our mission:

Silkroad creates music that engages difference, sparking radical cultural collaboration and passion-driven learning for a more hopeful and inclusive world.
## CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Section</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>SILKROAD RISING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>YEAR AT A GLANCE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>ARTISTIC PROGRAMS:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Phoenix Rising</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>American Railroad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Uplifted Voices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>EDUCATION &amp; SOCIAL IMPACT PROGRAMS:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Global Musician Workshop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Silkroad Connect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>University Residencies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Project MUSIC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Refugee Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>IN THE NEWS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>OPERATIONS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Silkroad Expanded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BIPOC Internship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>FINANCIALS &amp; SUPPORTERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>PHOTO CREDITS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dear friends,

What is it about the power of music to express emotions, thoughts, and histories that is so special? How is it that music binds us together, shining a light on unsung songs and forgotten stories? This past year, more than any, Silkroad has traveled the globe, sharing stories, uplifting the voices of historically silenced cultures, and providing moments of joy and discovery to so many.

From our musical programs, including American Railroad, Phoenix Rising, and Uplifted Voices, to our education and social impact initiatives, Silkroad has been fulfilling its mission to embrace and promote radical cultural collaboration and passion-driven learning. In a year that has taken us from the most prestigious performing arts venues to train stations, public parks, carceral communities, and classrooms across America, Silkroad has been truly rising.

I invite you to take the time to read our Annual Report and discover the stories and journeys that have taken Silkroad from the Standing Rock Reservation of the Lakota and Dakota nations to Carnegie Hall, from intensive university residencies at historic Spelman College to our Global Musician Workshop in Boston.

In a world where change and unrest are our norm, it is the creative process and artists engaging with humanity that are our constant and compelling reasons to go forward. A special thanks to Artistic Director Rhiannon Giddens, the ensemble, and all those who make our work possible. Together, we will continue to rise, bring about change, and share the uniting power of music.

Best Regards,

Ben Hartley, Executive Director
Over 10,000 audience members reached through 18 in-person concerts

Phoenix Rising toured across 7 cities

794 people reached through workshops in middle schools, universities, and carceral communities

60 musicians from 18 countries participated in Silkroad’s Global Musician Workshop
creating art:  

Music serves as a great unifier in the face of difficulty. At Silkroad, we believe in the transformative power of art to connect us across differences, activate change in our society, and inspire the future we want to achieve.
34 artists playing over 20 instruments from all over the world
The first tour with Artistic Director Rhiannon Giddens, **Phoenix Rising** serves as a collective grieving song and clarion call to model our vision for a more peaceful and just world as we emerged from a long and stunning upheaval from the pandemic.

Phoenix Rising featured a cross-section of Silkroad’s award-winning compositions and arrangements; four major new commissions by Shawn Conley, Sandeep Das, Maeve Gilchrist, and Kaoru Watanabe; and new arrangements by Rhiannon Giddens, Colin Jacobsen, Edward Pérez, and Mazz Swift.

Silkroad’s sold-out performance at Tanglewood in Lenox, MA was recorded for a future EP release in 2023; the performance also featured Silkroad founder Yo-Yo Ma as a special guest for his first ever collaboration with the Silkroad Ensemble under Rhiannon Giddens’ leadership.
Phoenix Rising reached:

7,752 audience members across seven performances
Silkroad’s latest initiative, American Railroad, illuminates the impact the African American, Chinese, Indigenous, Irish, and other communities had on the creation of the United States’ Transcontinental Railroad and connecting railways in North America. This project amplifies untold stories to paint a richer, more accurate picture of the origins of the American Empire and the formation of our multifaceted American identities.

**ARTISTIC RETREATS**
Led by Artistic Director Rhiannon Giddens, this multi-year landmark project began with a series of Artistic Retreats, bringing together small groups of Silkroad artists to learn about railroad history from experts, build crucial relationships with members from the aforementioned communities, and conceptualize seeds for new musical ideas.

