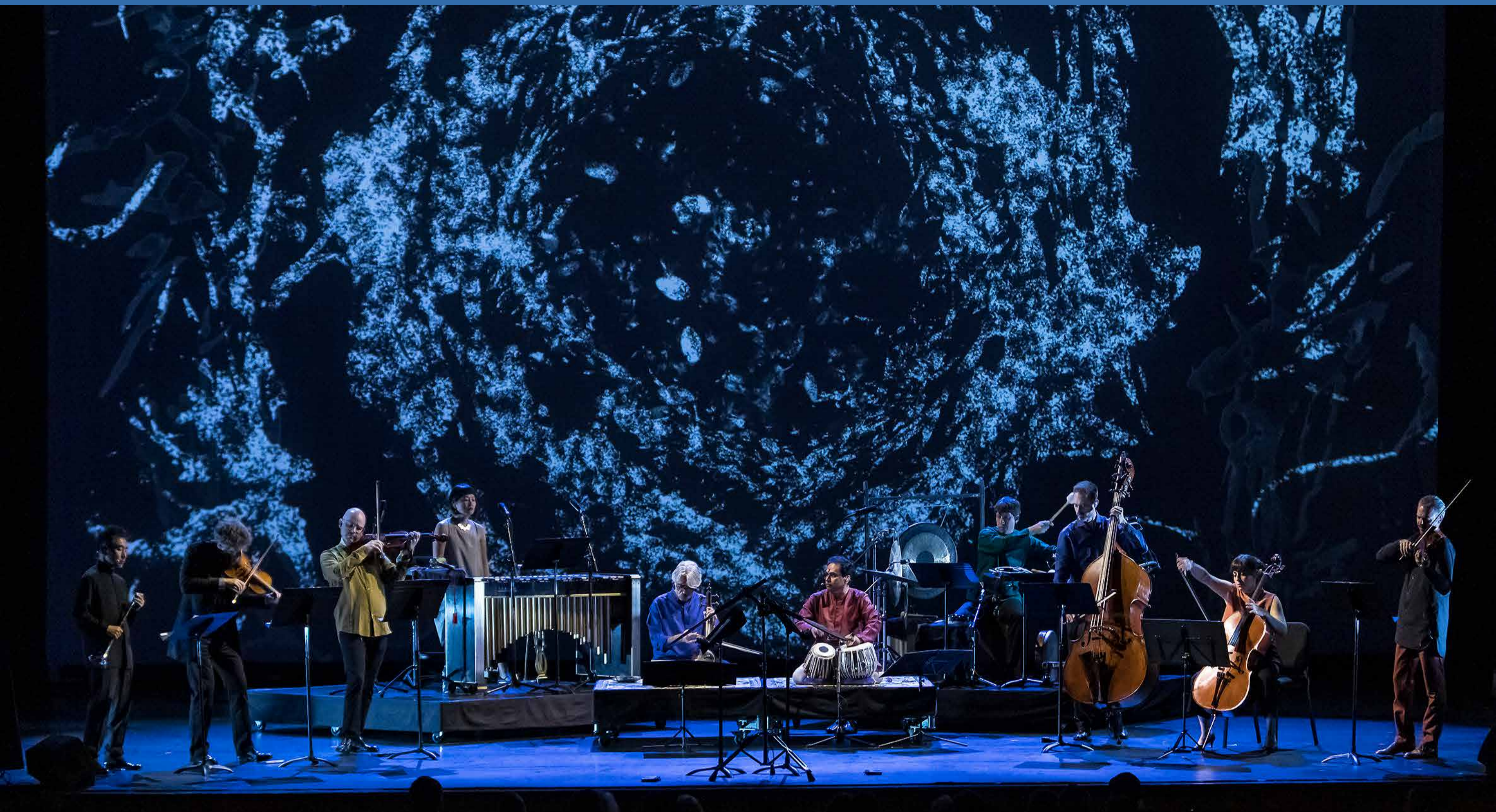


SILKROAD

SILKROAD ANNUAL REPORT
2018 - 2019



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.

