It’s been nearly twenty years since Yo-Yo Ma first gathered musicians from many corners of the world to play together in the hills of Massachusetts. It was an experiment, inspired by a vision for a new artistic language to model the power of radical cultural collaboration.

The evolution of that experiment continues today, with new and expanding urgency.

Our music began deeply rooted in the lands of the historical Silk Road; today, it is an exploration of difference and collaboration that extends far beyond that time and that place. It is, we hope, an invitation to listen, to be curious, and to collaborate.

These values — listening, curiosity, and collaboration — are essential to what we do on stage, in classrooms, and across residencies, and they are habits we believe are critical to living in a hopeful, inclusive, and democratic society. With these ideas in mind, we returned to our roots, focusing on the creation of new music and collective art making over the course of seven tours, including the first international performances of *Layla and Majnun* and the premiere of *Heroes Take Their Stands*, an evening-length, multimedia work in five parts — a cycle of stories that spans time, space, and human experience. Beyond the stage, we participated in five residencies and continued our work at Lame Deer Junior/Senior High School culminating in a student art showcase created in collaboration with artist Ben Pease.

Together, we aim to celebrate and embrace difference, paving the way for new artistry and deepened connections, and embracing the roots that link us all.

**Eduardo A Braniff**  
Executive Director

**Nicholas Cords**  
Co-Artistic Director

**Shane Shanahan**  
Co-Artistic Director

To view the video click on the image or follow the link [bit.ly/silkroad-on-the-road](bit.ly/silkroad-on-the-road)
ENGAGING COMMUNITIES
2018 – 2019

89,165 people in 42 cities joined Silkroad at 62 performances and 90 workshops, expanding our reach to 37 new venues.

Silkroad artists are at the center of our work to build a more hopeful and inclusive world: they model Silkroad’s approach to radical cultural collaboration through performances, workshops, and partnerships across disciplines.

A core part of the Silkroad Ensemble is its engagement with communities through performances and touring. On the road, Silkroad connects in person with audiences, students, teachers, and artists. Nearly a quarter of the year was spent touring to venues around the globe.

Through the creation of new music, the Silkroad collective explores artistic risk and radical cultural collaboration, returning to our roots of shared music-making. These new pieces are integral to touring and residency activities, as Silkroad opens up the creative process before hitting the stage.

"Playing in Silkroad requires… a foundation of deep listening, respect, trust, openness, and the shared goal of connection with each other and with our audience."

– Karen Ouzounian, cello

46 artists co-created music and ideas
6 commissioned pieces were developed and/or expanded in residency workshops
8 world premieres were performed on tour
18 instruments representing traditions from around the world
88 days on the road over the course of 7 tours – spanning 7 countries, 11 states, and 31 stages.

Silkroad presented performances of Layla and Majnun, an evening-length collaboration with the Mark Morris Dance Group and mugham singers Alim Qasimov and Fargana Qasimova, in London, England, and Melbourne, Australia.

10 performances
18,400 audience members
6,700 audience members across 5 cities experienced the world premiere of Heroes Take Their Stands, a multimedia work and story cycle, telling the tales of five figures across time – Elektra, Duo E, Arjuna, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and Siavosh.

Falling Out of Time, a new evening-length work by Osvaldo Golijov, was workshopped as part of Silkroad’s multi-year residency at College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA, with a fall 2019 world premiere.

To view the video click on the image or follow the link bit.ly/heroes

To view the video click on the image or follow the link bit.ly/time

8.9 million people reached and 900,000 engagements across all digital media

Silkroad extended its global community online, engaging more people than ever:
Silkroad residencies are deeply informed by global perspectives and guided by the passions of our growing collective of musicians, teaching artists, and cultural advocates. Based in Boston, Silkroad focused on developing partnerships with local communities across Massachusetts to deepen connections at both the local and global scale.

