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**MUSICAL AMBASSADORS THE SILK ROAD ENSEMBLE
RETURN TO ZELLERBACH HALL ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27 AT 7:00 P.M.**

A pre-performance talk will be held on Sunday, October 27 at 4:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall, led by founding member Nicholas Cords.

BERKELEY, October 9, 2013—All musical roads lead to Berkeley when the [Silk Road Ensemble](#) comes to [Cal Performances](#) on Sunday, October 27 at 7:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall for an evening of genre-blending world music. The Silk Road Ensemble unites distinguished performers and composers from throughout Asia, Europe, and the Americas, and has been the leading voice for cross-cultural music since it was founded by Yo-Yo- Ma in 2000. The program at Cal Performances begins with visionary Chinese-American composer [Angel Lam](#) and her *Empty Mountain, Spirit Rain*, an instrumental soundscape that explores the mysteries of life and death. Much of the ensemble's program highlights music written by the performers on stage, including *Caronte* by [Cristina Pato](#), a spare, haunting tune that highlights the sweeping sound of the *gaita* against a rumbling piano; *Saidi Swing* by [Shane Shanahan](#), a rollicking composition for *tabla* and other percussion; *Atashgah* by [Colin Jacobsen](#), a piece for strings that evokes ancient temples in Iran; *Invention for Gaita and Cello*, created by Pato and cellist [Mike Block](#); and "Tabla and Kamancheh Improvisation" by *tabla* player [Sandeep Das](#) and *kamancheh* player [Kayhan Kalhor](#). The evening will conclude with the *Suite from "Book of Angels"* by prolific American composer and saxophonist [John Zorn](#) as arranged by the Silk Road Ensemble. The group is touring in support of its new CD/DVD release, *A Playlist Without Borders*. "The essence [of the Silk Road Ensemble] is sharing, and this is something these musicians do exceptionally well," cheers the *Los Angeles Times*.

A pre-performance talk will be held on Sunday, October 27 at 4:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall. Founding member Nicholas Cords will lead a discussion, including the role of improvisation in Persian and Indian music and a broader perspective of improvisation across Eastern and Western traditions.

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The Silk Road Ensemble is designed to be flexible, adding or subtracting players and instruments as the music requires and the performers' busy schedules permit. For their Cal Performances appearance, the ensemble will feature a number of artists familiar to Berkeley audiences. American bassist [Jeffrey Beecher](#) is principal bass player with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and music faculty member at the University of Toronto. [Mike Block](#) is an American cellist, teacher, and clinician who released *Brick by Brick*, an album of original songs, late in 2012. American viola player [Nicholas Cords](#) is artist-in residence at Stony Brook University, has performed as a soloist and ensemble player around the world, and is a member of the genre-defying string quartet [Brooklyn Rider](#). Indian *tabla* virtuoso [Sandeep Das](#) is creative director of [HUM Ensemble](#), a collaborative group of global musicians dedicated to healing the world through music. American percussionist [Joseph Gramley](#) is professor of music at the University of Michigan and a frequent commissioner of percussion works from emerging composers. American violinist [Colin Jacobsen](#), who with Cords plays in Brooklyn Rider, was recently named one of NPR's top composers under 40.

Kamancheh player [Kayhan Kalhor](#) was born in Tehran, Iran, and has traveled extensively throughout his native country to study its various musical traditions. Spanish *gaita* player and pianist [Cristina Pato](#) plays Galician popular and classical music around the world and has released four albums of *gaita* music including 2013's *Migrations*. American percussionist [Shane Shanahan](#) is part of the Silk Road Ensemble's leadership council, and will premiere a commissioned work by composer Dan Visconti in Cleveland in early 2014. *Shakuhachi* player and composer [Kojiro Umezaki](#) teaches at UC Irvine, was born in Tokyo of Japanese and Danish parents, and believes his multinational background contributes to his repertoire choices.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for The Silk Road Ensemble on Sunday, October 27 at 7:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall start at \$18.00 but are subject to change. Half-price tickets are available for UC Berkeley students. Tickets are available through the Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988; at <http://www.calperformances.org>; and at the door. For more information about discounts, visit <http://calperformances.org/buy/discounts.php>.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Sunday, October 27 at 4:00 p.m.
Pre-performance talk

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at Dana St., Berkeley

Program: A pre-performance talk will be led by founding member Nicholas Cords, which includes the role of improvisation in Persian and Indiana music and a broader perspective of improvisation across Eastern and Western traditions.

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Sunday, October 27, at 7:00 p.m.

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at Dana St., Berkeley

World Stage

The Silk Road Ensemble

Jeffrey Beecher, bass

Mike Block, cello

Nicholas Cords, viola

Sandeep Das, *tabla*

Joseph Gramley, percussion

Colin Jacobsen, violin

Kayhan Kalhor, *kamancheh*

Cristina Pato, *gaita*

Shane Shanahan, percussion

Kojiro Umezaki, *shakuhachi*

Program:

Pato/*Caronte*

Shanahan/*Saidi Swing*

Abou-Khalil, arr. Ljova/*Arabian Waltz*

Jacobsen/*Atashgah*

Block and Pato/*Invention for Gaita and Cello*

Lam/*Empty Mountain, Spirit Rain*

Das and Kalhor/*Tabla and Kamancheh Improvisation*

Zorn, arr. Silk Road Ensemble/*Suite from "Book of Angels"*

Tickets start at \$18.00, subject to change; they are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988; at calperformances.org; and at the door.

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