

The Silk Road Project Highlights 1998 - 2010

- Jun-Jul 1998 A meeting at the Harvard Faculty Club led to the formation of the Silk Road Project, a concept of Yo-Yo Ma's to study the ebb and flow of ideas among cultures along the Silk Road. SONY Classical and SONY Corporation provided seed money and significant in-kind support.
- Nov 1998 The Silk Road Project was incorporated.
- Oct-Jan 1999 The Starr Foundation provided crucial seed money. The Aga Khan Trust for Culture contributed a multimillion-dollar lead gift. Ford Motor Company became a Global Corporate Sponsor, providing additional support for the *Silk Road Encounters* educational program.
- Jul 2000 The Silk Road Project held a new commissions workshop at the Tanglewood Music Center, featuring works from Azerbaijan, China, Iran, Mongolia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.
- Oct 2000 The Silk Road Project was publicly announced.
- Jan 2001 Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble gave master classes at Dartmouth College and performed newly commissioned chamber works at Columbia University and in Ohio and Michigan.
- Mar 2001 Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble performed at the Hong Kong Arts Festival, followed by an international tour in Beijing and Shanghai in China and in Taipei, Taiwan. Yo-Yo Ma, Kayhan Kalhor and the New York Philharmonic premiered Richard Danielpour's cello concerto *Through the Ancient Valley* and Kayhan Kalhor's *Blue as the Turquoise Night of Neyshabur* in Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts.
- Aug 2001 The Silk Road Project presented a musical workshop at L'Academie Musicale de Villecroze in France, featuring new commissions from Korea, Turkey, and Armenia. The Silk Road Ensemble launched a two-year series of concerts and partner-city festivals including performances in and collaborations with:
- the Schleswig-Holstein Festival in Germany (August 2001)
 - Lubeck, Salzau and Wotersen, Germany (August 2001)
 - Atlanta, GA, and Dallas, TX – presented by Aga Khan Trust for Culture (October 2001)
 - at the Meyer Auditorium, Freer and Sackler Galleries, the University of Maryland, Clarice Smith Center for the Performing Arts, George Mason University, Rosslyn Spectrum Theatre and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts – presented by the Washington Performing Arts Society (October 2001)
 - with the Orchestre Nationale de Lyon in Cologne, Amsterdam, London, Paris, and Italy (November 2001)
 - Nagoya, Tokyo, Fukuoka City and Osaka, Japan (December 2001)
 - Brussels, Belgium, at the Amsterdam Concertgebouw (January 2002)
 - with the Kölner Philharmonie in Cologne, Germany (January 2002)
 - the Cite de la Musique in Paris (April 2002)
 - the University of California at Berkeley, including The Mark Morris Dance Group premiere of *Kolam*, with music by Zakir Hussein and Ethan Iverson commissioned by the Silk Road Project – presented by Cal Performances (April 2002)
 - Carnegie Hall, New York, and at Benaroya Hall, presented by and with the Seattle Symphony (May 2002)
- Nov 2001 *Silk Road Journeys: When Strangers Meet* CD was released by Sony Classical. The *Silk Road Encounters* educational program was launched and materials developed in collaboration with the Asia Society.
- May 2002 *The Silk Road: A Musical Caravan* CD was released by Smithsonian Folkways Recordings.

