

**Press Contact:**

Heidi Koelz

(401) 427-6987

[heidi@silkroadproject.org](mailto:heidi@silkroadproject.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**THE SILK ROAD ENSEMBLE WITH YO-YO MA RETURNS TO ASIA**

**Concerts will take place in South Korea, Macao, Taiwan,  
Thailand and Singapore from April 18 through 30, 2010**

**March 18, 2010, Providence, R.I.** — For the first time in nearly six years, the critically acclaimed Silk Road Ensemble with Yo-Yo Ma will return to South Korea, Taiwan and Singapore during an April 2010 concert tour, which will also feature the Ensemble's debut performances in Macao and Thailand. This series of concerts from April 18 through April 30 concludes the Silk Road Project's 10<sup>th</sup>-anniversary celebration with performances in Seoul, South Korea; Macao; Taipei, Taichung and Kaohsiung, Taiwan; Bangkok, Thailand; and Singapore. *[A complete tour schedule follows below.]*

"I look forward to returning to Asia with the Silk Road Ensemble," said Yo-Yo Ma, founder and artistic director of the nonprofit arts and educational organization the Silk Road Project. "This tour is especially exciting for us because each of the places we are visiting has deep roots in the kind of exchange that happened along the Silk Road. Whether it's Macao, the former Portuguese colony, alongside Hong Kong or the multi-ethnic Singapore in the midst of the Islamic country of Malaysia, or Korea with its deep connections to Mongolia and Japan, each stop on our route was witness to the movements of peoples, religions, ideas and languages. At a time when so much attention is being paid to these areas politically and economically, I think it is equally important to understand the vibrant cultures of these unique places. The Silk Road Project and I look forward to celebrating the history of each culture, to bringing what we have learned, and to learning more."

Mr. Ma carefully constructed several distinct concert programs to suit each of the tour venues. Concerts will present a mix of familiar favorites—many of them traditional works from Korea, China, Persia and the Roma people—and celebrated new music from some of today's most globally minded composers, written specifically for the Silk Road Ensemble's unique makeup of Eastern and Western musicians and instruments.

Highlights of the two-week, seven-city tour include the Asian premieres of Argentinean composer Osvaldo Golijov's *Air to Air* and U.S. composer Evan Ziporyn's *Sulvasutra*, both of which are featured on the Silk Road Ensemble's recent CD, *Off the Map* (released in November 2009 from World Village and In a Circle Records). Infused by music as diverse as protest song from 18<sup>th</sup>-century Sardinia, indigenous voices from Mexico and the Christian Arab Easter service, *Air to Air* is what Golijov has called "music borne of community." Ziporyn wrote

*Sulvasutra*, a musical enactment of the Big Bang, for Indian tabla player Sandeep Das.

Two other works from the album are also on the concert schedule. *Ritmos Anchinós*, by 2009 Latin Grammy Award winner Gabriela Lena Frank, showcases internationally renowned pipa virtuosa Wu Man and sheng player Wu Tong, a popular Chinese rock musician and proponent of traditional music. *Empty Mountain, Spirit Rain*, composed by Hong Kong native Angel Lam, is an urban groove for Japanese shakuhachi flute and bass.

During the Silk Road Ensemble with Yo-Yo Ma's 2010 Asia Tour, Hyosung is the Lead Sponsor of the Silk Road Project for the concert in Seoul; American Express is the Lead Sponsor of the Silk Road Project for the concerts in Taipei and Singapore.

This concert tour is the final in a series of performances, premieres and innovative educational programs that have celebrated the Silk Road Project's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary on three continents. Anniversary programming began in October 2008 with a special performance at the United Nations for U.N. Day and continued through a North American concert tour, a series of performances at New York City's Lincoln Center and a European concert tour in 2009. The Silk Road Ensemble with Yo-Yo Ma will tour in the United States in August 2010. For more information on scheduled performances visit [www.silkroadproject.org/schedule](http://www.silkroadproject.org/schedule).

#### **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.

#### **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. In January 2009, at the invitation of President-Elect Barack Obama, Mr. Ma played in the quartet performance of John Williams' *Air and Simple Gifts* at the 56<sup>th</sup> Inaugural Ceremony.

