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**THE SILK ROAD ENSEMBLE WITH YO-YO MA
PERFORMS AT THE NEW REPUBLIC INAUGURATION CELEBRATION**

JANUARY 17, 2009, Providence, R.I. – Earlier this evening, the Silk Road Ensemble with Yo-Yo Ma gave a special performance in Washington, D.C., for more than 1,000 guests at a musical celebration held by The New Republic magazine to commemorate the inauguration of Barack Obama and Joseph Biden. The event, hosted by the magazine's Editor-in-Chief Martin Peretz and Editor Franklin Foer, was held at Sidney Harman Hall and featured opening remarks by National Economic Council Director-designate Lawrence Summers; Congressman Barney Frank (D-MA); and White House Chief of Staff-designate Rahm Emanuel. Guests included Representative and Mrs. John D. Dingell (D-MI); Sidney Harman and his wife Representative Jane Harman (D-Calif); Senator John Kerry; Senator and Mrs. Joe Lieberman; Representative and Mrs. Henry A. Waxman (D-Calif); Aspen Institute President and CEO Walter Isaacson; and Kuwaiti Ambassador Salem Al-Sabah and his wife, Rima.

“We're extremely proud to host this event. It's ideally matched to the moment. Yo-Yo Ma and his Silk Road Ensemble speak with the eloquence, cosmopolitanism, and inclusive spirit that marks this inauguration. They have designed a program that celebrates America,” said Franklin Foer, Editor of The New Republic.

“For a brief but extraordinary moment, the world's roads have converged in Washington, D.C., for this historic presidential inauguration,” said Yo-Yo Ma. “The Silk Road Ensemble and I are delighted to mark this occasion together by performing at The New Republic's inaugural celebration.”

The concert of more than an hour of music by the Silk Road Ensemble with Yo-Yo Ma featured repertoire specially chosen by Ma that drew on American and international musical traditions. The program comprised works that reflect the diversity of cultures of the countries linked by the historic Silk Road, including *Arabian Waltz* (Rabih Abou-Khalil, Lebanon), *Wa Habibi* “My Love” (Osvaldo Golijov, Argentina), *Musiqawi Silt* (Girma Beyene, Ethiopia), traditional music of the Roma people (Arr, Ljova, Russia), *Prayer* from Jewish Life, No. 1 (Ernest Bloch, Switzerland) and *Concerto for Pipa and Strings* (Lou Harrison, U.S.) featuring Grammy-nominated pipa player Wu Man. In a departure from the Silk Road Ensemble's customary repertoire, the performance also featured three distinctly American works: *The Star-Spangled Banner*; *Appalachia*

Waltz (Mark O'Connor and Edgar Meyer, U.S.), influenced by bluegrass and folk as well as European classical music; and *Ashokan Farewell* (Jay Unger, U.S.), best known as the title theme of the 1990 PBS documentary *The Civil War*.

About the Silk Road Ensemble

The Silk Road Ensemble, presented by the Silk Road Project, is a collective of approximately 60 internationally renowned musicians, composers, arrangers, visual artists and storytellers from more than 20 countries. Each Ensemble member's career illustrates a unique response to what is one of the artistic challenges of our times: nourishing global connections while maintaining the integrity of art rooted in authentic tradition. Many of the musicians first came together under the artistic direction of Yo-Yo Ma at a workshop at Tanglewood Music Center in Massachusetts in 2000. Since then, in various configurations, Ensemble artists have collaborated on a diverse range of musical and multimedia projects, presenting innovative performances that explore the relationship between tradition and innovation in music from the East and West. The Silk Road Ensemble has recorded four albums and performed to critical acclaim throughout Asia, Europe and North America.

About the Silk Road Project

The Silk Road Project is a not-for-profit artistic, cultural and educational organization with a vision of connecting the world's neighborhoods by bringing together artists and audiences around the globe. Cellist Yo-Yo Ma founded the Project in 1998 as a catalyst to promote innovation and learning through the arts. The Silk Road Project takes inspiration from the historical Silk Road trading route as a modern metaphor for multicultural and interdisciplinary exchange. Under the artistic direction of Mr. Ma and led by CEO/Executive Director Laura Freid, the Silk Road Project presents performances by the Silk Road Ensemble, engages in cross-cultural exchanges and residencies, leads workshops for students, and partners with leading cultural institutions to create educational materials and programs. Developing new music is a central mission of the Silk Road Project, which has been involved in commissioning and performing more than 60 new musical and multimedia works from composers and arrangers from around the world.

The Silk Road Project officially launched its 10th-anniversary season with a special performance on United Nations Day on October 24, 2008, in the General Assembly Hall of the United Nations. Highlights of the 10th anniversary include a North American tour, festival concerts in Europe, educational initiatives in New York City, and the first performances by the Silk Road Ensemble with Yo-Yo Ma at New York's Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. For more information, please visit www.silkroadproject.org.

About Yo-Yo Ma

The many-faceted career of cellist Yo-Yo Ma is testament to his continual search for new ways to communicate with audiences and to his personal desire for artistic growth and renewal. Mr. Ma maintains a balance between his engagements as a soloist with orchestras worldwide and his recital and chamber music activities. His discography encompasses more than 75 albums, including 16 Grammy award winners. One of Mr. Ma's goals is the investigation of music as a means of communication and a vehicle for the migration of ideas; in 1998 he established the Silk Road Project to promote the study of cultural, artistic and intellectual traditions along the ancient Silk Road trade routes. Mr. Ma was born in Paris to Chinese parents who later moved the family

to New York. He began to study the cello at the age of four, attended the Juilliard School, and in 1976 graduated from Harvard University. He has received numerous awards, including the 1978 Avery Fisher Prize, the 1999 Glenn Gould Prize, the 2001 National Medal of Arts, the 2006 Sonning Prize, the 2006 Dan David Prize, and the 2008 World Economic Forum's Crystal Award. In 2006, he was designated a United Nations Messenger of Peace by then Secretary-General Kofi Annan. In 2007, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon extended his appointment.

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