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**RENOWNED SILK ROAD ENSEMBLE WITH YO-YO MA
DEBUTS AT LINCOLN CENTER WITH THREE-PART CONCERT SERIES**

**Free outdoor performance in Damrosch Park on June 9 will be broadcast on
Live From Lincoln Center as part of Lincoln Center's 50th Anniversary celebration**

May 27, 2009, Providence, R.I. — As the Silk Road Project celebrates its 10th year of connecting the world's neighborhoods by bringing together artists and audiences around the globe, the Silk Road Ensemble with Yo-Yo Ma will perform three wide-ranging musical programs at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. The *Great Performers* series concerts at Lincoln Center on June 5 and June 6 will take place in the newly remodeled Alice Tully Hall and mark the first time the Ensemble has performed at Lincoln Center. On June 9, a free concert by the Silk Road Ensemble with Yo-Yo Ma in Damrosch Park, presented in celebration of Lincoln Center's 50th anniversary, will be broadcast on the Emmy Award-winning PBS show *Live From Lincoln Center*.

“When we program a Silk Road Ensemble concert, we always want audience members to hear something familiar and to hear something brand new to them,” commented Yo-Yo Ma. “No one grows up today listening to only one kind of music. I’m tremendously pleased that *Live From Lincoln Center* will bring our concert to a broader audience, and I hope that the audience at Damrosch Park, as well as the viewers at home, will discover something new that broadens their perspectives.”

The Silk Road Ensemble with Yo-Yo Ma will perform a unique program each night at Lincoln Center. The repertoire for each concert will include traditional music arranged by and for members of the Silk Road Ensemble, as well as several recently commissioned works written specifically for the Ensemble's unique combinations of Western and non-Western instruments.

The June 5 program includes the world premiere of Sicilian composer Giovanni Sollima's *The Taranta Project*. Commissioned by the Silk Road Project in 2008, this piece unites Western classical, jazz, rock and Mediterranean influences and employs uncommon techniques such as vocalization and body rhythm. *The Taranta Project* was one of several works in progress previewed last fall at Tanglewood Music Center. The program also features music of the Roma and works from composers from Iran, Uzbekistan and Hong Kong.

A highlight of the June 6 concert will be the New York premiere of *Layla and Majnun*, which had its world premiere in Doha, Qatar, in November 2008 and was performed to critical acclaim during the Silk Road Ensemble with Yo-Yo Ma's March 2009 North American tour. The piece is adapted from a beloved Central Asian opera, which is itself based on a series of ancient Arabian and Persian tales of ill-fated love often likened to *Romeo and Juliet*. The Silk Road Ensemble with Yo-Yo Ma has created a multimedia chamber arrangement of the opera incorporating mugham, a complex form of vocal expression from Azerbaijan, and instrumentation from Asian and Western traditions. *Layla and Majnun* will feature Alim Qasimov, the leading performer of the opera in Azerbaijan for the past two decades, who has been designated an Azerbaijani Living National Treasure, and his daughter Fargana Qasimova, also an accomplished mugham vocalist. Original paintings by set designer Henrick Soderstrom and a libretto hand-calligraphed by Francesca Lohmann will be projected to create dynamic staging responsive to the music and the story.

The free concert in Damrosch Park on June 9 will feature Silk Road Ensemble musicians from 11 countries—India, Iran, Azerbaijan, Korea, the United States, Canada, Spain, Switzerland, Israel, Japan and China—performing music from China, Lebanon, India, Azerbaijan and Iran. Guest artists from the Manhattan School of Music and the University of Michigan School of Music, Theater and Dance will join the Silk Road Ensemble with Yo-Yo Ma in pieces by Silk Road Ensemble performers and composers Sandeep Das and Kayhan Kalhor and Argentinean composer Osvaldo Golijov. This performance will be broadcast on June 9 on PBS's *Live From Lincoln Center*.