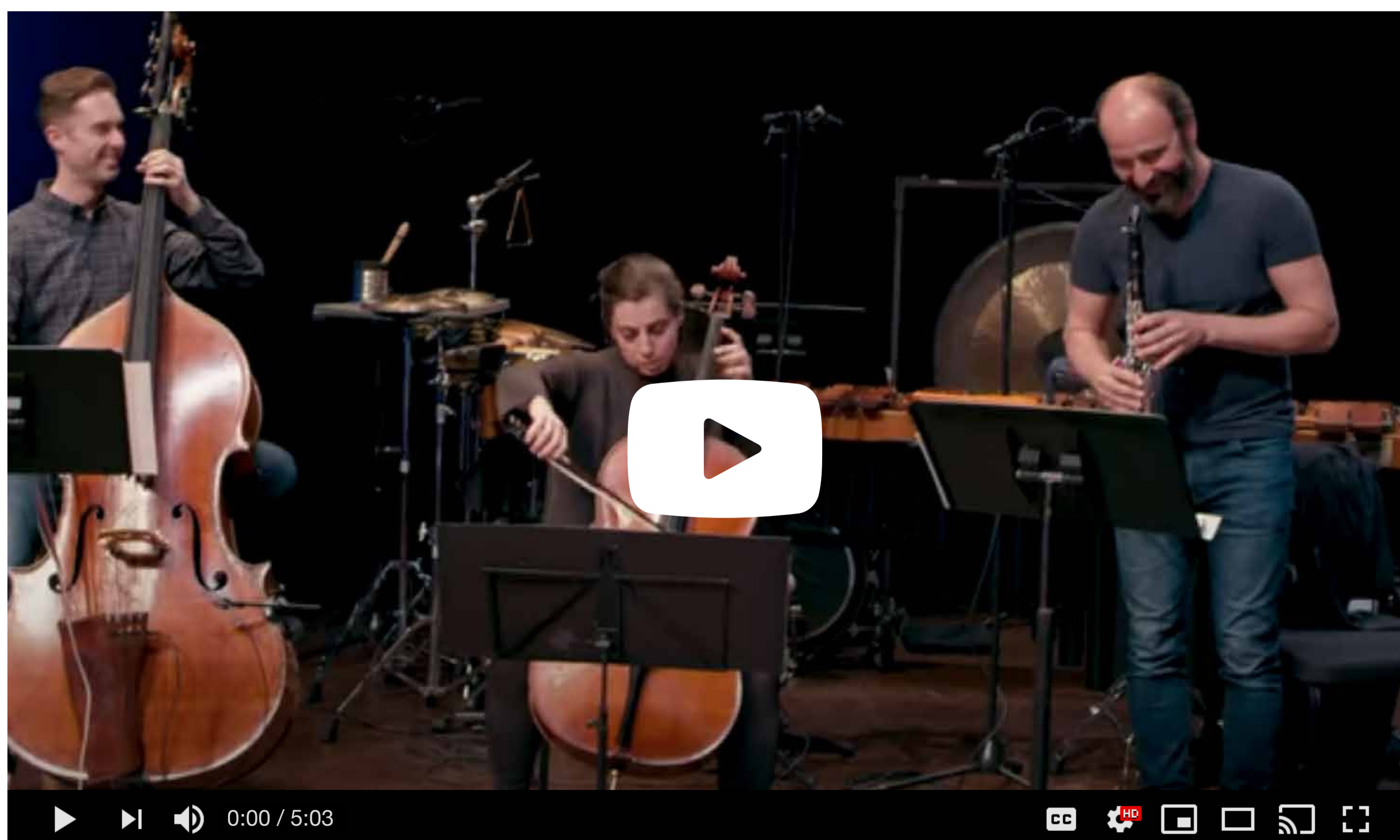
Together, we aim to celebrate and embrace difference, paving the way for new artistry and deepened connections, and embracing the roots that link us all.

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





“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.”