### **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. Founded by cellist Yo-Yo Ma in 1998 as a catalyst to promote innovation and learning through the arts, the Silk Road Project takes inspiration from the historic 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. 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.

### **Concert Programs**

#### **April 18 – April 30, 2010**

#### **Asia Concert Tour**

#### **The Silk Road Ensemble with Yo-Yo Ma**

Sunday, April 18, at 5 PM: Seoul Arts Center; Seoul, South Korea – Program 1

Tuesday, April 20, at 8 PM: Macao Cultural Centre; Macao S.A.R., China – Program 2

Thursday, April 22, at 7:30 PM: Taipei National Concert Hall; Taipei, Taiwan – Program 2

Saturday, April 24, at 7:30 PM: Taichung Fulfillment Amphitheatre; Taichung, Taiwan – Program 3

Sunday, April 25, at 7:30 PM: Jhihde Theater; Kaohsiung, Taiwan – Program 3

Tuesday, April 27, at 8 PM: Thailand Cultural Centre; Bangkok, Thailand – Program 4

Thursday, April 29, at 7:30 PM: Esplanade Concert Hall; Singapore – Program 4

Friday, April 30, at 7:30 PM: Esplanade Concert Hall; Singapore – Program 5

#### **Program 1 (Seoul)**

Silk Road Suite

Improvisation

Ahmet Adnan Saygun

Persian Traditional, Arr. Siamak Aghaei, Colin Jacobsen

*Wandering Winds*

*Partita, Opus 31 (Allegretto)*

*Ascending Bird*

Dong-Won Kim, Arr. Jonathan Gandelsman

*Baet Nore* (“Distant Horizons”)

Gabriela Lena Frank

*Ritmos Anchinós\**

Kayhan Kalhor

*Silent City\*\**

Korean Traditional

*Heung Bo Ga*

Oswaldo Golijov

*Air to Air\**

### **The Silk Road Ensemble with Yo-Yo Ma for Program 1**

Jeffrey Beecher, contrabass	Dong-Won Kim, Korean percussion and vocals
Nicholas Cords, viola	Ji Hyun Kim, kayagum and vocals
Haruka Fujii, percussion	Yo-Yo Ma, cello
Jonathan Gandelsman, violin	Mark Suter, percussion
Joseph Gramley, percussion	Kojiro Umezaki, shakuhachi
Colin Jacobsen, violin	Wu Man, pipa
Kayhan Kalhor, kamancheh	Wu Tong, sheng and bawu

### **Program 2 (Macao, Taipei)**

Silk Road Suite

Improvisation

Ahmet Adnan Saygun

Persian Traditional, Arr. Siamak Aghaei, Colin Jacobsen

*Wandering Winds*

*Partita, Opus 31 (Allegretto)*

*Ascending Bird*

Dong-Won Kim, Arr. Jonathan Gandelsman

*Baet Nore* (“Distant Horizons”)

Gabriela Lena Frank

*Ritmos Anchinós\**

Kayhan Kalhor

*Silent City\*\**

Chinese Traditional

*White Snow in the Sunny Spring*

Oswaldo Golijov

*Air to Air\*\**

### **The Silk Road Ensemble with Yo-Yo Ma for Program 2**

Jeffrey Beecher, contrabass	Dong-Won Kim, Korean percussion and vocals
Nicholas Cords, viola	Yo-Yo Ma, cello
Haruka Fujii, percussion	Mark Suter, percussion
Jonathan Gandelsman, violin	Kojiro Umezaki, shakuhachi
Joseph Gramley, percussion	Wu Man, pipa
Colin Jacobsen, violin	Wu Tong, sheng and bawu
Kayhan Kalhor, kamancheh	

### **Program 3 (Taichung, Kaohsiung)**

Silk Road Suite

Improvisation  
Chinese Traditional  
Rabih Abou-Khalil

*Wandering Winds*  
*White Snow in the Sunny Spring*  
*Arabian Waltz*

Sandeep Das

*Shristi*

Music of the Roma

Traditional, Arr. Ljova  
Sapo Perapaskero, Arr. Osvaldo Golijov, Ljova

*Doina Oltului††* (“Song of the River Olt”)  
*Turceasca* (“Turkish Song”)

