

Friday, May 15, 2009, 8pm
First Congregational Church

Yo-Yo Ma, *cello*

PROGRAM

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750) Suite No. 1 for Unaccompanied Cello in G major,
BWV 1007

Prélude
Allemande
Courante
Sarabande
Minuets I and II
Gigue

Bach Suite No. 5 for Unaccompanied Cello in C minor,
BWV 1011

Prélude
Allemande
Courante
Sarabande
Gavottes I and II
Gigue

INTERMISSION

Bach Suite No. 3 for Unaccompanied Cello in C major,
BWV 1009

Prélude
Allemande
Courante
Sarabande
Bourrées I and II
Gigue

This performance is made possible, in part, by Liz and Greg Lutz

Yo-Yo Ma records for Sony Masterworks.

Exclusive Management:

Opus 3 Artists, 470 Park Avenue South, Ninth Floor North, New York, New York 10016.

Cal Performances' 2008–2009 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo Bank.



Michael O'Neill / Sony

The many-faceted career of cellist **Yo-Yo Ma** 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 a new concerto, revisiting a familiar work from the cello repertoire, coming together with colleagues for chamber music or exploring musical forms outside of the Western classical tradition, Mr. Ma strives to find connections that stimulate the imagination.

Yo-Yo Ma maintains a balance between his engagements as soloist with orchestras throughout the world and his recital and chamber music activities. He draws inspiration from a wide circle of collaborators, each fueled by the artists' interactions. 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 the Silk Road Project to promote the study of the cultural, artistic and intellectual traditions along the ancient Silk Road trade route that stretched from the

Mediterranean Sea to the Pacific Ocean. By examining the flow of ideas throughout this vast area, the Project seeks to illuminate the heritages of the Silk Road countries and identify the voices that represent these traditions today. The Project's major activities have included the 2002 Smithsonian Folklife Festival, which included more than 400 artists from 25 countries and drew more than 1.3 million visitors, concerts at the 2005 World Expo in Aichi, Japan, and Silk Road Chicago, a city-wide year-long residency in partnership with the Art Institute of Chicago, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the City of Chicago. Mr. Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble performed at the Opening Ceremony of the 2007 Special Olympics in Shanghai. Continuing over the next few years, in collaboration with leading museums in Asia, Europe and North America, the Project will co-produce a series of performance, exhibition and educational events focusing on great works of art from each museum's collections.

Mr. Ma is an exclusive Sony Classical artist, and his discography of over 75 albums (including more than 15 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 most recent recordings include *Paris: La Belle Époque*, with pianist Kathryn Stott, and *New Impossibilities*, a live album recorded with the Silk Road Ensemble and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra; he also appears on John Williams's soundtrack for Rob Marshall's film *Memoirs of a Geisha*. 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 best-sellers, remaining in the Top 15 for extended periods, often with as many as four titles simultaneously on the list.

Yo-Yo Ma is strongly committed to educational programs that not only bring young audiences into contact with music but also allow them

to participate in its creation. 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*.

Yo-Yo 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 sought out a traditional liberal arts education to expand upon his conservatory training, graduating from Harvard University in 1976. He has received numerous awards, including the Avery Fisher Prize (1978), the Glenn Gould Prize (1999), the National Medal of the Arts (2001), the Dan David Prize (2006), the Sonning Prize (2006) and the World Economic Forum's Crystal Award (2008). In 2006, then Secretary General Kofi Annan named him a United Nations Messenger of Peace. In 2007, Secretary General Ban Ki-moon extended his appointment. In January 2009, at the invitation of President-Elect Barack Obama, Mr. Ma played in the quartet performance of John Williams's *Air and Simple Gifts* at the 56th Inaugural Ceremony.

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