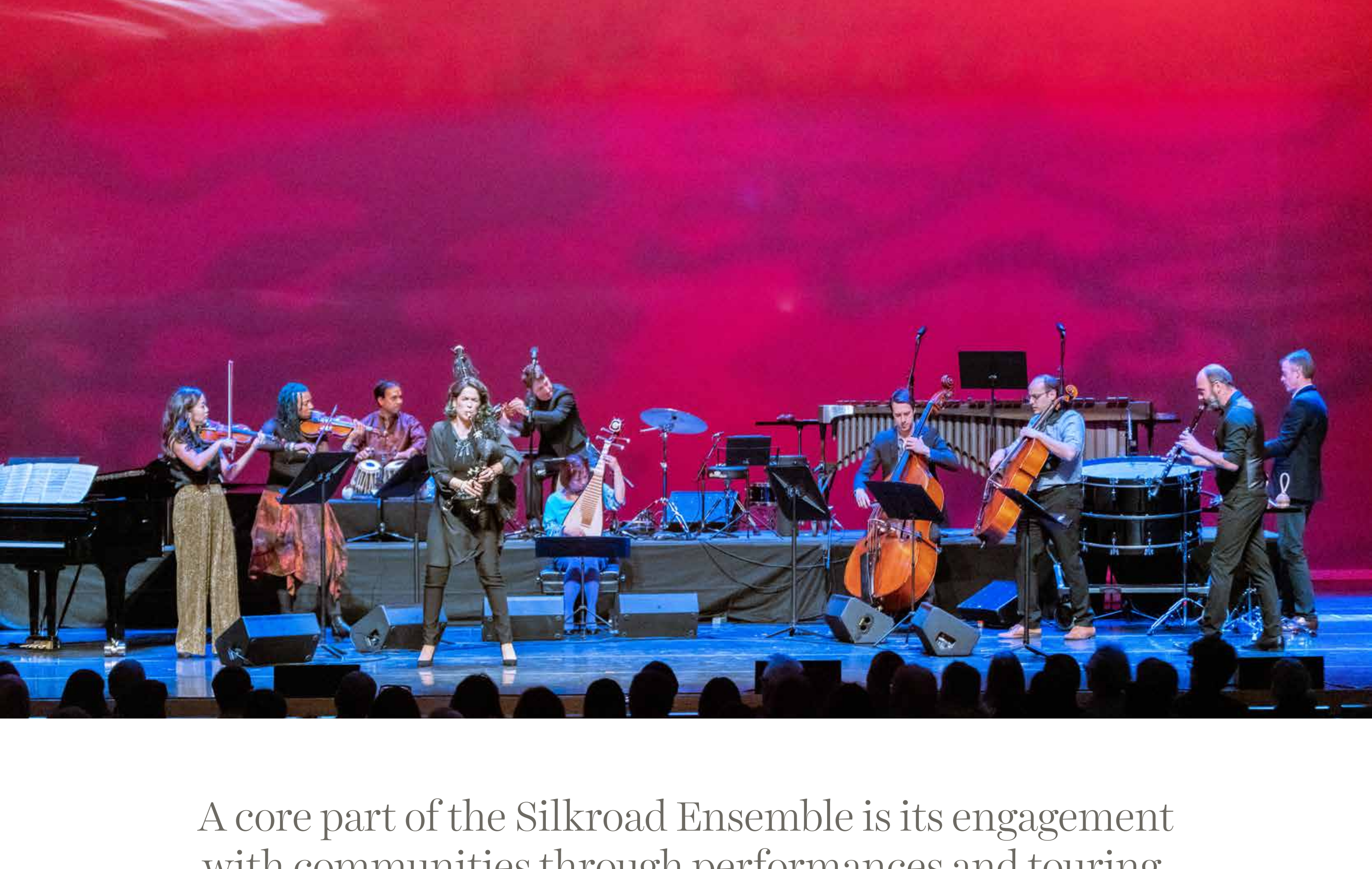
– Karen Ouzounian, cello

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.



89,165

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



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.

88 days on the road over the course of 7 tours – spanning 7 countries, 11 states, and 31 stages.