These retreats took place in San Francisco, CA; New York, NY; and at the Standing Rock Reservation, ND/SD.
TRAIN STATION TRIOS

Following the Artistic Retreats, Silkroad launched the Train Station Trios series. The Train Station Trios served as the first phase of new music creation and public performances for American Railroad, bringing small groups of Silkroad artists to sites across the country for a series of community-centered open workshop performances. Trios formed by Silkroad artists collaborated with local scholars to feature new music inspired by the history of the railroads, songs and tunes collected from railroad workers and the impacted communities, and storytelling with an emphasis on the historic and cultural ties to the area where each concert was held.

Three different trios visited the following sites:
The California State Railroad Museum in Sacramento, CA
The Irish Arts Center and Grand Central Station in New York, NY
The Shiloh Museum of Ozark History and Springdale Train Station in Springdale, AR

244 audience members reached across three performances
“I was blown away by the experience of this retreat... Those moments of connection were incredibly rich – intellectually, creatively and personally. **It gave me a lot of hope.**”

- **REYLON YOUNT, SILKROAD ARTIST**
- SAN FRANCISCO ARTISTIC RETREAT
In **Uplifted Voices**, Silkroad shines a light on previously under-recognized voices from across the globe to change our perspective of the history and migration of music. Through a stunning collaboration of global instrumentation, this project champions women and non-binary members of the Silkroad Ensemble alongside special guest Tuscarora/Taíno musician Pura Fé to tell a musical journey that connects the music of indigenous North America to the World. Drawing inspiration from the folk and ancestral music of Japan, China, Armenia, Ireland and the Hebrides, and native populations across North America, Uplifted Voices brings together this collection of distinctive and powerful musical origins within a contemporary musical tapestry.

**Uplifted Voices toured across Connecticut, Virginia, and New York reaching over 1,700 audience members.**

*The newly created repertoire from Uplifted Voices will also be part of the upcoming American Railroad tour in fall 2023.*
“You were medicine for us at such a difficult time.”

- UPLIFTED VOICES AUDIENCE MEMBER
making impact:

Creativity unlocks a path towards belonging, enrichment, and impact.

Through arts programming at schools, carceral communities, and beyond, we witness the power of music to deepen connections with one another and open pathways for self-expression and education.
Silkroad’s **Global Musician Workshop** (GMW) is an intensive musician training program that brings together musicians from around the world to engage in workshops that explore a global array of musical genres, styles, and traditions.

GMW 2022 was held at New England Conservatory (NEC) from August 8-12, 2022 and was offered tuition-free to all participants for the first time in the program’s history. A three-day Performance Festival at NEC’s renowned Jordan Hall closed out the program featuring performances by GMW faculty and participants alike.

**GMW 2022 brought together 60 participants from 18 countries playing over 30 different instruments**
“[Silkroad’s GMW] was an absolute dream. I will never forget it. It has been one of the greatest privileges of my life to have this experience.”

- GMW 2022 PARTICIPANT
Silkroad Connect is a program that brings Silkroad artists to middle school classrooms across the country, positioning the arts as a social justice and advocacy tool. The program includes artist visits across four schools; professional development for teachers; culturally inclusive curriculum to deepen student knowledge of American Railroad history; and a unique, culminating performance at each school.

In Spring 2023, Silkroad Connect featured 32 virtual and in-person artist visits across 9 different classes, along with 4 culminating events that engaged over 250 students and 1,500 audience members.
75% of students say that because of Silkroad Connect, they are a more confident artist and/or musician.

85% of students say that thanks to this project, they have a better understanding of the roles that Chinese, Irish, African-American, and Indigenous people had in building America's railroads, and how their work still impacts our society today.
“It made me think about the people who built [the railroad], and I feel proud to represent the people who made it.”

- SILKROAD CONNECT STUDENT PARTICIPANT
JOHN C. FREMONT SCHOOL
Silkroad's university residencies synergize academic curriculum with Silkroad’s mission and ongoing artistic initiatives. This academic year, Silkroad’s university residencies resulted in a series of artist visits and workshops; collaborative concerts between Silkroad artists and university students; and a music development workshop to prepare for Silkroad’s debut *Uplifted Voices* tour in the spring of 2023.

Silkroad's current partners include Spelman College, Boston Conservatory at Berklee, George Mason University, and University of Limerick.

