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SAN FRANCISCO CONSERVATORY STUDENT TO JOIN YO-YO MA ON THE SILK ROAD

Guitarist Jonathan Mendle will Play on Silk Road Ensemble's Upcoming Tour

When Grammy Award-winning guitarist and San Francisco Conservatory of Music faculty member **Sérgio Assad** was unable to join superstar cellist Yo-Yo Ma and his Silk Road Ensemble for an upcoming tour leg, he was asked to recommend one of his students to fill the chair. Now Conservatory guitarist **Jonathan Mendle** will be joining the ensemble for their August tour, which will include concerts in Philadelphia, Detroit, Cleveland and the Tanglewood Music Center, among others.

Jonathan Mendle began studying the guitar at the age of 12, and received his M.M. from the Conservatory in May. "When I first got the email from Silk Road," he says, "I couldn't believe it...in a lot of ways I still can't. I'm excited for this opportunity and grateful to Sergio for all that he has taught me, and for preparing me to make the most of an opportunity like this."

Jon's most recent appearance at the Conservatory was as soloist in the guitar concerto by Heitor Villa-Lobos with the Conservatory Orchestra on May 1. In 2005, as a second-year student, he was the only undergraduate selected by audition to perform at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall in a concert presented by the Conservatory's guitar department. Jon performed his own transcription of Bach's *Tocatta and Fugue in D Minor*, which Jim Tosone of *Guitar Review* magazine called "a monumental work, performed with a great deal of poise."

Jon received a B.M. degree in guitar performance in 2007 from the Conservatory, where he studied with Lawrence Ferrara, Marc Teicholz, David Tanenbaum and Dušan Bogdanović. His first teacher was Matthew Grasso. He has participated in master classes by guitarists James

Kline, David Russell, Carlos Barbosa-Lima, William Kanengiser, Miroslav Tadic and lutenist Nigel North. He has also studied the classical music of North India, which is part of the Silk Road Ensemble's musical territory, although Jon says the repertoire on this leg of the Silk Road tour is primarily Chinese. His primary instrument for solo performances is an 11-string Archguitar (a hybrid of the Renaissance and Baroque lutes, 19th-century guitar and modern guitar) built in 2007 by Alan Perlman of San Francisco. For ensemble performances or more harmonically challenging modern works, he uses a modern guitar.

The Silk Road Ensemble with Yo-Yo Ma (with guitarist Jonathan Mendle) will appear at the following music festivals:

- August 8: Lenox, MA - Tanglewood Music Center, Koussevitzky Music Shed
- August 9: New Bedford, MA - Zeiterion Theatre
- August 11: Philadelphia, PA - Mann Music Center
- August 12: Rochester, NY - CMAC Performing Arts Center
- August 14: Cleveland, OH - Blossom Music Center
- August 15: Detroit, MI - Orchestra Hall
- August 17: Chapel Hill, NC - Memorial Auditorium, UNC Chapel Hill
- August 19: Milwaukee, WI - Pabst Theater
- August 20: Highland Park, IL - Ravinia Festival, Ravinia Pavilion
- August 22: Madison, WI - Overture Center for the Arts

About San Francisco Conservatory of Music:

Founded in 1917, the San Francisco Conservatory of Music is the oldest conservatory in the American West and has earned an international reputation for producing musicians of the highest caliber. Notable alumni include Yehudi Menuhin, Isaac Stern, Jeffrey Kahane and Aaron Jay Kernis, among others. The Conservatory offers its more than 400 collegiate and graduate students fully accredited bachelor's and master's degree programs in composition and instrumental and vocal performance. Its Preparatory Division provides exceptionally high standards of musical excellence and personal attention to more than 550 younger students. The Conservatory's faculty and students give more than 400 public performances each year, most of which are offered to the public at no charge. Formerly located at 19th Avenue and Ortega Street in San Francisco's Sunset District, the Conservatory moved to its new home in the heart of San Francisco's Civic Center in 2006. The new school is an architectural and acoustical masterwork for the Conservatory's second century. Its Caroline H. Hume Concert Hall was lauded by the *New York Times* as the "most enticing classical-music setting" in the San Francisco Bay Area. For more information, visit www.sfcm.edu.