46 artists co-created music and ideas



18 instruments representing traditions from around the world



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

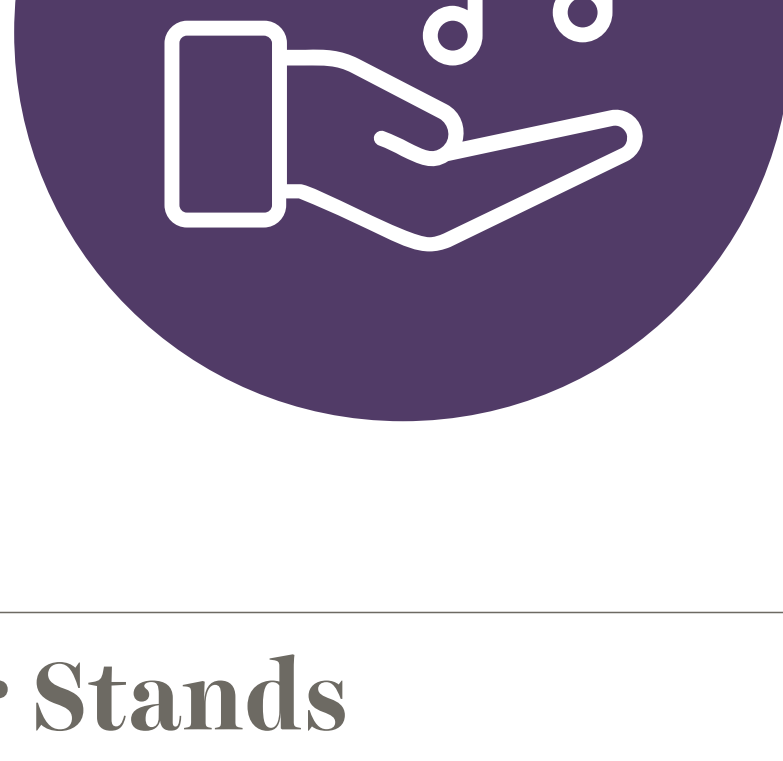


Through the creation of new music, the Silkroad collective explores artistic risk and radical cultural collaboration, returning to our roots of shared music-making. These new pieces are integral to touring and residency activities, as Silkroad opens up the creative process before hitting the stage.



6 commissioned pieces were developed and/or expanded in residency workshops

8 world premieres were performed on tour



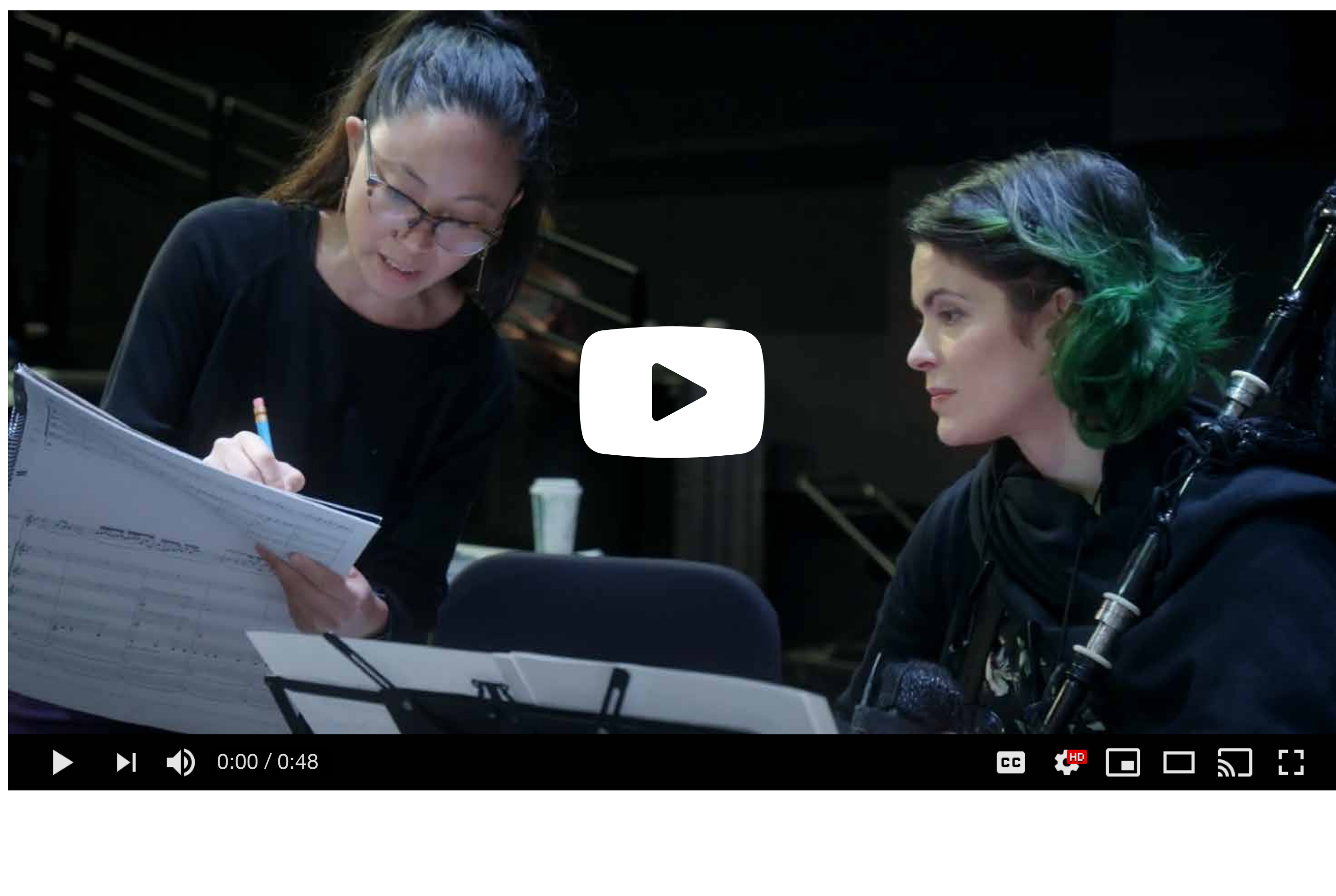
Heroes Take Their Stands

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.