The various concert programs will also include these works commissioned by the Silk Road Project:

- *Paths of Parables*, a work with narration in five movements by Uzbek composer Dmitri Yanov-Yanovsky, based on Sufi parables;
- *Empty Mountain, Spirit Rain* by Angel Lam, a composer who grew up in Hong Kong and Los Angeles, in memory of her grandmother;
- *Ritmos Anchinós (Anchino Rhythms)*, which reflects American composer Gabriela Lena Frank's Peruvian-Jewish-Chinese heritage and incorporates Latino/Latin American mythology, archeology, art, poetry and folk music into Western classical forms;
- *Sulvasutra* by U.S. composer Evan Ziporyn, which addresses the creation of the universe, based on an ancient Sanskrit treatise;
- *Blue as the Turquoise Night of Neyshabur* by kamancheh master and Silk Road Ensemble member Kayhan Kalhor, which pays tribute to the city Neyshabur, a seat of Persian culture along the historical Silk Road; and
- *Wa Habibi* and *Tancas Serradas a Muro*, movements from Osvaldo Golijov's *Air to Air*, which the composer describes as "music born from community."

The Lincoln Center concerts are part of a series of performances, premieres and innovative educational programs that mark the Silk Road Project's 10th anniversary, which launched in October 2008 with a special performance at the United Nations for U.N. Day and also included a North American concert tour. Other performance highlights

of the anniversary season include a concert tour of European festivals in England, Belgium, Germany, Switzerland and Romania in September 2009 and concerts in Asia in April 2010.

Education is central to the Silk Road Project's 10th-anniversary programming. As part of **Silk Road Connect**, the Silk Road Project's multi-year, multidisciplinary educational program, approximately 1,000 New York City educators and students have been invited to attend a private dress rehearsal of the final concert on June 8. Silk Road Connect is part of the New York City Department of Education's Campaign for Middle School Success and aims to inspire passion-driven learning by empowering students and teachers to seek connections across all areas of study, both in and out of the classroom.

"We are particularly pleased that the Silk Road Ensemble will perform in New York at Lincoln Center during our 10th anniversary season," said Laura Freid, chief executive officer and executive director of the Silk Road Project. "For the next few years, we will be working intensively with sixth grade students and teachers in New York City through our Silk Road Connect partnership. I can think of no better way to celebrate our collaboration than by sharing our music with teachers who are working with us in the classroom."

The Silk Road Project's anniversary activities are funded in part by Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Ford Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, New York Fund for Public Schools, Pershing Square Foundation and the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

The Silk Road Ensemble arrangement of *Layla and Majnun* was made possible in part by the generous support of the Qatar Museums Authority, with additional support from the Academie Musicale de Villecroze and the National Endowment for the Arts. The world premiere of *Layla and Majnun* was performed in Doha, Qatar, in November 2008. Frank's *Ritmos Anchinos*; Golijov's *Air to Air*; Lam's *Empty Mountain, Spirit Rain*; and Ziporyn's *Sulvasutra* were commissioned by Carnegie Hall through the Weill Music Institute in partnership with the Silk Road Project, Inc. Along with Yanov-Yanovsky's *Paths of Parables*, commissioned by the Silk Road Project, Inc., they were performed as world premieres at Carnegie Hall in September 2006. Sollima's *The Taranta Project* was commissioned by the Silk Road Project in 2008. Zhao Lin's *Yanzi* was commissioned by NHK for its 2004 television series on the Silk Road. Kalhor's *Blue as the Turquoise Night of Neyshabur* was commissioned by the Silk Road Project and is dedicated to the life of Harrison Kravis.

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 the leadership of CEO and 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. The Silk Road Project is affiliated with Harvard University and Rhode Island School of Design, where the Silk Road Ensemble holds regular residencies to promote cross-cultural and interdisciplinary interaction with students and faculty. Developing new music is a central mission of the Silk Road Project: the Project has been involved in commissioning and performing more than 60 new musical and multimedia works from composers and arrangers from around the world.

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.

About the Silk Road Ensemble

The Silk Road Ensemble is a collective of 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.

