cultural innovation and the transmission of ideas. The tour draws together a network of more than fifteen presenting organizations and cultural institutions in the major cultural capitals of North America, Europe and Asia.

The Partner City Festival Tour began in August 2001, with a workshop and four concerts at the Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival in northern Germany. In October, Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble will participate in the Washington Performing Arts Society's season-long multi-disciplinary celebration of the Silk Road. In December, the Project will travel to Japan for concerts in Tokyo, Nagoya, Fukuoka City, and Osaka. The Silk Road Project and the Aga Khan Trust for Culture are working to reschedule a tour to Central Asia that had been scheduled for early October, but was postponed due to recent world events.

Beginning in January 2002, Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble will be featured in major concert halls across Western Europe including the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, the Palais des Beaux Arts in Brussels, Cité de la Musique in Paris, and the Cologne Philharmonie in Germany. In addition, a Silk Road Project Festival will be presented by France's Orchestre National de Lyon.

The Festival Tour will return to North America in April 2002, for a two-week residency at Cal Performances at the University of California, Berkeley, featuring concerts and a collaboration with the Mark Morris Dance Group, with the performance of a new piece by choreographer Mark Morris. The tour will continue with concerts and educational activities at Carnegie Hall, followed by concerts presented by the Seattle Symphony. (See attached for complete tour schedule.)

Programming will include new works commissioned by the Silk Road Project from an international roster of composers, including Zhao Jiping, Kayhan Kalhor and others living in Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, China, Iran, Mongolia, Korea, Turkey and Armenia. The festivals will also feature traditional music from Silk Road countries, as well as masterpieces by Western classical composers such as Ravel and Debussy, who were inspired by the art and music of the East. Partner City Festival performances will feature Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble, an international collective of musicians whose diverse, multicultural careers span the varied traditions of Western and non-Western classical, folk and pop music.

The final venue for the Silk Road Project's 2001-02 festival season is the Smithsonian Folklife Festival in Washington, D.C., the result of a collaboration with the Smithsonian Institution. In conjunction with the Silk Road Project, the Smithsonian Folklife Festival will feature the Silk Road as its only theme in the summer of 2002—the first time the Festival has produced a single-themed event in its 35-year history.