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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 11, 2011

**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS  
THE SILK ROAD ENSEMBLE, LED BY CELLIST YO-YO MA,  
IN A PROGRAM OF TRADITIONAL AND CONTEMPORARY WORKS  
ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6 AT 7:00 P.M.**

**A symposium titled “The Silk Road Nexus” will be held at Freight and Salvage in Berkeley on Wednesday, April 6, beginning at 3:30 p.m.**

***Sightlines:* Pre-concert talk with the artists of the Silk Road Ensemble and Cal Performances Director Matías Tarnopolsky on Wednesday, April 6 at 6:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall**

**BERKELEY, March 11, 2011**—The renowned **Silk Road Ensemble** and its eminent artistic director, cellist **Yo-Yo Ma**, will play a spirited, varied program of traditional and commissioned global music on **Wednesday, April 6 at 7:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall**. The ensemble, “an enormously popular caravan of cross-cultural performance and education [and] an extended celebration of transnational voices belonging to one world” (*Chicago Tribune*), is a flexible collective of composers and performers from more than 20 countries that have been collaborating on musical projects for more than a decade. “When we enlarge our view of the world, we deepen our understanding of our own lives,” explains Ma.

The Berkeley performance will showcase music from Lebanon, Sicily, North Africa, Israel, the Middle East, the Balkan States, China, Turkey and Andalusia, among others. The ensemble is not a fixed group; its total roster includes 60 members from 24 countries. In addition to Ma, the musicians will be **Jeffrey Beecher**, contrabass; **Mike Block**, cello; **Shanir Blumenkranz**, *oud* (a Middle Eastern stringed instrument); **Nicholas Cords**, viola; **Jonathan Gandelsman**, violin; **Joseph Gramley**, percussion; **Colin Jacobsen**, violin; **Kayhan Kalhor**, *kamancheh* (a small Iranian fiddle); **Yo-Yo Ma**, cello; **Cristina Pato**, *gaita* (Galician bagpipes); **Shane Shanahan**, percussion; **Mark Suter**, percussion; **Kojiro Umezaki**, *shakuhachi* (a bamboo wind instrument from Japan); and **Wu Man**, *pipa* (a short-necked Chinese wooden lute).

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A **symposium** titled “The Silk Road Nexus” will be held on Wednesday, April 6, from 3:30-5:30 p.m. at The Freight and Salvage in Berkeley. A panel discussion will explore musical connections worldwide, as envisioned by Silk Road Ensemble founder cellist Yo-Yo Ma. Composer Gabriela Lena Frank, UC Berkeley Silk Road scholar Sanjyot Mehendale, and musicologist Francesco Spagnolo of the Bancroft Library Magnes Collection explore musical connections through the art and metaphor of the Silk Road. This event is presented in conjunction with concerts at Cal Performances and San Francisco Performances and in association with UC Berkeley's Institute of East Asian Studies, Buddhist Studies, the Dept of Music, and Osher Life Long Learning Institute. The symposium is free and open to the public.

A *Sightlines* pre-performance talk with the artists of the **Silk Road Ensemble** and Cal Performances Director **Matías Tarnopolsky** will be given on Wednesday, April 6 at 6:00 p.m. at Zellerbach Hall. This event is free to ticket holders.

### **PROGRAM**

The **Silk Road Ensemble** will open its program with a *Silk Road Suite* of works developed by the ensemble's members that represents a broad swath of history and cultures. The first and last of the four pieces in the suite are arrangements of traditional music, one Asian and one American. The central two works are original compositions—one inspired by an ancient Buddhist tune, and the other a percussion trio that fuses Japanese and Brazilian rhythms.

The next work, *Norma's Secret* by Lebanese-born composer **Rabih Abou-Khalil**, is a love song that was commissioned by the **Silk Road Project**, the nonprofit parent organization of the Silk Road Ensemble. Blending traditional Arabic music traditions, jazz improvisation and European classical technique, it features rapid rhythmic changes and a meandering melody. It will be followed by *The Taranta Project* by Sicilian cellist and composer **Giovanni Sollima**, another Silk Road Project commission written in 2008. The piece's dream-like six movements blend ethnic musical traditions from Sicily, North Africa, Israel, the Middle East, the Balkan States, Turkey and Andalusia; the *Capital Times* in Madison, Wisconsin called *The Taranta Project* “gorgeous and intricate.”

After an intermission, the Silk Road Ensemble will return with *¡Chayraq!: Rough Guide to a Modern Day* by **Gabriela Lena Frank**. Blending Peruvian, Chinese, and other influences, the work's dozen short movements evoke field recordings gathered by ethnomusicologists. Frank wrote the movements to be played individually or as a set (as they will be in Berkeley). It will be followed by the traditional Chinese folk song of Kazakh origin, *Yanzi* ("Swallow Song") arranged by Chinese composer **Zhao Lin** for voice and cello.

The evening will conclude with *Air to Air*, a 2006 commission of the Silk Road Project by **Oswaldo Golijov**. The composer has described the piece as "music borne from community," a concept he says is exemplified by both the music and musicians of the Silk Road Ensemble. In four movements, *Air to Air* juxtaposes and blends sacred and secular, Christian and Arab, Middle Eastern and Latin American, and ancient and modern music into a work described by the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* as "a brisk world tour."