**394 students reached across five classes**
**Project MUSIC** (Music Uniting Strangers Into Community) brings the artists and music of Silkroad into carceral communities across the country to exchange musical and cultural traditions, creating connection through communal singing and music making. Over the past year, Silkroad hosted two visits to Bedford Hills Correctional Facility for Women, creating music collaboratively with approximately 70 of its residents.

Additional programming is underway for June 2023 in Northwest Arkansas and during the debut American Railroad tour in November 2023.
SEE PROJECT MUSIC IN ACTION:

Click the link above to watch the Silkroad artist Mazz Swift and Artistic Director Rhiannon Giddens speak about their experience with Project MUSIC.
In light of the life threatening situation in Afghanistan, Silkroad launched the **Refugee Artists-at-Risk Program** with support from Harvard’s Scholars at Risk Program, to provide a lifeline to refugee artists. This year, Silkroad supported a family of four, all of whom are currently pursuing their education at universities, creating art, and rebuilding a life together after two years of separation.

On June 17, 2023, Silkroad hosted Art Overcomes, a benefit for Silkroad's Refugee Program, featuring a panel discussion, live music from a Silkroad artist, and a silent auction. The event also debuted the world premiere of a new commission by Silkroad artists Sandeep Das and Haruka Fujii that accompanies a short story written by author Homeira Qaderi. The event served as a reminder of the struggles that refugees face while offering a platform to celebrate the artistry and resilience of these artists.
DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT
JULY 2022 - JUNE 2023

1,703,853
IMPRESSIONS ACROSS DIGITAL PLATFORMS

149,453
WEB VISITORS

92,181
DIGITAL ENGAGEMENTS

259,493
PAGEVIEWS FROM 99 COUNTRIES
IN THE NEWS
CLICK BELOW TO READ THE ARTICLES

WASHINGTON POST
TAKING THE BATON FROM YO-YO MA, RHIANNON GIDDENS REBOOTS SILKROAD

PBS
SINGER RHIANNON GIDDENS BECOMES NEW ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF YO-YO MA’S SILKROAD ENSEMBLE

WBUR
SILKROAD, BOSTON MUSIC INSTITUTION FOUNDED BY YO-YO MA, ANNOUNCES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

CLICK HERE TO VISIT SILKROAD'S ONLINE PRESS ROOM
The Silkroad team has continued to grow as we’ve welcomed six new full-time staff members to the team, including Silkroad’s new Executive Director Ben Hartley. Hartley was selected through an international search process that drew interest from more than 400 applicants, succeeding Kathy Fletcher, who left the position in December 2022.

Silkroad also brought Red Light Management into the fold, serving in an artist management capacity for the Silkroad Ensemble to help craft and curate ongoing tours, performances, and overarching programming together with Artistic Director Rhiannon Giddens.
The 2022-2023 season ushered in two new classes of interns as part of Silkroad’s BIPOC Internship Program, a five-month professional development experience designed to prepare emerging arts professionals of color with fluency in non-profit arts administration and leadership.

10 interns worked with Silkroad across Artistic Programs, Education Programs, Development, Operations, Communications, and Social Media.
“The internship experience was everything I could have asked for and more. The skills and expertise I have learned during the internship have definitely prepared me for the next steps in my career. I am incredibly thankful for this opportunity.”

- ALEX S.

FALL 2022, EDUCATION PROGRAMS INTERN
The Silk Road Project, Inc. (dba Silkroad) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization supported by individuals, foundations, and corporations. We are deeply grateful to the institutional partners whose generous support enables us to promote innovation, learning, and cross-cultural understanding around the world.