- Jul 2002 The Silk Road Project partnered with the Smithsonian Institution to present *The Silk Road: Connecting Cultures, Creating Trust* at the 36th annual Folklife Festival.
- Oct 2002 A series of 2002/2003 performances began:
- in Milan, Florence, and Rome (October 2002)
 - at the University of Nevada, UCLA, UC Davis, Stanford University, and the Vancouver Recital Society, (November 2002)
 - in Toronto, Canada, presented by and with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra (January 2003)
 - in Bishkek, The Kyrgyz Republic, Almaty, Kazakhstan; and Dushanbe, Tajikistan, in partnership with the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (April 2003)
- Jan 2004 The Silk Road Project and the Peabody Essex Museum presented *Creative Exchanges: Sights and Sounds of the Silk Road*, a two-week pilot program of performance and education activities.
- Apr 2004 The Silk Road Ensemble and musicians from the Iraqi National Symphony Orchestra performed at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, supported by the U.S. Department of State. The Silk Road Ensemble with Yo-Yo Ma gave a U.S. Midwest concert tour, with performances in Kansas City, MO; Lawrence, KS; Rockford, IL; Flint, MI; Detroit, MI; and Akron, OH.
- Jun 2004 Southeast Asia concert tour, with performances in Taichung, Taiwan; Seoul, Korea; and at the Singapore Esplanade, presented by and with the Singapore Symphony.
- Aug 2004 Performances at Royal Albert Hall, Victoria & Albert Museum Hall, BBC Proms and the British Library, coinciding with the Library's exhibition *Silk Road: Trade, Travel, War and Faith*.
- Sep 2004 *Innovation and Tradition: A Workshop on Mentoring, Communicating, and Creating* presented with the Weill Music Institute at Carnegie Hall and the Boston Symphony Orchestra at Tanglewood Music Center.
- Oct 2004 The Silk Road Project received a United States Department of State Grant for cultural exchange activities in countries along the Silk Road.
- Jan 2005 Japanese Television Company NHK/CCTV TV 10-part series *Silk Road 2005* was broadcast in Japan and China, featuring new music performed by the Silk Road Ensemble with Yo-Yo Ma.
- Mar 2005 Innovative five-year collaborations with Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) and Harvard University Faculty of Arts and Sciences were announced, commencing in March and September 2005, respectively.
- Apr 2005 *Silk Road Journeys: Beyond the Horizon* CD was released by Sony Classical. The Silk Road Ensemble with Yo-Yo Ma gave a U.S. concert tour with performances in Boston, Chicago, New York, Washington, and Philadelphia. Yo-Yo Ma and Silk Road Project receive the Walter Cronkite Stewardship Award.
- Jul 2005 The 2005-2008 Silk Road Project International Museum Residency Program was announced. The Silk Road Ensemble with Yo-Yo Ma performed at the 2005 World Exposition in Nagoya, Japan.
- Aug 2005 Performance at the Hollywood Bowl, presented by the Los Angeles Philharmonic, CA.
- Oct 2005 Residency at the Nara National Museum in Nara and performances at the Todai-ji Temple in Nara, the Honmyo-Ji in Kumamoto and at the opening of the Kyushu National Museum, Japan.
- Dec 2005 Performance with the Stockholm Philharmonic celebrating the presentation of the 2005 Nobel Prizes.
- Jan 2006 The first cultural exchange with Azerbaijan was funded by a United States Department of State grant. The second University Residency at the Rhode Island School of Design, focused on percussion.
- Feb 2006 Five-city U.S. concert tour with performances in Charlottesville, VA, Norfolk, VA; Detroit, MI; Madison, WI; and Green Bay, WI.