6,700 audience members across 5 cities experienced the world premiere of *Heroes Take Their Stands*



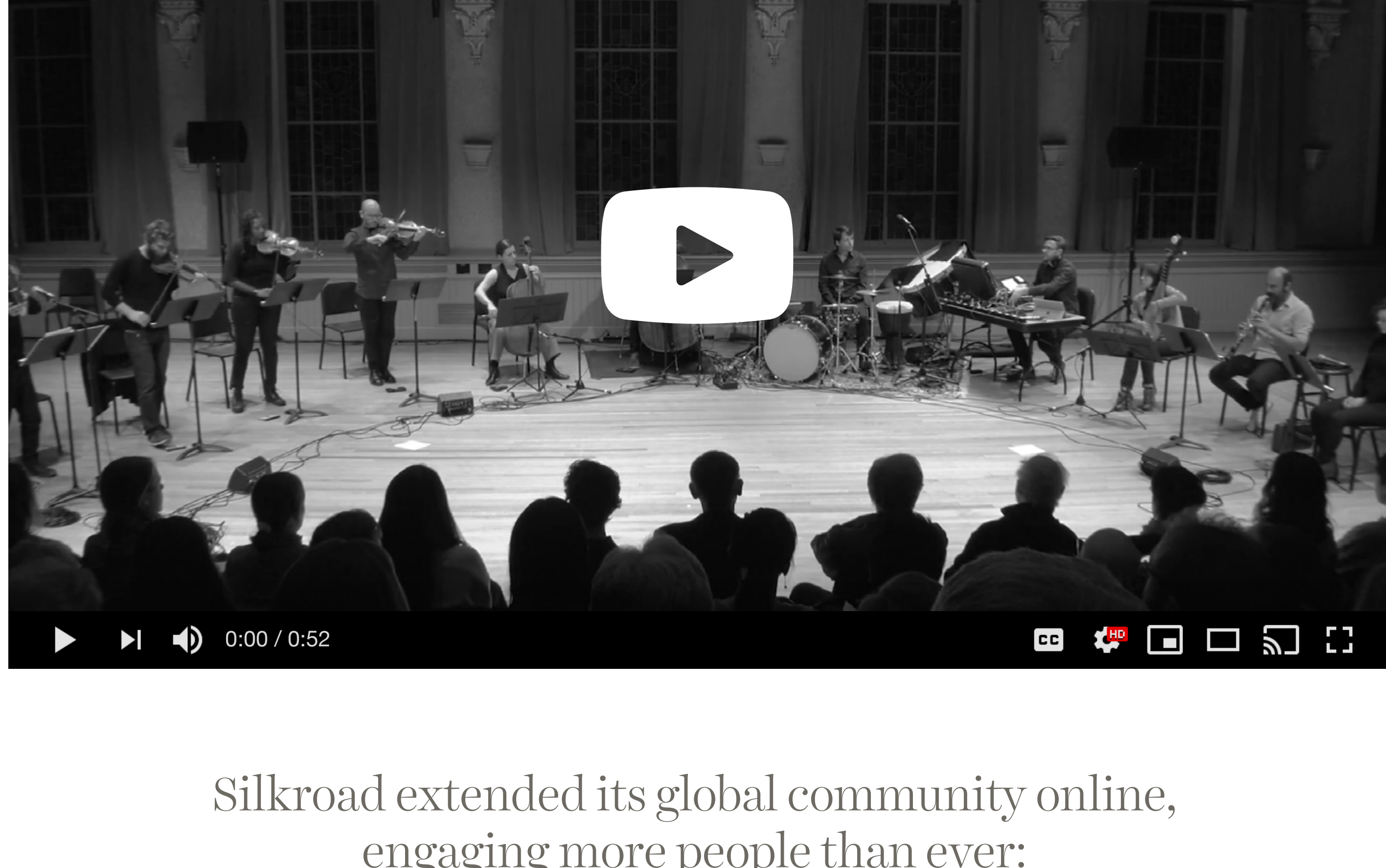
To view the video click on the image or follow the link bit.ly/heroes



