

CONTACT: Louisa Spier
Cal Performances
510-643-6714
lspier@calperformances.org

Jeanette Peach
Cal Performances
510-642-9121
jpeach@calperformances.org

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[Press Room](#)



Images of The Silk Road Ensemble are available for download from the Cal Performances [press room](#)

**CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY PRESENTS
THE SILK ROAD ENSEMBLE WITH YO-YO MA
AT THE GREEK THEATRE, THURSDAY, AUGUST 18, 2016**

Tickets on sale to the general public Tuesday, June 14 at noon

Berkeley, June 7, 2016— Cal Performances at UC Berkeley presents the **Silk Road Ensemble with Yo-Yo Ma** at the Greek Theatre on Thursday, August 18, 2016 at 8pm. The Silk Road Ensemble, founded by Yo-Yo Ma more than 15 years ago, is an international collective of accomplished performers and composers renowned for its innovative ability to draw connections between diverse cultures and musical traditions through artistic collaboration. With this concert Cal Performances welcomes Ma back for his third summer appearance at the popular venue. The peerless cellist, arts advocate, and musical ambassador appeared at the Greek Theatre twice before without The Ensemble, first with the Goat Rodeo Project in August 2013, and most recently, for a concert of the Bach cello suites in August 2014.

The Silk Road Ensemble performs arrangements of traditional music from Asia, Europe, and the Americas, as well as contemporary works and commissioned repertoire by composers from around

the world. The group's distinctive sound is created through a blending of Western string instruments with classical and folk percussion, strings, and winds. For this performance, in addition to Yo-Yo Ma performing on cello, the 16-member ensemble will include string players Jeffrey Beecher, bass; Nicholas Cords, viola; Johnny Gandelsman and Colin Jacobsen, violin; and Mike Block, cello; percussionists Haruka Fujii, Joseph Gramley, Mark Suter, and Shane Shanahan; as well as instrumentalists Sandeep Das, *tabla* (Indian hand drums); Kayhan Kalhor, *kamancheh* (Persian bowed lute); Wu Man, *pipa* (Chinese plucked lute); Cristina Pato, *gaita* (Galician bagpipes) and piano; Kojiro Umezaki, *shakuhachi* (Japanese bamboo flute), and Wu Tong, *sheng* (Chinese mouth organ).

Members of The Ensemble, without Ma, return to Cal Performances this fall, to open the 2016-17 season with the world premiere of Mark Morris Dance Group's *Layla and Majnun*, September 30–October 2, 2016.

About The Silk Road Ensemble

[The Silk Road Ensemble](#) has been called “vibrant and virtuosic” by the *The Wall Street Journal*, “one of the 21st century’s great ensembles” by the *Vancouver Sun*, and a “roving musical laboratory without walls” by *The Boston Globe*. Made up of performers and composers from more than 20 countries, The Silk Road Ensemble was formed under the artistic direction of Yo-Yo Ma in 2000. Since then, the group has been embraced by audiences and critics in more than 30 countries throughout Asia, Europe, and North America, and lauded for virtuosic performances promoting cultural understanding and artistic innovation. The Silk Road Ensemble has recorded six albums. [The Music of Strangers: Yo-Yo Ma and The Silk Road Ensemble](#), a documentary by Academy Award-winning filmmaker Morgan Neville (*20 Feet from Stardom*), is showing in US movie theaters in June 2016.

About Cal Performances

Cal Performances produces and presents performances of the highest artistic quality, enhanced by programs that explore compelling intersections of education and the performing arts. Founded in 1906, Cal Performances fulfills this mission by presenting a diverse range of over 100 music, dance, and theater performances each season, and creating a context for the work through supporting education and community programs.

Ticket Information

Tickets for The Silk Road Ensemble with Yo-Yo Ma on Thursday, August 18 at 8pm in the Hearst Greek Theatre go on sale to the general public on Tuesday, June 14 at noon. They range from \$50–\$225 (prices 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 calperformances.org, and at the door. For more information about discounts, go to calperformances.org/discounts.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Thursday, August 18, 8pm

Greek Theatre

2001 Gayley Road, UC Berkeley Campus

Special Event

The Silk Road Ensemble with Yo-Yo Ma

Cristina Pato, Wu Tong/Fanfare for Gaita and Suona
Traditional Malian, arr. Shane Shanahan/Ichichila
Traditional Irish, arr. Colin Jacobsen/O'Neill's March
Wu Man, arr. Ljova/Green (Vincent's Tune)
Kinan Azmeh, Jeffrey Beecher/Syrian Improvisation
Michio Mamiya/"Miero vuotti uutta kutta," from *Five Finnish Folksongs*
Wu Man, Wu Tong/Duo
Colin Jacobsen/Atashgah
Sandeep Das, Kojiro Umezaki/If you shall return...
Antonin Dvořák, arr. Jeremy Kittel/Going Home
Billy Strayhorn, arr. Shane Shanahan/Take the "A" Train
David Bruce/Cut the Rug
Cristina Pato/Caronte
Paco de Lucia, arr. Colin Jacobsen/Zyryab
Kinan Azmeh/Wedding

Program: The Silk Road Ensemble with Yo-Yo Ma performs at UC Berkeley's Greek Theatre for a summer concert under the stars. The Ensemble, founded by visionary cellist Yo-Yo Ma more than fifteen years ago, is an extraordinary musical think tank of cross-cultural collaboration and artistic excellence, praised for performances of "spontaneity and superb craftsmanship" (*The Washington Post*).

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