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(Concert programs begin on the next page)

Silk Road Ensemble Concerts at Lincoln Center

Program 1

June 5, 2009 – 8 PM

Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts – Alice Tully Hall

The Silk Road Ensemble with Yo-Yo Ma

Siamak Aghaei (Iran), arr. Colin Jacobsen	<i>Ascending Bird</i>
Dmitri Yanov-Yanovsky (Uzbekistan)	<i>Paths of Parables</i>
Angel Lam (Hong Kong)	<i>Empty Mountain, Spirit Rain</i>
Giovanni Sollima (Italy)	<i>The Taranta Project</i>
Music of the Roma	
Traditional (Romania), arr. Ljova	<i>Doina Oltului</i>
Sapo Perapaskero (Romania), arr. Ljova	<i>Rustem</i>
Sapo Perapakero (Romania), arr. Osvaldo Golijov, Ljova	<i>Turceasca</i>

The Silk Road Ensemble

Siamak Aghaei, santur
Jeffrey Beecher, contrabass
Nicholas Cords, viola
Jonathan Gandelsman, violin
Joseph Gramley, percussion
Colin Jacobsen, violin
Yo-Yo Ma, cello
Shane Shanahan, percussion
Mark Suter, percussion
Kojiro Umezaki, shakuhachi
Wu Man, pipa
Wu Tong, sheng
Alastair Willis, conductor

Program 2

June 6, 2009 – 8 PM

Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts – Alice Tully Hall

The Silk Road Ensemble with Yo-Yo Ma

Gabriela Frank (United States)

Ritmos Anchinos

Silk Road Suite

Dong-Won Kim (Korea) and

Kojiro Umezaki (Japan)

Ahmet Adnan Saygun

Traditional

When the Wind Circles

Partita, op. 31 (Allegretto)

Classical Music of Azerbaijan

Evan Ziporyn (United States)

Sulvasutra

Uzeyir Hajibeyov (Azerbaijan)

arr. Jonathan Gandelsman and Colin Jacobsen

Layla and Majnun

The Silk Road Ensemble

Jeffrey Beecher, contrabass

Nicholas Cords, viola

Sandeep Das, tabla

Jonathan Gandelsman, violin

Rauf Islamov, kamancheh

Colin Jacobsen, violin

Dong-Won Kim, vocals

Yo-Yo Ma, cello

Ali Asgar Mammadov, tar

Alim Qasimov, mugham vocals

Fargana Qasimova, mugham vocals

Mark Suter, percussion

Kojiro Umezaki, shakuhachi

Wu Man, pipa

Wu Tong, sheng

Program 3

June 9, 2009 – 8 PM

Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts – Damrosch Park

The Silk Road Ensemble with Yo-Yo Ma

Silk Road Suite

Improvisation

Chinese Traditional

Rabih Abou-Khalil (Lebanon)

Wandering Winds

White Snow in the Sunny Spring

Arabian Waltz

Sandeep Das (India)

Shristi

Music of Azerbaijan

Fikret Amirov (Azerbaijan)

Uzeyir Hajibeyov (Azerbaijan)

Kor Arab

Shikasta (“Minstrel’s Song”)

Zhao Lin (China)

Yanzi (“Swallow Song”)

Kayhan Kalhor (Iran)

Blue as the Turquoise Night of Neyshabur

Oswaldo Golijov (Argentina)

Wa Habibi (“My Beloved”)

Tancas Serradas a Muru (“Walls Are Encircling the Land”)

The Silk Road Ensemble

Jeffrey Beecher, contrabass

Nicholas Cords, viola

Sandeep Das, tabla

Jonathan Gandelman, violin

Joseph Gramley, percussion

Rauf Islamov, kamancheh

Colin Jacobsen, violin

Eric Jacobsen, cello

Kayhan Kalhor, kamancheh

Dong-Won Kim, jang-go and vocals

Yo-Yo Ma, cello

Ali Asgar Mammadov, tar

Max Mandel, viola

Cristina Pato, Galician bagpipe

Alim Qasimov, mugham vocals

Fargana Qasimova, mugham vocals

Shane Shanahan, percussion

Mark Suter, percussion

Kojiro Umezaki, shakuhachi

Wu Man, pipa

Wu Tong, sheng

Guest Artists

Michael Coletti, percussion ¹

Benjamin Grossman, viola ²

Erik Grossman, viola ²

Julian Langford, cello ²

Hannah Ji, violin ²

Faraz Minooei, santur

Nicholas Rifken, percussion ¹

Caroline Suh, violin ²

Ian Sullivan, percussion ¹

¹ University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre & Dance

² Manhattan School of Music