Falling Out of Time

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/time

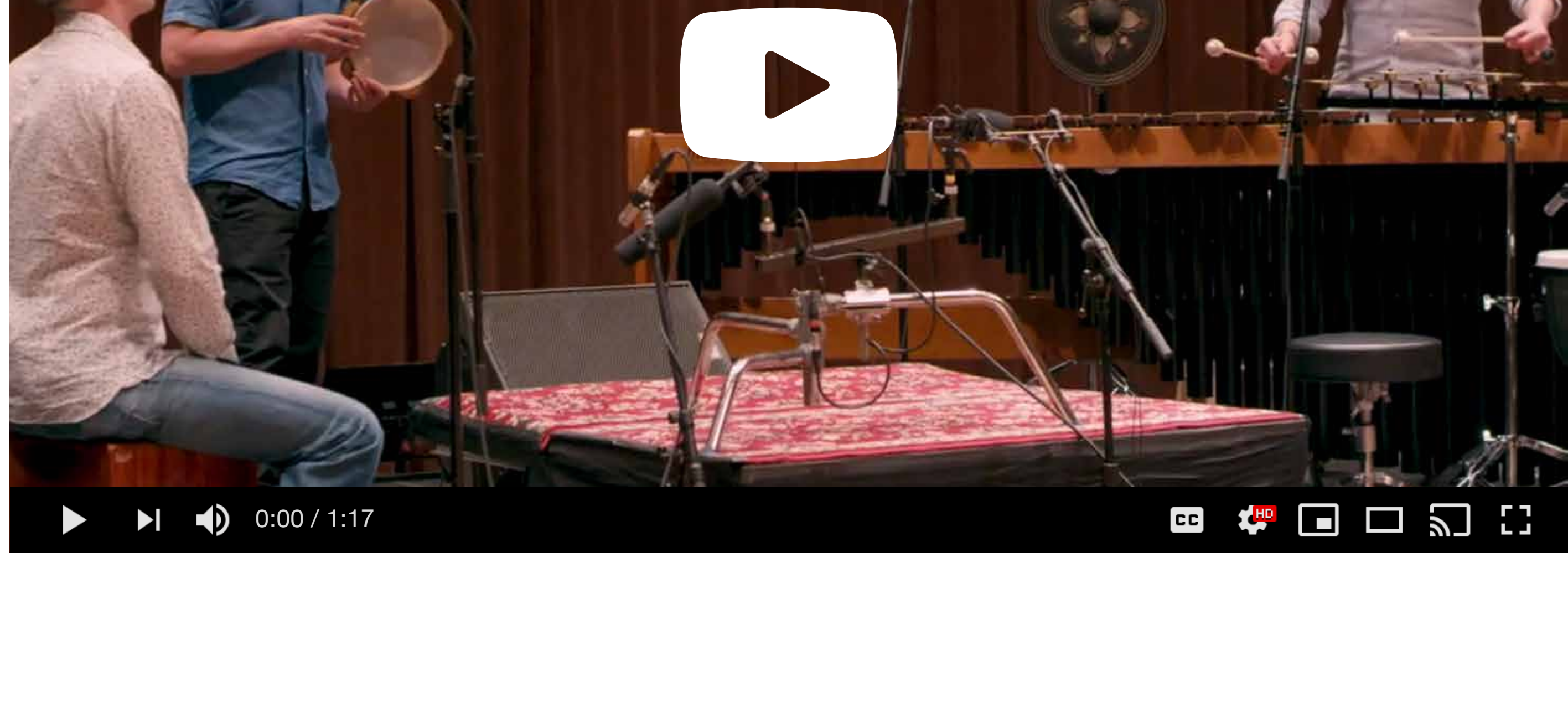


Silkroad extended its global community online, engaging more people than ever:

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

86,000 web visitors and 190,000 pageviews from 100 countries

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





**“Silkroad...
is an example of how the world
should be working.”**

– Maria Battle, Arts and Passion-Driven Learning Institute participant

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.

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



22

workshops accompanied tour performances, engaging 4,263 participants.

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

5

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



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.

