



ARTIST
SERIES

The Silkroad Ensemble

Thursday, Jan. 31, 2019

The Silkroad Ensemble

Thursday, Jan. 31, 7:30 p.m.

Program

Caronte Cristina Pato

Ibn Arabi Postlude, from *Ibn Arabi Suite* Kinan Azmeh

Ghanaia Matthias Schmitt

Night Thoughts Wu Man

Migrations Suite

Lamento

Joropo-Festejo

Tanguillo ("The High Seas")

Cristina Pato

Traditional Galician, arr. Edward Perez

Intermission

Tarang ("Currents") Sandeep Das

Duo Mike Block and Wu Man

Air to Air* Osvaldo Golijov

Wah Habbibi ("My Beloved")

Aiini Taqtiru ("My Eyes Weep")

K'in Sventa Ch'ul Me'tik Kwadalupe ("Ritual for the Holy Mother of Guadalupe")

Tancas Serradas a Muru ("Walls are Encircling the Land")

**Silkroad commission*

About Silkroad

Yo-Yo Ma conceived **Silkroad** in 1998 as a reminder that even as rapid globalization resulted in division, it brought extraordinary possibilities for working together. Seeking to understand this dynamic, he began to learn about the historical Silk Road, recognizing in it a model for productive cultural collaboration, for the exchange of ideas and tradition alongside commerce and innovation. And in a radical experiment, he brought together musicians from the lands of the Silk Road to co-create a new artistic idiom, a musical language founded in difference, a metaphor for the benefits of a more connected world.

Today, these Grammy Award-winning artists seek and practice radical cultural collaboration in many forms, creating and presenting new music, teacher and musician training workshops and residency programs in schools, museums and communities.

Silkroad has recorded seven albums. *Sing Me Home*, which won the 2016 Grammy for Best World Music Album, was developed and recorded alongside the documentary feature *The Music of Strangers* from Oscar-winning director Morgan Neville.

Silkroad gratefully acknowledges the support of individuals, foundations and corporations, including the National Endowment for the Arts, the Barr Foundation and Hyosung Corporation.

Ctrip is Silkroad's official sponsor and exclusive travel services provider.

To learn more about Silkroad, please visit silkroad.org on the web and @silkroadproject on social media.

Personnel

The Silkroad Ensemble

Kinan Azmeh, clarinet
 Mike Block, cello
 Shawn Conley, bass
 Sandeep Das, tabla
 Joseph Gramley, percussion
 Kristin Lee, violin
 Cristina Pato, Galician bagpipes and piano
 Shane Shanahan, percussion
 Mazz Swift, violin
 Wu Man, pipa

Production staff

Jody Elff, Sound Engineer
 Ashley Martin, Stage Manager
 Elijah Walker, Monitor Engineer

Tour management

Mary Pat Buerkle, Senior Vice President and Manager, Artists & Attractions, Opus 3 Artists

Silkroad staff

Jeffrey Beecher, Co-Artistic Director
 Eduardo A. Braniff, Executive Director
 Nicholas Cords, Co-Artistic Director
 Hannah Dardashti, Silkroad Associate
 Liz Keller-Tripp, Producer and Artistic Programs Director
 Cristina Pato, Learning Advisor
 Shane Shanahan, Co-Artistic Director
 Jessica Shuttleworth, Manager of Digital
 Jacqueline Worley, Finance Director
 Lori Taylor, Acting Deputy Director

Exclusive management

Opus 3 Artists LLC
 470 Park Ave South
 New York, NY 10016

Tonight's Silkroad artists

Clarinetist **Kinan Azmeh** was trained in his native Damascus and is a graduate of New York's Juilliard School and the City University of New York. He has won international acclaim as a composer, performer, improviser and recording artist in a wide range of musical genres. His discography includes three albums with his ensemble HEWAR, soundtracks for film and dance, a duo album with pianist Dinuk Wijeratne and an album with his New York Arabic/Jazz quartet. Azmeh also champions the contemporary music of Syria as artistic director of the Damascus Festival Chamber Music Ensemble.

Mike Block is a pioneering multi-style cellist, composer and educator living in Boston. Using a cello strap of his own design called the Block Strap, Block is one of the first wave of cellists to stand and move while performing. Block is an active recording artist of original material, folk music and cross-cultural collaborations. He serves as director of Silkroad's Global Musician Workshop and the Mike Block String Camp and is an associate professor at the Berklee College of Music.

