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**YO-YO MA AND THE SILK ROAD ENSEMBLE BRING THEIR MUSICAL JOURNEY TO
CAL PERFORMANCES FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, MARCH 16 AND 17
AT ZELLERBACH HALL**

**A *SIGHTLINES* PRE-CONCERT TALK WILL BE HELD BY UC BERKELEY
SILK ROAD SCHOLAR SANJYOT MEHENDALE FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, MARCH 16 AND 17 AT 7:00
P.M. AT ZELLERBACH HALL**

**A SPECIAL *SCHOOLTIME* PERFORMANCE FOR EAST BAY STUDENTS WILL BE GIVEN FRIDAY,
MARCH 16 AT ZELLERBACH HALL,**

PLUS

**A FREE AND OPEN-TO-THE-PUBLIC CONFERENCE TITLED *CULTURAL EXCHANGES
ALONG THE SILK ROAD* WILL BE HELD SATURDAY, MARCH 17 FROM 2:00 – 5:00 P.M.
AT HERTZ HALL FEATURING SCHOLARS AND ARTISTS OF THE SILK ROAD ENSEMBLE,
SCHEDULE PERMITTING**

BERKELEY, February 14, 2007— The latest production of cellist **Yo-Yo Ma's Silk Road Project**, connecting artists and audiences worldwide, comes to Cal Performances **Friday and Saturday, March 16 and 17** with its acclaimed **Silk Road Ensemble**. Rooted in the traditions of eight nations, the sixteen accomplished musicians, including Ma, re-trace ancient paths of cultural exchange while exploring some of today's most exciting musical crossroads. The two concerts feature different programs including music from Iran, Korea, China, Mongolia, Lebanon and the Roma people performed on traditional and contemporary Western instruments with compositions by Iranian **Kayhan Kalhor**, who is also a virtuoso *kamancheh* (Persian spiked fiddle) player and a member of the Silk Road Ensemble; Korea's **Jeeyoung Kim**; plus classical music of Azerbaijan performed by vocalist **Alim Qasimov**, *kamancheh* player **Rauf Islamov**, and *tar* (Persian lute) player **Ali Asgar Mammadov**. Many of the works were commissioned for the Silk Road Project. "This year, the Silk Road Ensemble is undertaking a round-the-world adventure, traveling thousands of miles from the United States to Europe and

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China,” Yo-Yo Ma said. “For all of the musicians, our West Coast tour is a very exciting part of this journey, since it takes us through the modern-day cultural mix of the Pacific Rim.”

Sightlines pre-concert talks with UC Berkeley Silk Road Project scholar **Sanjot Mehendale** will be held Friday and Saturday, March 16 and 17 at 7:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall. These talks are free to ticketholders.

The Silk Road Ensemble will give a special one-hour *SchoolTime* performance for Bay Area students Friday, March 16 at 11:00 a.m. in Zellerbach Hall. Tickets available in advance only.

A conference titled *Cultural Exchanges along the Silk Road* will be held on **Saturday, March 17** from **2:00 to 5:00 p.m.** in Hertz Hall. The afternoon focuses on the Silk Road’s historical significance, as well as the range of cultural transmission and cross-cultural nexuses along these routes through centuries of trade. Encompassing the arts and culture of Persia, India, Central Asia, China and Japan, **Patricia Berger** (History of Art, UC Berkeley) will moderate a wide-ranging discussion with **Mary-Ann Milford** (Art History, Mills College), **Peter K. Marsh** (Conservatory of Music, Lawrence University), **Izaly Zemtsovsky** (UC Berkeley), **Alma Kunanbaeva** (Stanford University), and **Martin Schwartz** (Near Eastern Studies, UC Berkeley). Musicians of the Silk Road Ensemble will participate, schedule permitting. The conference is organized by Cal Performances in association with the Department of Near Eastern Studies, International and Area Studies, the Silk Road Working Group of the Doreen B. Townsend Center for the Humanities.