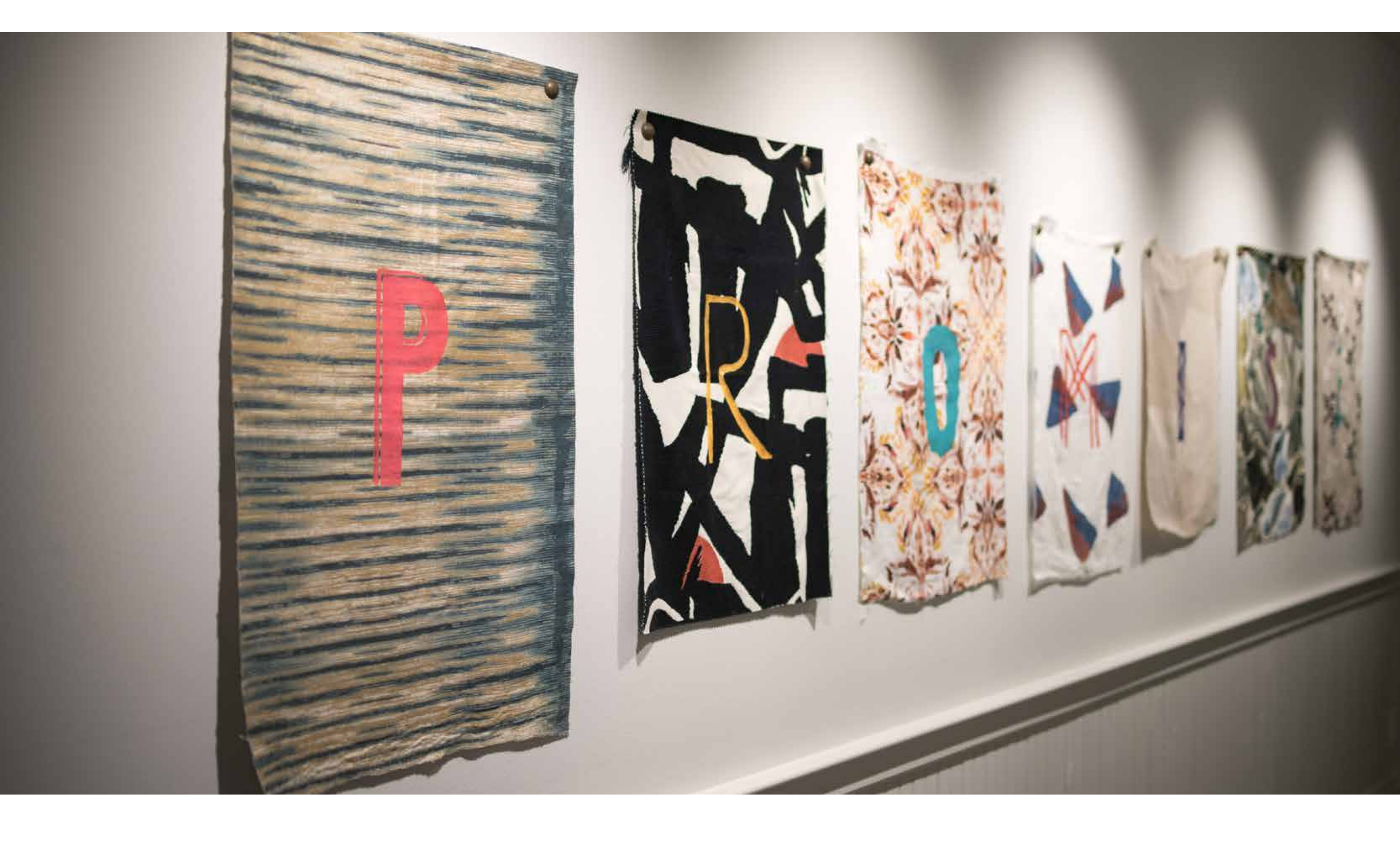


23

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

“Something numbers can’t show is the joy musicians from the [Silkroad] have brought to the Northern Cheyenne students.”

– Jaci Webb, Billings Gazette



Silkroad artists returned to the Northern Cheyenne Reservation in Lame Deer, Montana, a deeply valued partnership since 2011, where Silkroad works together with teachers and students on the ground to explore art as a tool for collaboration across cultures.

Working with indigenous artist Ben Pease and in collaboration with Silkroad artists, students from Lame Deer Junior/Senior High School presented a student art showcase in Billings, MT. This allowed students to engage and connect more deeply with the local Billings community while raising funds and developing the skills to work creatively and collaboratively.

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



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.

