



For Immediate Release

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Silkroad presents
Train Station Trios: Songs & Stories of the American Railroad



A series joining scholars and artists to share historical insights, untold stories, and original music as part of Silkroad's exploration of the U.S. Transcontinental Railroad and North American railways

Boston, MA — [Silkroad](#) announced today a new series of open workshops, ***Train Station Trios: Songs & Stories of the American Railroad***, that is tied to its multi-year initiative led by Artistic Director **Rhiannon Giddens**. In the series, local scholars and Silkroad artists will gather to shed light on hidden chronicles and powerful stories through new music and storytelling, painting a richer and more accurate picture of the origins of the American Empire. The first *Train Station Trios* workshop will be held on **Saturday, February 11 at the California State Railroad Museum in Sacramento, California**. Upcoming events are slated to take place in April and July at venues in New York and Arkansas respectively; details will be announced at a later date.

“From the beginning, an integral aspect of *American Railroad* has been to uncover the unseen and untold. Over the past two years, my Silkroad colleagues and I have been researching and

studying, listening and learning, so that we can tell a more complete and truthful version of American history through our music. We invite audiences in California, New York, and Arkansas to join us in this process as we present the *Train Station Trios* workshops,” said Giddens.

First made public in 2020, [American Railroad](#) is a wide-ranging initiative envisioned and conceived by Giddens to illuminate the impact of African American, Indigenous, Chinese, Irish, and other immigrant communities on the creation of the U.S. Transcontinental Railroad and connecting railways in North America. These and other populations played a fundamental role in one of the most important technological and economic achievements of the 19th century, yet their contributions have been mostly erased from history. Giddens and Silkroad are fulfilling their vision for this initiative through new commissions and performances, residencies, curriculum development and educational activities, and a host of artistic projects spanning from 2021-2026.

In *Train Station Trios*, members of the Grammy Award-winning Silkroad Ensemble will contextualize—or rather, re-contextualize—the North American railroads through music. Trios formed by Silkroad artists will collaborate with local scholars to offer an hour-long performance that features: new music inspired by the history of the railroads, songs and tunes collected from railroad workers and the impacted communities, and storytelling with an emphasis on histories and cultural ties to the area where each workshop is being held. The original and unearthed music will serve as the basis for future national tours as part of the *American Railroad* initiative.

For more information about *American Railroad*, please visit silkroad.org/american-railroad.

[Silkroad: Train Station Trios | California Event Details:](#)

Saturday, February 11, 2023 at 2 p.m. PST

California State Railroad Museum (125 I Street Sacramento, CA 95814)

Tickets: [Free with admission to the Museum](#)

Artists: [Mario Gotoh](#), violin/viola; [Edward Pérez](#), bass; [Shane Shanahan](#), percussion

Scholar: Anna Eng, Lecturer Faculty at San Francisco State University and University of California, Berkeley

Funding Credits

Support for *American Railroad* is provided, in part, by the Alice L. Walton Foundation, Barr Foundation, Mellon Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, Pershing Square Foundation, Wagner Family Foundation, and Whitehead Foundation.

About the California State Railroad Museum

The California State Railroad Museum (CSRM) in Old Sacramento is the world-class tribute to the role of the "iron horse" in connecting California to the rest of the nation. Our museum features numerous expertly restored locomotives and cars, some dating back to 1862. There is a full-scale diorama of an 1860s construction site high in the Sierra Nevada, historic cars that visitors can walk through, displays on model railroad and toy trains, and activity areas for children.

To learn more, please visit californiarailroad.museum, and @californiastaterailroadmuseum and @csrm_foundation on social media.

About Silkroad

Yo-Yo Ma conceived Silkroad in 1998, recognizing the historical Silk Road as a model for cultural collaboration—for the exchange of ideas, tradition, and innovation across borders. In a groundbreaking experiment, he brought together musicians from the lands of the Silk Road to co-create a musical language founded in difference, thus creating the foundation of Silkroad: both a touring ensemble comprised of world-class musicians from all over the globe and a social impact organization working to make a positive impact across borders through the arts.

Today, under the leadership of Artistic Director Rhiannon Giddens, Silkroad leads social impact initiatives and educational programming alongside the creation of new music by the Grammy Award-winning Silkroad Ensemble.

To learn more, please visit silkroad.org and @silkroadproject on social media.

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