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## **THE SILK ROAD PROJECT APPOINTS CHRISTOPHER MARRION AS ITS NEW DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT**

**PROVIDENCE, R.I., December 11, 2008** –Christopher Marrion has been named the new director of development for the Silk Road Project. Marrion will oversee all aspects of fundraising for the Silk Road Project, with a particular focus on cultivating and stewarding individual giving. A seasoned fundraising professional and classically trained musician, Marrion will further the vital artistic and educational mission of the Silk Road Project, helping to sustain its work of fostering passion-driven learning and cross-cultural musical and artistic exchange.

“On behalf of Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Project, I am very pleased to announce that Chris Marrion has taken on the leadership of our development efforts,” said Laura Freid, chief executive officer and executive director of the Silk Road Project. “Chris comes to us not only with substantial experience in fundraising, but also with deep knowledge and love of music. We are thrilled to be able to call upon his expertise as we celebrate the Silk Road Project’s 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, particularly during these challenging economic times for performing arts and educational organizations.”

Christopher Marrion brings ten years of progressively responsible development experience to the Silk Road Project, having spent the past six years with the Boston Lyric Opera, New England’s largest and oldest opera company. He previously supported the Department of Medicine at Children’s Hospital in Boston, the nation’s top-ranked pediatric hospital, during a \$250-million campaign. Prior to his experience there, Marrion spent seven years with AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts, involved with fundraising, events coordination and public policy programs administration. He has also supervised admissions and financial aid for Harvard University’s Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.

A Connecticut native, Marrion received his Bachelor of Music degree from New England Conservatory of Music and his Master of Music degree from Boston University School for the Arts, following which he performed for a number of years as a professional singer, appearing around New England and in Europe with the Handel and Haydn Society, Mark Morris Dance Group, Emmanuel Music and other organizations.

### **The Silk Road Project**

The Silk Road Project is a not-for-profit arts, cultural and educational organization founded in 1998 by cellist Yo-Yo Ma, who serves as its artistic director, and led by Laura Freid, executive director and CEO. The Project has a vision of connecting the world’s neighborhoods by bringing together artists and audiences around the globe. Inspired by the interchange of culture and ideas along the historic trade route, the Silk Road Project presents performances by the Silk Road Ensemble; commissions new musical and

multimedia works; and develops educational materials and programming. Partnering with other institutions to present musical, visual and narrative traditions from Silk Road regions, the Silk Road Project engages audiences throughout the world through performances, educational programs, and residencies in universities, colleges, museums and schools.

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