



United Nations Day Concert  
24 October 2008

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The Silk Road Ensemble  
Yo-Yo Ma, Artistic Director and  
United Nations Messenger of Peace



## United Nations Day Concert

24 October 2008 | 7 p.m.

United Nations General Assembly Hall, New York

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**BAN KI-MOON**

*Secretary-General of the United Nations*

**MIGUEL D'ESCOTO BROCKMANN, M.M.**

*President of the sixty-third session of the United Nations  
General Assembly*

**ZHANG YESUI**

*Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations*

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Kiyo Akasaka, Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information, will introduce the programme and speakers

## The Silk Road Ensemble

JEFFREY BEECHER, *contrabass*, Canada  
NICHOLAS CORDS, *viola*, United States  
SANDEEP DAS, *tabla*, India  
JONATHAN GANDELSMAN, *violin*, Israel  
JOSEPH GRAMLEY, *percussion*, United States  
RAUF ISLAMOV, *kamancheh*, Azerbaijan  
COLIN JACOBSEN, *violin*, United States  
KAYHAN KALHOR, *kamancheh*, Islamic Republic of Iran  
DONG-WON KIM, *jang-go and vocals*, Republic of Korea  
YO-YO MA, *cello*, United States  
ALI ASGAR MAMMADOV, *tar*, Azerbaijan  
CRISTINA PATO, *bagpipes*, Spain  
ALIM QASIMOV, *mugham vocals*, Azerbaijan  
FARGANA QASIMOVA, *mugham vocals*, Azerbaijan  
BASSAM SABA, *oud and ney*, Lebanon  
SHANE SHANAHAN, *percussion*, United States  
MARK SUTER, *percussion*, Switzerland  
KOJIRO UMEZAKI, *shakuhachi*, Japan  
WU MAN, *pipa*, China

## Concert Programme

### The Silk Road Ensemble

Yo-Yo Ma, Artistic Director

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Silk Road Suite:

IMPROVISATION	<i>Wandering Winds</i>
A. ADNAN SAYGUN (Turkey, 1907-1991)	<i>Partita, Op. 31</i>
RABIH ABOU-KHALIL (Lebanon, b. 1957)	<i>Arabian Waltz</i>
VARTABED KOMITAS (Armenia, 1869-1935)	<i>Let Us Walk</i> <i>Festive Song</i>
OSVALDO GOLIJOV (Argentina, b. 1960)	<i>Wa Habibi*</i>

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CHINESE TRADITIONAL	<i>White Snow in the Sunny Spring</i>
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ZHAO JIPING (China, b. 1945)	<i>Summer in the High Grassland</i>
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SANDEEP DAS (India, b. 1970)	<i>Sbristi</i>
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UZEYIR HAJIBEYOV (Azerbaijan, 1885-1948) Arr. Jonathan Gandelsman	<i>First Act from Layla and Majnun**</i>
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WAHAB ABD-EL (Egypt, 1907-1991) Arr. Shane Shanahan	<i>Night at the Caravanserei</i>
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\* This work is part of "Air to Air," commissioned by Carnegie Hall through The Weill Music Institute in partnership with the Silk Road Project.

\*\* The Silk Road Ensemble arrangement of "Layla and Majnun" was made possible in part by the generous support of the Academie Musicale de Villecroze and of the Qatar Museums Authority.

*"Music is an expressive art that can reach to the core of one's identity and can act as a magnet to draw people together."*

YO-YO MA  
Artistic Director

## The Silk Road Project

*Connecting traditions and celebrating innovation since 1998*

The Silk Road Project is a not-for-profit artistic, cultural and educational organization with a vision of connecting the world's neighbourhoods by bringing together artists and audiences around the globe. Cellist Yo-Yo Ma founded the Project in 1998 as a catalyst to promote innovation and learning through the arts. The Silk Road Project takes inspiration from the historical Silk Road trading route as a modern metaphor for multi-cultural and interdisciplinary exchange.

Under the artistic direction of Mr. Ma and led by CEO and executive director Laura Freid, the Silk Road Project presents performances by the 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 programmes. Developing new music is a central mission of the Silk Road Project: the Project has been involved in commissioning and performing more than 60 new musical and multimedia works from composers and arrangers from around the world.

Tonight's concert marks the start of the Silk Road Project's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, which will feature Silk Road Ensemble performances across three continents.

## The Silk Road Ensemble

The Silk Road Ensemble is a collective of internationally renowned musicians, composers, arrangers, visual artists and storytellers from more than 20 countries. Each Ensemble member's career illustrates a unique response to what is one of the artistic challenges of our times: nourishing global connections while maintaining the integrity of art rooted in authentic tradition.

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 explore the relationship between tradition and innovation in music from the East and West. The Silk Road Ensemble has recorded four albums and performed to critical acclaim throughout Asia, Europe and North America.

For more information, please visit [www.silkroadproject.org](http://www.silkroadproject.org).

# United Nations Messenger of Peace

*The following is excerpted from remarks made by Yo-Yo Ma on becoming a United Nations Messenger of Peace.*

I am at once proud and humbled to be here today in your company. The United Nations is a truly remarkable institution. It strives for peace; it fights disease. It brokers economic compromise, alleviates hunger and suffering, and stands as a symbol of unity to the entire world.

The diversity and complexity of its mission is awesome and unique. Unlike any other organization or government, the United Nations can serve as the world's conscience and emotional center.

Music likewise endeavors to find the emotional center. In a concert hall or a village square, music seeks to unite its audience. By listening to and understanding each other's music, we begin to connect and create trust. We set aside our differences and discover our common world heritage. Perhaps it is this commonality of interest and intent albeit on a different scale that has given the United Nations such weight in my mind.

To me, this place is a beacon of hope and inspiration. Together, we have a duty to act as lighthouse keepers, temporary custodians, ensuring that the beam it casts continues to illuminate and inspire the world.

I am grateful and honoured to be here and look forward to communicating this universal message of peace in my work.

YO-YO MA

*United Nations Messenger of Peace*

21 September 2007

# Acknowledgments

*The Silk Road Project recognizes with deep appreciation the friends of the arts whose vision and collaboration made tonight's concert possible.*

The Permanent Mission of China, concert sponsor

Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations

Kiyo Akasaka, Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information

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The Silk Road Project is grateful to the Pershing Square Foundation for its generous support of the 2008 United Nations Day Concert.

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United Nations Day Concerts are organized each year by the Department of Public Information.

## **The Silk Road Project**

Laura Freid, *CEO and Executive Director*

Isabelle Hunter, *Program Director*

Andy Russ, *Artistic Coordinator*

*“When we enlarge our view of the world, we deepen our understanding of our own lives. The Silk Road Project hopes to plant seeds of new cultural growth and to celebrate traditions and musical voices everywhere.”*

**YO-YO MA**  
*Artistic Director*

the **SILKROAD** project inc.

CONNECTING TRADITIONS AND CELEBRATING INNOVATION SINCE 1998