PROGRAM

The program for the Friday, March 16 concert includes Kayhan Kalhor’s *Silent City*, a piece using an altered A minor scale to commemorate a Kurdish city destroyed by Saddam Hussein. “An eerie, earthy moan on the *kamancheh* led to improvisations on Kurdish melodies by Western strings” (*The New York Times*). **Osvaldo Golijov**’s *Air to Air* which evokes Andalusia’s mixture of Arab, Jewish and Christian folk tunes; and works by two Azerbaijani composers-**Fikret Amirov**’s *Kor Arab* (translated The Blind Arab) and **Uzeir Hagibeyov**’s

Kyoroglu, symbolic of a just ruler. A suite of traditional music from Iran, Korea and the Roma people is also included in the concert.

On Saturday, March 17, program includes **Evan Ziporyn's** *Sulvasutra*, based on an ancient Sanskrit treatise that gives rules for the proper construction of Vedic altars and composed in three continuous movements; **Jeeyoung Kim's** *Ancient Bell* scored for violin, cello, Persian bamboo flute, Korean drum and a recording of an 8th century Korean Bell; emerging composer **Angel Lam's** *Empty Mountain, Spirit Rain*, dedicated to the memory of her grandmother; and **Sapo Perapeskero's** *Turceasca* (translated Turkish Song), arranged by Osvaldo Golijov. The concert also includes a suite of traditional music from Iran, China, Mongolia and Lebanon.

YO-YO MA

Cellist **Yo-Yo Ma** was born to Chinese parents living in Paris. He began to study the cello with his father at age four, and soon after came with his family to New York, where he spent most of his formative years. As a young man he enrolled in The Juilliard School where he studied principally with Leonard Rose. After Juilliard he pursued a liberal arts education at Harvard University and graduated in 1976. Ma's discography of nearly 50 albums (including 14 Grammy winners) reflects his wide-ranging interests. In addition to the standard concert repertoire, the cellist has made several recordings that defy categorization, among them *Hush* with Bobby McFerrin; *Appalachia Waltz* and *Appalachian Journey* with Mark O'Connor and Edgar Meyer; and *Piazzolla: Soul of the Tango*. His diverse musical pursuits are also reflected in the ambitious Silk Road Project and his newest recording, *Obrigado Brazil*. Ma lives in Massachusetts with his wife and two children. He plays a 1733 Montagnana cello from Venice and the 1712 Davidoff Stradivarius.

SILK ROAD ENSEMBLE

The **Silk Road Ensemble** is a collective of musicians interested in exploring the relationship between tradition and innovation in music from the East and West. Each musician's career illustrates a unique response to one of the great challenges of our times: how to nourish global connections while maintaining the integrity of local traditions.

Most of the Ensemble musicians first came together at a Silk Road Project workshop at the Tanglewood Music Center in Massachusetts in 2000, under the artistic direction of Yo-Yo Ma. Since then, various combinations of these artists, whose diverse careers encompass and often intermingle Western and non-Western classical, folk and popular music, have performed a variety of programs in Europe, Asia and North America.

For the Berkeley concert, ensemble members include cellist **Yo-Yo Ma**; the *pipa* (Chinese lute) player **Yang Wei**; *tabla* (Indian drum) player **Sandeep Das**; *shakuhachi* (Japanese flute) player **Kojiro Umezaki**; violinists **Jonathan Gandelman** and **Colin Jacobsen**; bassist **Jeffrey Beecher**; violist **Nicholas Cords**; percussionists **Mark Suter**, **Shane Shanahan** and **Dong-Won Kim**; *ney* (end-blown flute) player **Siamak Jahangiri**; *kemancheh* players **Rauf Islamov** and **Kayhan Kalhor**; vocalist **Alim Qasimov**; and *tar* player **Ali Asgar Mammadov**. The ensemble tours (sometimes without Ma) throughout Europe, Asia and North America. Cal Performances presented the Silk Road Ensemble's 2002 engagement in Berkeley as part of the Silk Road Project's first United States tour; Cal Performances was the only university presenter so honored.

THE SILK ROAD PROJECT

The **Silk Road Project** is a not-for-profit arts organization founded in 1998 by cellist Yo-Yo Ma, who serves as artistic director, and led by Laura Freid, executive director and CEO. Inspired by the cultural traditions of the historic Silk Road, the Project brings artists and audiences around the world together and acts as a catalyst to promote innovation and learning through the arts. At the center of the Silk Road Project are its concerts, university and museum residencies and workshops in North America, Europe, Central Asia, China and Japan. Commissioning new works is also a central mission. To date, the Project has commissioned 25 new works from artists representing nine countries.

TICKET INFORMATION

These concerts are sold-out. Tickets are priced at **\$36.00**, **\$48.00**, **\$82.00** and **\$96.00**, for **Yo-Yo Ma's Silk Road Ensemble Friday and Saturday March 16 and 17 at 8:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall. Tickets may become available due to last-minute returns. Call the Ticket Office

at (510) 642-9988 for availability. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperformances.net; and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens and other students receive a \$2 discount, and UC Alumni Association members receive a \$3 discount (Special Events excluded). For more information, call Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988, or visit the Cal Performances web site at www.calperformances.net.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Friday, March 16 at 11:00 a.m.
SCHOOLTIME PERFORMANCE

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at Telegraph, Berkeley

The Silk Road Project: Yo-Yo Ma & the Silk Road Ensemble
Yo-Yo Ma, artistic director
The Silk Road Ensemble

Program: Cellist **Yo-Yo Ma** and musicians from the **Silk Road Ensemble** give a special one-hour performance for school children exploring the relationship between heritage and innovation as they perform new commissions for traditional instruments.

Tickets: Tickets are \$3.00 per student or adult chaperone, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall at (510) 642-9988. *SchoolTime* performances are open to Bay Area schools grades 2 through 12. Supplemental study guides for classrooms are available. For more information about the *SchoolTime* program, contact Cal Performances at (510) 642-1068.

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Friday, March 16 at 7:00 p.m.
SIGHTLINES

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at Telegraph, Berkeley

Silk Road Ensemble pre-concert talk will be given by Silk Road scholar Sanjyot Mehendale. This event is free to ticketholders.

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Friday, March 16 at 8:00 p.m.

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at Telegraph, Berkeley

Special Event

The Silk Road Project: Yo-Yo Ma & the Silk Road Ensemble

Yo-Yo Ma, artistic director

The Silk Road Ensemble

Program:

Traditional/ Iran, Korea and the Roma people

Amirov/ *Kor Arab*

Hagibeyov/ *Kyoroglu*

Kalhor/ *Silent City*

Golijov/ *From Air to Air*

Tickets: *This performance is sold out.* Tickets are priced at **\$36.00**, **\$48.00**, **\$82.00** and **\$96.00**, and may become available due to last-minute returns. Call the Ticket Office at (510) 642-9988 for availability.

Saturday, March 17 at 7:00 p.m.
SIGHTLINES

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at Telegraph, Berkeley

Silk Road Ensemble pre-concert talk is given by Silk Road scholar Sanjyot Mehendale. This event is free to ticketholders.

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Saturday, February 17 at 8:00 p.m.

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

Special Event

The Silk Road Project: Yo-Yo Ma & the Silk Road Ensemble

Yo-Yo Ma, artistic director

The Silk Road Ensemble

Program:

Traditional/ China, Mongolia, Korea and Lebanon

Lam/ *Empty Mountain, Spirit Rain*

Kim/ *Ancient Bell*

Ziporyn/ *Sulvasutra*

Perapeskero/ *Turceasca* (Arr. Osvaldo Golijov)

Tickets: *This performance is sold out.* Tickets are priced at **\$36.00, \$48.00, \$82.00** and **\$96.00**, and may become available due to last-minute returns. Call the Ticket Office at (510) 642-9988 for availability.