Honolulu-born bassist **Shawn Conley** won a position with the Honolulu Symphony while in high school and went on to earn degrees in music performance from Rice University. Conley won the 2009 International Society of Bassists Jazz Competition, was a semifinalist in the Thelonious Monk Jazz Competition and received a Wagoner Fellowship. He has performed with Sting, Peter Gabriel and Emanuel Ax, among many others. He teaches at the Hawaii Contrabass Festival and regularly performs with The Hot Club of Detroit, The NOW Ensemble and The Knights.

Tabla virtuoso **Sandeep Das** is one of the few Indian classical musicians to have collaborated with major symphony orchestras, string quartets and jazz musicians. Das is the founder of HUM (Harmony and Universality through Music), which promotes global understanding through performance and education and provides learning opportunities and scholarships for young, specially-abled artists to empower them to lead self-reliant lives. Das is trained in the centuries-old Indian tradition of Guru-Shishya Parampara, studying and living with his Guru—Pandit Kishan Maharaj—and learning and practicing music as a way of life, more than just an art form. Das has been an artist in residence at universities including Dartmouth, Brandeis, UC Santa Barbara, UC Santa Clara, College of the Holy Cross, The Juilliard School, Berklee School of Music and the University of British Columbia.

Grammy Award-winning multi-percussionist **Joseph Gramley** has performed internationally as a soloist, chamber musician, educator, producer and concert host, and with major symphony orchestras. He has released two solo recordings: *American Deconstruction*, a rendition of five milestone works in the modern multi-percussion canon, and *Global Percussion*. Gramley has played with Silkroad since 2000 and served as Silkroad's first associate artistic director. He is currently associate professor of music and director of percussion studies at the University of Michigan. Gramley directed the Juilliard Summer Percussion Seminar for 17 years and tours with The Knights as well as with organist Clive Driskill-Smith in the duo Organized Rhythm. He has performed with artists ranging from Elton John to Renee Fleming and Cristina Pato to Wu Man and has collaborated with musicians worldwide.

Recipient of a 2015 Avery Fisher Career Grant, as well as a top prizewinner of the 2012 Walter W. Naumburg Competition and Astral Artists' 2010 National Auditions, **Kristin Lee** is a violinist of remarkable versatility and impeccable technique who enjoys a vibrant career as a soloist, recitalist, chamber musician and educator. She has appeared with top orchestras

such as The Philadelphia Orchestra, St. Louis Symphony, New Jersey Symphony, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, the Ural Philharmonic of Russia and the Korean Broadcasting Symphony; and in recital on many of the world's finest stages including Carnegie Hall, David Geffen Hall, Kennedy Center, Kimmel Center, Phillips Collection, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Louvre Museum, Korea's Kumho Art Gallery and the Ravinia Festival. An accomplished chamber musician, she is a member of The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center and Camerata Pacifica and has appeared at Music@Menlo, La Jolla Festival, Medellín Festicámara of Colombia and the El Sistema Chamber Music festival of Venezuela, among others. Born in Seoul, Lee moved to the United States to study under Sonja Foster and soon after entered The Juilliard School's Pre-College. She holds a master's degree from The Juilliard School under Itzhak Perlman. She is a member of the faculty of the Aaron Copland School of Music at Queens College and the co-founder and artistic director of Emerald City Music in Seattle.

Cristina Pato is a master of the Galician bagpipes (*gaita*), a classical pianist and a passionate educator. Hailed as “a virtuosic burst of energy” by The New York Times, her professional life is devoted to cultural exchange and forging new paths for the Galician bagpipe. Pato has performed on major stages throughout the world and has released and produced six solo *gaita* albums and two solo piano recordings and collaborated on more than 40 albums as a guest artist. Education is a critical part of Pato's personal and professional life. She serves as one of Silkroad's learning advisors; has been an artist-in-residence at a number of universities, including Harvard and UC Santa Barbara; is the founder of the multidisciplinary Galician Connection Festival; and writes a weekly column for the Spanish newspaper *La Voz de Galicia*. Pato holds a Doctorate of Musical Arts from Rutgers University, degrees in piano, music theory and chamber music from the Conservatorio de Musica del Liceu and a Master of Fine Arts from the Universitat Pompeu Fabra.

