Dozens of notes with sentiments of gratitude and support filled our inboxes after the release of The Music of Strangers. The film reached hundreds of thousands of people around the world, and gave vivid voice to Silkroad’s purpose: to create music that engages difference, sparking radical cultural collaboration and passion-driven learning. It’s the purpose that we shared this year with communities from the Getty Museum in Los Angeles to the Northern Cheyenne Reservation in Lame Deer, Montana; from musicians exploring new traditions at the Global Musician Workshop to young refugees from Syria studying at a school outside Beirut. And it’s a purpose that was especially resonant in a year of increasingly divided public conversation.

Today, we find ourselves at an inflection point in Silkroad’s story. As the year ended, we welcomed a new executive director, former board member Eduardo A. Braniff, who will guide and support Silkroad’s artists, staff, and board as we enter the next chapter of our story, one where, in Eduardo’s words, “Silkroad is recognized for its role in advancing a movement of radical cultural collaboration that has cultivated the individuals, experiences and initiatives synonymous with positive social progress.”

Together we can build a more hopeful world.

Golnar Khosrowshahi
Silkroad Board Chair

“Thank you for giving me hope for a better world; for understanding and for humanity.”
– New Silkroad Supporter

“Through their performance, the ensemble demonstrated how music can break the boundaries we have come to expect when it comes to tradition and genre.”
– HOME IS WHERE THE SILK ROAD ENSEMBLE IS, 3.3.17 WXQR

SILKROAD ANNUAL REPORT 2016 – 2017
Silkroad artists are at the center of our work: they model Silkroad’s approach to radical cultural collaboration through performances, workshops, and partnerships across disciplines.

66 musicians from 18 countries co-created music and ideas

7 world premieres performed by Silkroad

157,000 people in 27 cities joined Silkroad artists at 68 concerts and 40 workshops

Silkroad extended its community online, engaging more people than ever:

466,850 interactions on social media

235,700 web visitors from 205 countries

12 performances

4 U.S. cities

14,600 audience members

"They are, as a collective, as a group — the Ensemble, the staff — are artists who believe that it’s important for them to live in the world; not just on the concert stage."

— STEVE SEIDEL, DIRECTOR OF THE ARTS IN EDUCATION LEARNING PROGRAM, HARVARD GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
The Arts and Passion Driven Learning Institute is a professional development program for teachers that explores how the arts can be used to engage students across all subjects. The fifth annual Institute took place at Harvard Graduate School of Education August 1-3, 2016.

Silkroad’s Global Musician Workshop (GMW) is a week-long program where globally minded musicians learn one another’s traditions, incorporating them into their own musical voices. The third annual GMW was held at DePauw University’s School of Music in Greencastle, IN, May 30-June 5, 2017.

Bringing together ideas from the Arts and Passion Driven Learning Institute and the Global Musician Workshop, Silkroad partnered with Professor Kay Kaufman Shelemay at Harvard University to offer a course on navigating cultural difference through music called Performing Musical Difference.

109 participants from 13 countries and 25 states attended the Institute, reaching 8,720 students in local communities.

$31,100 in financial aid made it possible for 46 participants to attend.

11 workshops, 3 plenaries, and 1 panel discussion led by 23 faculty members.

87 participant musicians from 10 countries and 25 U.S. states attended the workshop.

$29,463 in financial aid made it possible for 57 participants to attend.

43 student musicians from 10 countries and 20 U.S. states attended the workshop.

14 bands and 26 workshops led by 10 artist faculty.

14 hours in rehearsal to prepare for 3 nights of performance.

11 students taught by 8 Silkroad teaching artists from 3 countries.

Inspired by our work in Jordan last year, 3 Silkroad artists traveled to Lebanon to share music with 165 Syrian refugee students. This was the first step in designing a long-term partnership with the Jusoor Refugee Education Program.

“The Music of Strangers] has taken on a new level of significance in light of the tide of anti-immigrant rhetoric – and policy – rising in the U.S. and beyond, a time when Silkroad’s model for marrying culture, cooperation and charity has never been more necessary.”

– FILM REVIEW, BUSINESS INSIDER, 6.9.17

The Arts and Passion-Driven Learning Institute is a professional development program for teachers that explores how the arts can be used to engage students across all subjects. The fifth annual Institute took place at Harvard Graduate School of Education August 1-3, 2016.
Sing Me Home won the 2017 Grammy for Best World Music Album – the first Grammy Award for Silkroad.

“[Sing Me Home is] about celebrating all kinds of viewpoints, which we really need right now.”

– YO-YO MA AND SILK ROAD ENSEMBLE BUILD BRIDGES BETWEEN CULTURES ONE NOTE AT A TIME, JAPAN TIMES, 3.2.17

The Music of Strangers, directed by Oscar-winning filmmaker Morgan Neville, follows Silkroad artists as they explore the power of music to preserve tradition, shape cultural evolution, and inspire hope.

273,323 people in 171 cities around the world saw the film in theaters and online

1,210 views of The Music of Strangers curriculum online

THE MUSIC OF STRANGERS AND SING ME HOME 2016 – 2017
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<th>Special Events, Net</th>
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**Sponsors $100,000 to $249,999**

- July 1, 2016, and June 30, 2017.
- Marked with an asterisk in the list above.
- The Inner Circle was established in 2009 to recognize the generous individuals who have made significant contributions to Silkroad's mission. Members of the Inner Circle support Silkroad through annual gifts of $100,000 and above.
- The following foundations who share our vision of a world transformed through the arts.
- Supported by individuals, foundations, and partners.