



Wednesday, December 10, 2014, 8pm
Zellerbach Hall

Berkeley Talks

Co-presented by Cal Performances and UC Berkeley

Yo-Yo Ma



Michael O'Neill

Cultural Citizens

Introduced by Chancellor Nicholas B. Dirks

Cal Performances' 2014–2015 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

BERKELEY TALKS is a new series of conversations, hosted by UC Berkeley Chancellor Nicholas B. Dirks and co-presented by Cal Performances, that brings together international thought leaders, public scholars, creators, and innovators to examine the distinctive issues of our time. These luminaries will engage in dialogue at the sometimes surprising nexus between their area of expertise and the University's core mission, celebrating the Chancellor's vision of a vibrant, engaged, and forward-looking campus culture.



Todd Rosenberg

Yo-Yo Ma's multifaceted career is testament to his continual search for new ways to communicate with audiences, and to his personal desire for artistic growth and renewal. Whether performing new or familiar works from the cello repertoire, coming together with colleagues for chamber music, or exploring cultures and musical forms outside the Western classical tradition, Mr. Ma strives to find connections that stimulate the imagination.

One of Mr. Ma's goals is the exploration of music as a means of communication and as a vehicle for the migrations of ideas across a range of cultures throughout the world. Expanding upon this interest, in 1998 Mr. Ma established Silkroad, a nonprofit organization that works at the edge where education, business, and the arts come together to transform the world. Under his artistic direction, Silkroad presents performances by the acclaimed Silk Road Ensemble and develops new music, cultural partnerships, education programs, and cross-disciplinary collaborations. More than 80 new musical and multimedia works have been commissioned for the Silk Road Ensemble from composers and arrangers around the world. Silkroad's ongoing affiliation with Harvard University has made it possible to develop such programs as the Arts and Passion-Driven Learning institute for educators and teaching artists, held in collaboration with the Harvard Graduate School of Education, and a

new Cultural Entrepreneurship initiative in partnership with Harvard Business School.

As the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant, Mr. Ma is partnering with Maestro Riccardo Muti to provide collaborative musical leadership and guidance on innovative program development for the Negaunee Music Institute of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and for Chicago Symphony artistic initiatives. Mr. Ma's work focuses on the transformative power music can have in individuals' lives, and on increasing the number and variety of opportunities audiences have to experience music in their communities. Mr. Ma and the Institute have created the Citizen Musician Initiative, a movement that calls on all musicians, music lovers, music teachers, and institutions to use the art form to bridge gulfs between people and to create and inspire a sense of community. Stories of Citizen Musician activity across the globe are featured at www.citizenmusician.org.

Mr. Ma is also widely recognized for his strong commitment to educational programs that bring the world into the classroom and the classroom into the world. While touring, he takes time whenever possible to conduct master classes as well as more informal programs for students—musicians and non-musicians alike. He has also reached young audiences through appearances on *Arthur*, *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*, and *Sesame Street*.

Mr. Ma's discography of over 90 albums (including more than 17 Grammy Award-winners) reflects his wide-ranging interests. He has made several successful recordings that defy categorization, among them *Hush* with Bobby McFerrin, *Appalachia Waltz* and *Appalachian Journey* with Mark O'Connor and Edgar Meyer, and two Grammy-winning tributes to the music of Brazil, *Obrigado Brazil* and *Obrigado Brazil: Live in Concert*. Mr. Ma's recent recordings include Mendelssohn trios with Emanuel Ax and Itzhak Perlman, and *The Goat Rodeo Sessions*, with Edgar Meyer, Chris Thile, and Stuart Duncan, which received the 2013 Grammy for Best Folk Album. Across this full range of releases,

Mr. Ma remains one of the best-selling recording artists in the classical field. All of his recent albums have quickly entered the Billboard chart of classical bestsellers, remaining in the Top 15 for extended periods, often with as many as four titles simultaneously on the list. In fall 2009, Sony Classical released a box set of over 90 albums to commemorate Mr. Ma's 30 years as a Sony recording artist.

Mr. Ma was born in 1955 to Chinese parents living in Paris. He began to study the cello with his father at age four and soon came with his family to New York, where he spent most of his formative years. Later, his principal teacher was Leonard Rose at the Juilliard School. He has received numerous awards, among them the Avery Fisher Prize (1978), the National Medal of Arts (2001), and the Presidential Medal of Freedom (2010). In 2011, Mr. Ma was recognized as a Kennedy Center Honoree. Mr. Ma has a very strong interest in the importance of culture in society and the ways in which it can produce positive social change. He is currently serving as a U.N. Messenger of Peace and as a member of the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities. Most recently, Mr. Ma has joined the Aspen Institute Board of Trustees. He has performed for eight American presidents, most recently at the invitation of President Obama on the occasion of the 56th Inaugural Ceremony.

Mr. Ma and his wife have two children. He plays two instruments, a 1733 Montagnana cello from Venice and the 1712 Davidoff Stradivarius.

For additional information, visit www.yo-yoma.com, www.silkroadproject.org, and www.opus3artists.com.



Nicholas B. Dirks became the tenth chancellor of the University of California, Berkeley, on June 1, 2013.

An internationally renowned historian and anthropologist, he is a leader in higher education and well-known for his commitment to and advocacy for accessible, high-quality undergraduate education in the liberal arts and sciences, to the globalization of the university, and to innovation across the disciplines as well as in applied and basic fields.

Before coming to Berkeley, he was the executive vice president for the arts and sciences and dean of the faculty at Columbia University, where, in addition to his work on behalf of undergraduate programs, he improved and diversified the faculty, putting special emphasis on interdisciplinary and international initiatives. The Franz Boas Professor of Anthropology and History, Chancellor Dirks joined Columbia in 1997 as chair of the anthropology department. Prior to his appointment at Columbia, he was a professor of history and anthropology at the University of Michigan for ten years, before which he taught Asian history and civilization at the California Institute of Technology.

Chancellor Dirks has held numerous fellowships and scholarships and received several scholarly honors, including a MacArthur Foundation residential fellowship at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton, a Guggenheim Fellowship, and the Lionel Trilling Award for his book *Castes of Mind*. He serves on numerous national and international bodies, as adviser or member of the board, and is a Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations.