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PRESS RELEASE

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Yo-Yo Ma, Alim Qasimov, and the Silk Road Ensemble To Give a Concert in Baku

The U.S. Embassy is pleased to announce that world-renowned cellist Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble will visit Baku this week. While here, the group, which includes mugam singer Alim Qasimov and other talented Azerbaijani musicians, will conduct master classes and workshops, including a brief presentation at the Baku Music Academy at 4:00 pm on May 17, and will give a concert at the Azerbaijan State Philharmonic at 7:00 pm on May 19. A limited number of tickets for the May 19th concert will be available for purchase beginning on May 16 from the Initiative Centre for Contemporary Music – Ensemble SoNoR at 050 317 8255 or 050 344 3325 and sonor@azdata.net or sonor_iccm@yahoo.com. The proceeds from these ticket sales will go to SoNoR and will be used to help finance a future music program.

The Silk Road Project is a not-for-profit arts organization founded in 1998 by cellist Yo-Yo Ma, who serves as its artistic director, and led by Laura Freid, executive director and CEO. The Silk Road Project promotes collaboration and a sense of community among institutions, artists, and audiences who share a fascination with the transcultural artistic imagination symbolized by the ancient Silk Road. For more information, please visit the Silk Road Project web site: www.silkroadproject.org.

This visit by Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Project is being sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Embassy. The Ford Motor Company is a Global Corporate Partner to the Silk Road Project. Support for the Silk Road Ensemble's Baku program has also been provided by the Azerbaijan Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the Old Mill Cafe, Hyatt Hotels Baku, Mike Hoomani, Vahid Kooros, and Oxus Energy.