### **THE SILK ROAD ENSEMBLE**

The **Silk Road Ensemble** is a collective of internationally renowned musicians, composers, arrangers, visual artists, and storytellers who collaborate to explore the relationship between tradition and innovation in music from the East and West. Founded in 2000 at the Tanglewood Music Festival by cellist Yo-Yo Ma (who remains the ensemble's artistic director), the Silk Road Ensemble has grown, evolved, and performed for enthusiastic global audiences for more than a decade.

The Silk Road Ensemble, dubbed Yo-Yo Ma's "band of fellow musical Marco Polos" by the *Chicago Tribune*, has performed in 25 countries and at more than 100 venues, including the Hollywood Bowl, the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, Suntory Hall in Tokyo, Carnegie Hall in New York, and the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC. It has commissioned 62 works from composers representing 18 countries. Its five recordings include *Off The Map*, which was nominated for a 2011 Grammy Award for Best Classical Crossover Album.

“The Silk Road Ensemble is a musical model that requires curiosity, collaboration, and wholehearted enthusiasm from all the participants,” Ma has said. “The music we play does not belong to just one culture or even to only the Silk Road Region.”

The Silk Road Ensemble, and the nonprofit educational Silk Road Project of which it is part, takes its name from the ancient network of trading routes that crisscrossed Europe and Asia from the first millennium BCE through the middle of the second millennium CE. The ancient Silk Road linked diverse cultures and peoples, and was a conduit for the sharing of art, science, and ideas; its 21st-century namesake shares similar goals and ambitions. The ensemble is dedicated to “taking a planet’s worth of musical influences and creating something new and exciting out of them” (*The Capital Times*, Madison, Wisconsin). Its official website is [www.silkroadproject.org](http://www.silkroadproject.org).

### **YO-YO MA**

**Yo-Yo Ma** was born in Paris in 1955 to Chinese parents. He began cello studies at age four with his father, and moved to New York with his parents at a young age. He studied at the Juilliard School with Leonard Rose, and graduated from Harvard University in 1976. He received the first of many major awards in 1978 with the Avery Fisher Prize; he has also won the Glenn Gould Prize, the National Medal of the Arts, and the World Economic Forum’s Crystal Award, and has twice been named a United Nations Messenger of Peace. Most recently, Ma received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Obama. “In every generation, a few musicians reach a level of fame that takes them into an orbit beyond their art. ... Ma has certainly reached this level” (*Washington Post*).

The Silk Road Project is just one of Ma’s many musical endeavors. He has performed as a soloist with major orchestras and conductors around the world, and made hundreds of appearances in recital and chamber music settings. He is equally comfortable performing familiar works from the classical cello repertoire, newly commissioned concertos, and musical forms outside of the Western tradition. His extensive recording career includes more than 75 albums and more than 15 Grammy Awards, and culminated in 2009 with the release of *Yo-Yo Ma: Thirty Years Outside the Box*, a 90-disk boxed set.

### **TICKET INFORMATION**

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These performances are sold out. Tickets for **The Silk Road Ensemble with Yo-Yo Ma**, cello on **Wednesday, April 6** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$45.00, \$60.00, \$75.00, \$95.00, and \$125.00**, and may become available due to last-minute returns. Please check with the Cal Performances Ticket Office at 510.642.9988 for availability. All other tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at [www.calperformances.org](http://www.calperformances.org); and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens, other students and UC Alumni Association members receive a \$5 discount (Special Events excluded). For more information, call Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988, or visit the Cal Performances web site at [www.calperformances.org](http://www.calperformances.org).

For select performances, Cal Performances offers UCB student, faculty and staff, senior and community rush tickets. Rush tickets are announced three hours prior to a performance and are available in person only at the Ticket Office beginning one hour before the performance; quantities may be limited. Rush ticket sales are limited to one ticket per person; all sales are cash only. Rush ticket prices are \$10.00 for UCB students; \$15.00 for UCB faculty and staff (UCB ID required) and seniors age 65 or older; and \$20.00 for all other community members. Information is available on Cal Performances' Facebook page and at 510-642-9988, press 2 for the rush hotline, three hours prior to a performance only.

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Cal Performances' 2010/11 Season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

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**CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:**

**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS**

**Wednesday, April 6 at 6:00 p.m.**  
**SIGHTLINES**

**Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus**  
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

Pre-performance talk with the artists of the Silk Road Ensemble and Cal Performances Director Matias Tarnopolsky. *Sightlines* is a continuing program of pre- and post-performance discussions with Cal Performances' guest artists and scholars, designed to enrich the audience's experience. This event is free to ticket holders.

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**Wednesday, April 6 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus**  
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

*Special Event*

**The Silk Road Ensemble with Yo-Yo Ma, cello**

**Program:**

Silk Road Suite

Traditional, arr. Aghaei and Jacobsen/*Ascending Bird*

Man/*Night Thoughts*

Gramley/*Rionji*

Traditional, arr. Pato/*Muiñeiras* from *Cancionero Musical de Galicia*

Abou-Khalil/*Norma's Secret*

Sollima/*Taranta Project*

Frank/*Chayraq!: Rough Guide to a Modern Day*

Frank/*Tawantinsuyu*

Traditional, arr. Lin/*Yanzi* ("Swallow Song")

Golijov/*Air to Air*

**Tickets: This performance is sold out.** Tickets are \$45.00, \$60.00, \$75.00, \$95.00, and \$125.00, and may become available due to last minute returns. Call the Cal Performances Ticket Office at (510) 642-9988 for availability.

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