- Mar 2006 Workshops for the Silk Road Project-Carnegie Young Composer commissions.
- May 2006 The Silk Road Ensemble with Yo-Yo Ma gave a concert, workshops and master classes in Baku, Azerbaijan. Yo-Yo Ma was awarded the Dan David Prize for his contributions in preserving cultural heritage. He and the Silk Road Ensemble performed at the Award Ceremony, attended a symposium, and gave master classes in Tel Aviv, Israel.
- June 2006 Silk Road Chicago began—a yearlong, citywide celebration inspired by the art and culture of the regions of the Silk Road and a partnership between the Silk Road Project, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and the City of Chicago. The Silk Road Project launched the *Along the Silk Road* curriculum, co-developed with the Stanford Program on International and Cross-Cultural Education (SPICE), in Chicago Public Schools.
- Sep 2006 Workshops with the Weill Music Institute at Carnegie Hall and the Boston Symphony Orchestra at Tanglewood Music Center included a performance at Ozawa Hall at Tanglewood in Lenox, MA, and the debut of eight newly commissioned works at Zankel Hall, Carnegie Hall. United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan appointed Yo-Yo Ma a U.N. Messenger of Peace based in part on his work with the Silk Road Project.
- Oct 2006 A weeklong Silk Road Project residency at the Rubin Museum of Art in New York included the debut of a new composition, *Nine Rivers – I. Yaluzangbu*, and composition and performance of a new score for *The Adventures of Prince Achmed*, an animated 1926 silent film.
- Mar 2007 Residency at the University of California-Santa Barbara and U.S. West Coast concert tour with performances in Santa Barbara, CA; Seattle, WA; and Berkeley, CA.
- Jun 2007 Yo-Yo Ma and members of the Silk Road Ensemble led nearly 600 musicians—including members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Civic Orchestra of Chicago and more than 550 students from Chicago Public Schools—in a performance of *The Stone Horse: A Silk Road Journey* at Millennium Park, the official culminating event of Silk Road Chicago.
- Jul 2007 Sony Classical released the *New Impossibilities* CD, featuring the Silk Road Ensemble with Yo-Yo Ma and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, recorded live during a two-week Chicago residency.
- Aug 2007 Workshops at the Academie Musicale de Villecroze, France, developed new repertoire, including a chamber arrangement of the classic Central Asian opera, *Layla and Majnun*. Two concerts at the renowned Lucerne Festival in Switzerland were followed by a week-long residence at Museum Rietberg in Zurich, Switzerland.
- Oct 2007 A China concert tour in Shanghai, Suzhou, Hong Kong and Beijing included a performance during the Opening Ceremony of the Special Olympics in Shanghai.
- Jan 2008 Yo-Yo Ma received the World Economic Forum’s Crystal Award 2008 at Davos based in part on his work with the Silk Road Project.
- Apr 2008 Japan concert tour with performances in Matsumoto, Nagoya, Tokyo, Osaka and Okayama, Japan.
- May 2008 Leading up to the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, the Stanford Program on International and Cross-Cultural Education released *The Road to Beijing* curriculum for middle- and high-school students, featuring a DVD of the same title created by the Silk Road Project.
- Sep 2008 Five new musical works were developed at a commissioning workshop at Tanglewood Music Center.
- Oct 2008 The Silk Road Ensemble with Yo-Yo Ma performed the United Nations Day Concert in the UN’s General Assembly Hall.
- Nov 2008 World premiere of *Layla and Majnun* in Doha, Qatar, at opening ceremony for Museum of Islamic Art.

- Feb 2009 The Silk Road Project held a seminar with educational experts from Harvard University, and Yo-Yo Ma spoke with teachers to launch a Silk Road Project educational initiative in New York City.
- Mar 2009 North American concert tour in Providence, RI; Boston, MA; Washington, DC; Minneapolis, MN; Ann Arbor, MI; and Toronto, Ontario.
- Jun 2009 Great Performers concerts and free outdoor concert at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, broadcast on PBS's *Live From Lincoln Center*
- Aug 2009 Silk Road Connect, the Silk Road Project's multiyear, multidisciplinary educational program for middle school students, launched with a pilot program in five schools in New York City in collaboration with the New York City Department of Education.
- Sep 2009 European music festival concert tour in London, England; Ghent and Brussels, Belgium; Cologne, Germany; Lucerne, Switzerland; and Bucharest, Romania.
- Oct 2009 A Silk Road Project residency at Harvard University focused on passion-driven education, with roundtable discussions, a Creating a Life with Music Workshop and a concert by the Silk Road Ensemble with Yo-Yo Ma and Harvard undergraduates. Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Project received the inaugural Harvard Graduate School of Education Thelma E. Goldberg Arts in Education Award.
- Nov 2009 The Silk Road Ensemble's album *Off the Map* was released on CD from World Village and In A Circle Records.
- Nov 2009 The Silk Road Project began a weekly performance series at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City, which will continue through August 2010 in the exhibition "Traveling the Silk Road: Ancient Pathway to the Modern World."
- Fall 2009 & Spring 2010 The Silk Road Project brought guest artists to Silk Road Connect pilot program schools in New York City, engaging students in music, dance, visual art, fiber arts, and videography.
- April 2010 Asia concert tour in Seoul, South Korea; Macao S.A.R, China; Taipei, Taichung and Kaohsiung, Taiwan; Bangkok, Thailand; and Singapore.
- June 2010 Connect Live! culminated the first year of the Silk Road Connect pilot program for approximately 450 NYC sixth-grade students at the American Museum of Natural History. With Yo-Yo Ma as master of ceremonies and music from the Silk Road Ensemble, students from each school gave performances to share their year of learning with program participants from other pilot schools.