**Silkroad Supporters are Instruments of Change**

ALICE L. WALTON FOUNDATION  
BARR FOUNDATION  
CALIFORNIA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM FOUNDATION  
CARNEGIE CORPORATION OF NEW YORK  
LIBERTY MUTUAL FOUNDATION  
MASS CULTURAL COUNCIL  
MELLON FOUNDATION  
NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS  
PERSHING SQUARE FOUNDATION  
WAGNER FOUNDATION  
WHITEHEAD FOUNDATION
Silkroad gratefully acknowledges the generous individuals, corporations, and foundations that share our vision of a world transformed through the arts. *The following list recognizes donations received between July 1, 2022, and June 30, 2023.*

**$1,000,000+**
- Alice L. Walton Foundation
- Mellon Foundation

**$500,000 - $999,999**
- The Barr Foundation
- LaVon Kellner and Thomas Roush

**$100,000 - $249,999**
- Diann Kim and John Frank
- Pershing Square Foundation

**$50,000 - $99,999**
- Carnegie Corporation of New York
- Liberty Mutual Foundation
- Mass Cultural Council
- Theodore and Lori Samuels
- St. Louis Community Foundation
- Wagner Foundation

**$25,000 - $49,999**
- Ophelia Dahl
- Diane Mott
- National Endowment for the Arts
- Whitehead Foundation

**$10,000 - $24,999**
- Anonymous
- California State Railroad Museum Foundation
- Combined Jewish Philanthropies
- Rohit Deshpandé
- Boris Dolgonos
- John and Marcia Goldman Foundation
- Deborah A. Hawkins Charitable Fund
- Amos and Barbara Hostetter
- Helena Hwang
- Beth and Seth Klarman
FINANCIALS & SUPPORTERS
CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD FULL AUDITED STATEMENTS

Miss Wallace M. Leonard Foundation

$5,000 - $9,999
Judith Goldberg
William Helman
Isabelle Hunter
Nehemiah McLellan Charitable Trust
New Music USA
Anne L. Peretz
William J. and Lia G. Poorvu Family Foundation
Mattina R. Proctor Foundation
Carolyn L. Yancey and Channing Johnson

$1,000 - $2,499
Anonymous
Jonathan Bays
Andrew Bartel

Milo and Robin Beach
Stephanie Boyé
Carolyn Bucksbaum
Catherine and Paul Buttenwieser
Isabel W. Draves
Harold Grinspoon
Robert Henry
Larry Isberg
The Keep it Going Fund
Catherine Lincoln
Jane Loos
Nicholas Ma
Yeou-Cheng Ma
Linda Marks and Ralph Lopez
Carolyn Mugar
National Philanthropic Trust
Alane Olson
Faith Raiguel
Pound Ridge
Stefanie Zeldin Sigal
Town Fair Tire Foundation

Diane Troderman and Harold Grinspoon
Berenike Ullman
Barry and Pam Zuckerman

$500 - $999
The American Online Giving Foundation
Roger Bagnall
Thomas Botts
Gary Conboy
Boykin and Andrea Curry
Anna and Peter Davol
Douglas Hahn
Jay Kiely
Joanne Kornoelje
Cheryl Larrivee-Elkins
Scottie Pate
Carrie and Bill Polk
Bernie and Sue Pucker
Charles Rose
The Rosenthal Family Foundation
Zemlicka Roy
The Son Works
James Sorg
Pei Zhai

$1 - $499
Alysha Addetia
George Akkeh
Rosamond Allen
Roz Allen and Paul Landry
AmazonSmile
Catherine Anderson
Marc Anello
Anonymous
Denise Barata
Kristen Barrett
John Bechard
George Bergen
Jennifer Berz
Paul Boumbulian

Meyer Bunny Boyce
Marcia Brontman
Lucia Brunson
Barbara Burke
Joe Campo
David Carroll
Charities Aid Foundation America
Franciaco Chavolla
Meryl Chertoff
Michael Clark
Nancy Cohen
Donna Collins
Creating Healthier Communities
Charles and Wendy Culbreth
Abhay Damle
Nancy Dann
Alfred Dannhauser
Henrietta Davis
Camille Devlin
Kathleen Dorgan
Vance Dubberly

Mary M. Dusenbury
Sumru Erkut
Facebook
Susan Farris
Lisa Feng
Judith and Judy Fletcher
Yvonne Flint
Patricia Gallary
Honora Ganey
Nancy and Nathaniel Gardiner
Howard E. Gardner
Margaret Gilleo
Anne Goess
Amy Goldberger
Sarah Grella
Thomas Groome
Elizabeth ten Grotenhuis
Chelsea Gunter
Christine M. Guth
Heather Hamilton
Elizabeth Hammer