Percussionist, composer and arranger **Shane Shanahan** has combined his studies of drumming traditions from around the world with his background in jazz, rock and Western art music to create a unique, highly sought-after style. He is one of Silkroad's inaugural co-artistic directors; has performed with Bobby McFerrin, James Taylor, Aretha Franklin, Philip Glass, Alison Krauss, Chaka Khan and Deep Purple, among others; and has appeared at the White House, playing for President and First Lady Obama. He frequently hosts workshops and clinics at the world's leading universities and museums and collaborates actively with the dance, theater and yoga communities in the New York area, including several stints on Broadway.

Violin/Vox/Freestyle Composition artist **Mazz Swift** is critically acclaimed as one of America's most talented and versatile performers today, engaging audiences worldwide with her signature weaving of composition and improvisation called MazzMuse. Aside from full-time work as a performer, Swift is a composer and educator. Her works include commissions by The Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity, The University of Delaware, Neues Kabarett (through grants by The Argosy Foundation and Meet-the-Composer), The Canales Project, The New Harmony Music School & Festival and the Blaffer Foundation. Several of her pieces for atypical chamber ensemble have been performed live and replayed on National Public Radio. Swift has performed and taught workshops on free improvisation on six continents, most notably having traveled to Suriname, Mozambique, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Cameroon, Senegal, Albania and Siberia as a cultural ambassador at the invitation of the United States Department of State. She is also a teaching artist with Carnegie Hall's “Future Music” and “Lullaby” programs, where she coaches an ensemble of talented teens from every corner of New York City, writes lullabies with incarcerated mothers and mothers-to-be and leads professional development

sessions for symphony orchestra members and their students. Swift sits on the artistic board for the Jersey City-based chamber music collective Con Vivo and is also a proud performing member of that organization. Two of her compositions are featured on Con Vivo's full length CD, *Modern Dances*, one of which is a piece dedicated to the memory of Trayvon Martin and his family, titled "Invisible." She released her first CD as bandleader (*MazzMuse: The Band*) in 2014 and is currently working on a solo CD: *Solo MazzMuse*.

Pipa virtuoso and composer **Wu Man** is an ambassador of Chinese music, creating a new role for her lute-like instrument in both traditional and contemporary music. Brought up in the Pudong school of pipa playing, Wu Man became the first person to receive a master's degree in pipa performance from the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing. She is a frequent collaborator with the Kronos Quartet and Shanghai Quartet and has performed in recital and as soloist with major orchestras around the world, regularly premiering new works. Wu Man has recorded more than 40 albums, five of which have been nominated for Grammy Awards. She was named Musical America's 2013 Instrumentalist of the Year, but the best measure of her achievement is that her instrument, which dates back 2000 years, is no longer an exotic curiosity.

Upcoming events



Batsheva Dance Company

"Venezuela" by Ohad Naharin

Wednesday, March 20, 7:30 p.m.

Macky Auditorium · Starting at \$34

Israel's foremost contemporary dance company, revered worldwide for its cutting-edge work, visits Boulder for the first time. Artistic Director Ohad Naharin's transfixing piece "Venezuela" brings together rap, Gregorian chant, Argentine tango and the choreographer's signature Gaga language research.



CU World Music Ensembles

Latin American Ensemble

Tuesday, April 9, 7:30 p.m.

Grusin Music Hall · Free admission

West African Highlife Ensemble

Saturday, April 13, 7:30 p.m.

Grusin Music Hall · Free admission

Japanese Ensemble

Sunday, April 14, 2 p.m.

Grusin Music Hall · Free admission

CURIOSITY. CREATIVITY. GENEROSITY. PASSION.

The same qualities that make a performance great can build a more hopeful world.

Learn more about Silkroad's work to spark passion-driven learning and radical cultural collaboration in communities around the world at silkroad.org.



“Arts are about opening up to possibility. Possibility links to hope. **We all need hope.**”

– Kojiro Umezaki, Silkroad Artist

We are grateful to our friends and partners who believe that by embracing our differences, we enrich our humanity.



Kodo One Earth Tour 2019

Evolution

Saturday, Feb. 16, 7:30 p.m.
Macky Auditorium

Starting at \$23 at cupresents.org
Tickets limited

Discounts for groups, youth, seniors, students and
CU employees at cupresents.org/discounts



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