REGGIO EMILIA



311

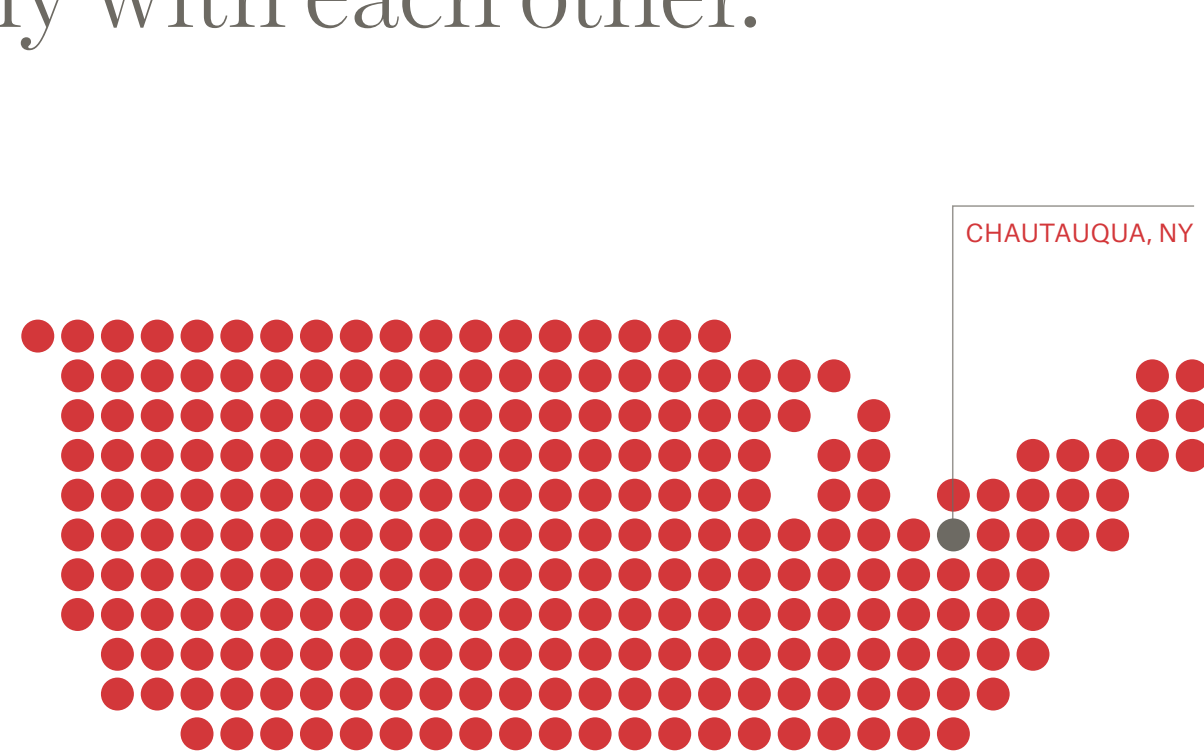
people from Reggio Emilia joined Silkroad over 5 days for 6 workshops, where Silkroad worked with immigrants, survivors of sex trafficking, mothers, teaching artists, pre-schoolers, and high schoolers.



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.

14,617

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



SILKROAD

FINANCES AND SUPPORTERS 2018 - 2019

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DOWNLOAD FULL AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

REVENUE	\$	EXPENSES	\$	STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION	\$
Performance Fees	1,062,720	Program Services	2,729,841	Assets	
Program Income	531,287	General Administration	656,678	Cash	1,197,015
Grants and Contributions	711,037	Fundraising	397,030	Grants and Contributions Receivable, Net	862,927
Special Events, Net	56,651	Total Expenses	3,783,549	Other Receivables	137,122
Merchandise Sales	2,113			Prepaid Expenses	45,148
Other Income	18,022			Inventory	3,010
Interest Income	454			Equipment and Improvements, Net	3,442
Net assets released from restrictions	1,538,710			Website development costs, net	14,103
Total Revenue	3,920,994			Total Assets	2,262,767
				Liabilities	
				Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	423,307
				Deferred Revenue	100,000
				Total Liabilities	523,307
				Net Assets	
				Unrestricted, Undesignated	689,547
				Unrestricted, Board Designated	125,461
				Total unrestricted	815,008
				Temporarily Restricted	924,452
				Total Net Assets	1,739,460
				Total Liabilities and Net Assets	2,262,767

Sponsors

Silkroad (The Silk Road Project, Inc.) 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.



Connecting the World's Neighborhoods

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, 2018, and June 30, 2019.

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