Persian Traditional

Improvisation

Chinese Traditional, Arr. Zhao Lin

*Yanzi* (“Swallow Song”)

Chinese Traditional, Arr. Li Cang Sang, Wu Tong

*Ambush from Ten Sides*

### **The Silk Road Ensemble with Yo-Yo Ma for Program 3**

Jeffrey Beecher, contrabass  
Nicholas Cords, viola  
Sandeep Das, tabla  
Haruka Fujii, percussion  
Jonathan Gandelsman, violin  
Joseph Gramley, percussion  
Colin Jacobsen, violin  
Siamak Jahangiry, ney  
Kayhan Kalhor, kamancheh  
Dong-Won Kim, Korean percussion

Liu Lin, ruan, guitar  
Yo-Yo Ma, cello  
Mark Suter, percussion  
Kojiro Umezaki, shakuhachi  
Wu Man, pipa  
Wu Tong, sheng and bawu  
**Guest Artist**  
Vesal Arbzadeh, setar

### **Program 4 (Bangkok, Singapore 4/29)**

Silk Road Suite

Ahmet Adnan Saygun  
Persian Traditional, Arr. Siamak Aghaei, Colin Jacobsen

*Partita, Opus 31 (Allegretto)*  
*Ascending Bird*

Angel Lam

*Empty Mountain, Spirit Rain\**

Evan Zipporyn

*Sulvasutra\**

Kayhan Kalhor

*Silent City\*\**

Chinese Traditional, Arr. Zhao Lin

*Yanzi* (“Swallow Song”)

Chinese Traditional,  
Arr. Li Cang Sang, Wu Tong

*Ambush from Ten Sides*

#### **The Silk Road Ensemble with Yo-Yo Ma for Program 4**

Jeffrey Beecher, contrabass	Kayhan Kalhor, kamancheh
Nicholas Cords, viola	Liu Lin, guitar
Sandeep Das, tabla	Yo-Yo Ma, cello
Haruka Fujii, percussion	Mark Suter, percussion
Jonathan Gandelsman, violin	Kojiro Umezaki, shakuhachi
Joseph Gramley, percussion	Wu Man, pipa
Colin Jacobsen, violin	Wu Tong, sheng

#### **Program 5 (Singapore 4/30)**

##### Silk Road Suite

Kayhan Kalhor, Arr. Ljova	<i>Mountains are Far Away</i>
Hu Tian Quan, Arr. Wu Tong, Liu Lin	<i>Phoenix Rising</i>
Zhao Jiping	<i>Summer in the High Grassland</i>
Persian Traditional, Arr. Siamak Aghaei, Colin Jacobsen	<i>Ascending Bird</i>

Ruan Ji, Arr. Wu Tong, Liu Lin *Wine Madness*

Gabriela Lena Frank *Ritmos Anchinós\**

Dmitri Yanov-Yanovsky *Night Music: Voice in the Leaves†*

Oswaldo Golijov *Air to Air \*\**

#### **The Silk Road Ensemble with Yo-Yo Ma for Program 5**

Jeffrey Beecher, contrabass	Gulia Mashurova, harp
Nicholas Cords, viola	Mark Suter, percussion
Sandeep Das, tabla	Kojiro Umezaki, shakuhachi
Haruka Fujii, percussion	Wu Man, pipa
Jonathan Gandelsman, violin	Wu Tong, sheng
Joseph Gramley, percussion	
Colin Jacobsen, violin	Members of the Singapore Symphony Orchestra
Kayhan Kalhor, kamancheh	will perform as guest artists, including Lan Shui,
Liu Lin, ruan, guitar	conductor, and Mark Suter, percussion.
Yo-Yo Ma, cello	

\* Commissioned by Carnegie Hall through the Weill Music Institute in partnership with the Silk Road Project. The world premieres were given at Carnegie Hall, New York City, in September 2006.

\*\* Made possible by a grant from the Fromm Music Foundation and first performed at Harvard University in 2005. This arrangement was commissioned by the Carnegie Hall Corporation.

† Commissioned in 2000 by the Silk Road Project.

†† The Ljova arrangement of Doina Oltului was commissioned by the Silk Road Project and is dedicated to Marty Peretz and Anne Peretz with deep affection and thanks.

###