

The Silk Road Project At A Glance

- The Silk Road Project** The Silk Road Project is a nonprofit arts and educational organization that connects musicians, composers, artists, and audiences from Asia to Europe to the Americas. Founded in 1998 by cellist Yo-Yo Ma, who serves as its artistic director, and led by Laura Freid, chief executive officer and executive director, the Silk Road Project presents performances by the acclaimed 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 undertaking of the Project, which has been involved in commissioning and performing more than 60 new musical and multimedia works from composers and arrangers around the world.
- Mission & Vision** Inspired by the cultural traditions of the historical Silk Road, the Silk Road Project is a catalyst promoting innovation and learning through the arts. Our vision is to connect the world's neighborhoods by bringing together artists and audiences around the globe.
- Yo-Yo Ma**
*Founder &
Artistic Director* Cellist Yo-Yo Ma's many-faceted career 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 investigation of music as a means of communication and a vehicle for the migration of ideas inspired the founding of the Silk Road Project.
- Laura Freid**
*CEO &
Executive Director* Laura Freid has extensive leadership experience in higher education. While editor of *Bostonia* magazine and publisher of *Harvard Magazine*, Dr. Freid became fascinated with change and the impact of ideas on collective imaginations. Dr. Freid has written extensively on reputation and the history of higher education in the 20th century and consults on strategic issues facing global organizations. She has led the Silk Road Project since 2004.
- The Silk Road Ensemble** The Silk Road Ensemble is a collective of internationally renowned performers and composers whose careers respond to one of the preeminent artistic challenges of our times: to maintain the integrity of art rooted in authentic traditions while nourishing global connections. 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 spring from Eastern and Western traditions and contemporary musical crossroads.

Education	Education is central to the Silk Road Project's work. Through performances, residencies and workshops, curricular initiatives and publications, and programs with teachers and students, the Project provides a gateway to greater understanding of the world. Engaging students with the arts, these educational programs aim to ignite a passion for self-motivated learning.
Artists in Residence at Harvard University	The Silk Road Project has been affiliated with Harvard University since 2005. The first five-year partnership consisted of annual residencies with Silk Road Ensemble members to promote cross-cultural and interdisciplinary interaction with students and faculty. A new five-year residency beginning in July 2010 will bring the Silk Road Project's office to Harvard, allowing the Project to integrate more fully into campus life and enrich ongoing explorations of the Silk Road as a metaphor for cultural exchange and interdisciplinary collaboration.
Museum Residencies	Silk Road Project residencies juxtaposing visual art, music and storytelling have taken place at the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Massachusetts; the Nara National Museum in Nara, Japan; the Rubin Museum of Art and the American Museum of Natural History in New York; the Art Institute of Chicago; and the Rietberg Museum in Zurich, Switzerland.
Cultural Legacy	The Silk Road Project aims to document the pioneering nature of its activities to ensure that the historical impact of the Silk Road continues as a living tradition. Through its work connecting the world's neighborhoods, the Silk Road Project hopes to create a legacy that will inspire similar initiatives.
The Silk Road	The ancient Silk Road was a network of trading routes that crisscrossed Eurasia from the first millennium B.C.E. through the middle of the second millennium C.E., linking diverse cultures and peoples and promoting an unprecedented sharing of ideas, art, science and innovations.
Funding	The Silk Road Project, Inc., is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization supported by individuals, foundations and corporations.
Recordings	<p><i>Off the Map</i> – The Silk Road Ensemble, November 2009</p> <p><i>New Impossibilities</i> – The Silk Road Ensemble with Yo-Yo Ma, July 2007</p> <p><i>Silk Road Journeys: Beyond the Horizon</i> – The Silk Road Ensemble with Yo-Yo Ma, April 2005</p> <p><i>Silk Road Journeys: When Strangers Meet</i> – The Silk Road Ensemble with Yo-Yo Ma, April 2002</p> <p><i>The Silk Road: A Musical Caravan</i> – The Silk Road Project, April 2002</p>
Quick Facts	<p>60 Silk Road Ensemble members from 24 countries</p> <p>62 commissions from composers from 18 countries</p> <p>Silk Road Ensemble performances in 29 countries in approximately 150 venues, including Hollywood Bowl, Shanghai Stadium, Millennium Park (Chicago), the Concertgebouw (Amsterdam), the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts (D.C.), Hong Kong Cultural Arts Centre, Carnegie Hall (New York), Benaroya Hall (Seattle), Suntory Hall (Tokyo), as well as at the Nobel Prize Celebrations in Stockholm, the Lucerne Festival (Switzerland), BBC Proms (London) and World Expo 2005 in Nagoya, Japan.</p>