This year’s U.S.-based partners included:
- Boston Conservatory at Berklee, Boston, MA
- Chautauqua Institution, Chautauqua, NY
- Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
- Rice University, Houston, TX
- The College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA

"Silkroad... is an example of how the world should be working."
– Maria Battle, Arts and Passion-Driven Learning Institute participant

U.S.-based residencies featured 11 performances and 56 workshops.

14,617 people attended 6 performances and 10 workshops over the course of the week.

150 people attended the art showcase which featured works about the promise of the Morning Star — the most iconic symbol of the Northern Cheyenne people.

22 workshops accompanied tour performances, engaging 4,263 participants.

23 students participated in the course, featuring 10 guest artists across 14 weeks.

311 people from Reggio Emilia joined Silkroad over 5 days for 6 workshops, where Silkroad worked with immigrants, survivors of sex trafficking, mothers, teaching artists, pre-schoolers, and high schoolers.

On tour, the Silkroad Ensemble always aims to fuel curiosity and creativity beyond the stage, pairing performances with panel discussions, workshops, and learning activities.

Silkroad initiated a new partnership with Boston Conservatory at Berklee, introducing the semester-long Silkroad Creativity Lab. The course studied artistic risk and expanded the creative process to explore what it means to create art and negotiate meaning across differences.

Silkroad continued its partnership with the city of Reggio Emilia, Italy, renowned for its approach to early childhood education. This “city of a hundred languages” provides an exceptional lab site to explore the role of the artist in a city whose growing migrant population introduces an expanding notion of community.

Over the course of a week, Silkroad joined Chautauqua Institution in New York to expand on the non-profit’s weeklong theme of “The Arts and Global Understanding.” Silkroad artists presented masterclasses, panel discussions, and workshops addressing how art and music can allow us to discover home, heal, and connect more deeply with each other.

“Something numbers can’t show is the joy musicians from the [Silkroad] have brought to the Northern Cheyenne students.”
– Jaci Webb, Billings Gazette

Off the stage, Silkroad artists are also teachers, producers, and advocates. They lead musician training workshops, create residency programs in schools, museums, and communities of all sizes, and experiment with new media and genres to share Silkroad’s model of radical cultural collaboration.
**Total Revenue** 3,920,994

**Net assets released from restrictions** 1,538,710

**Total Revenue** 3,920,994

**Sponsors**
- Deborah Stone
- Jane and Paul Shang
- Stuart Rolfe
- Diann Kim
- Ezra Field
- Patrick and Barbara Denihan
- Seattle Foundation
- Seth A. and Beth S. Klarman
- Daniel Dusek
- Ophelia Dahl and Lisa Frantzis
- Arlene and Alan Alda
- $10,000 to $24,999
  - Diane Troderman
- William Helman
- Prince Amyn Aga Khan
- Oscar and Agnes Tang
- Lori and Ted Samuels
- Thomas Roush and LaVon Kellner
- Daniel and Annette Nova
- National Endowment for the Arts
- $50,000 to $99,999
  - Barr Foundation
- $250,000 to $499,999
  - The Rosenthal Family Foundation
- Aaron and Heather Regent
- Faith Raiguel
- Lia and William Poorvu
- Shaida Mohamed

**Connecting the World’s Neighborhoods**

Silkroad gratefully acknowledges the generous individuals, corporations, and foundations whose generosity enables us to continue offering programming, learning, and cross-cultural understanding around the world.

**EXPENSES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Services</td>
<td>2,735,081</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Administrative Expenses</td>
<td>663,876</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchasing</td>
<td>287,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assets</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>157,025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts and Notes Receivable, Net</td>
<td>662,927</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets released from restrictions</td>
<td>1,538,710</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**DOWNLOAD FULL AUDITITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**EXPENSES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Services</td>
<td>2,735,081</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Administrative Expenses</td>
<td>663,876</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchasing</td>
<td>287,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assets</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>157,025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts and Notes Receivable, Net</td>
<td>662,927</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets released from restrictions</td>
<td>1,538,710</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>