

# THE IMPACT OF **SILKROAD'S** AMERICAN RAILROAD

*"I feel more open to the universe. So original, unique and stirring. Thank you for the gift of music in its rarest, most vibrant form."*

*- American Railroad Concert Attendee*



Thanks to your generosity, Silkroad is flying to new heights with *American Railroad*, creating a positive impact across borders through the arts by bringing music, educational opportunities, hope, and healing to communities where resources are few.

**Your support makes it possible for Silkroad to uplift and amplify diverse cultural contributions**, sharing music that draws on a rich tapestry of traditions, and demonstrating how great beauty can emerge from great difference.

## SEE AMERICAN RAILROAD

### ***American Railroad 2024 Fall Tour:***

*Silkroad Ensemble with Rhiannon Giddens*

**Nov 7:** Chicago, IL

**Nov 8:** Ann Arbor, MI

**Nov 10:** Nashville, TN

**Nov 12:** Rogers, AR

**Nov 14:** Greenville, SC

**Nov 16:** Atlanta, GA

**Nov 17:** Athens, GA

**Nov 19:** Charleston, SC

**Nov 20:** Chapel Hill, NC

**Nov 23:** Brooklyn, NY

**CLICK HERE  
TO BUY  
YOUR  
TICKETS  
TODAY!**

***“I hope audiences will leave these performances with a clearer sense of where we come from, how we got here, what it cost us - and that we collectively reflect on where we're headed.”***

- Rhiannon Giddens, Artistic Director

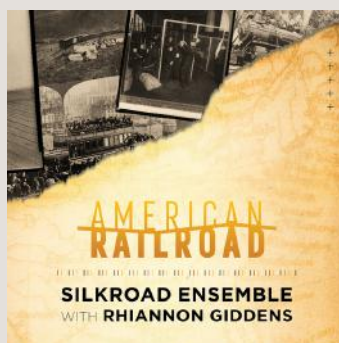


## NEW ALBUM RELEASE

*American Railroad*, a new album from the Silkroad Ensemble with Rhiannon Giddens, will be released **November 15** by Nonesuch Records, available to pre-order now.

The album is the culmination of four years of research, collaboration, and music-making, having brought Silkroad artists all across the United States to uncover and uplift the stories of those who built the transcontinental railroad and connecting railways across North America.

The first single, Artistic Director Rhiannon Giddens' breathtaking arrangement of "Swannanoa Tunnel / Steel-Driving Man," is available now. **Listen to the single above, or pre-order the album [here](#).**



# A YEAR IN REVIEW

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## AMERICAN RAILROAD LIVE

From intimate gatherings to large concert halls, Silkroad's *American Railroad* program engaged over **12,000** people nationwide this year. Touring to **nine cities**, *American Railroad* performances featured three newly-commissioned works by:

- Jazz artist **Cécile McLorin Salvant**,
- Oglála Lakhóta composer **Suzanne Kite**,
- Silkroad artist and renowned pipa player **Wu Man**,
- As well as reenvisioned arrangements by **Rhiannon Giddens** and Silkroad artists **Haruka Fujii**, **Mazz Swift**, and **Maeve Gilchrist**.

*“Keep making your music, you are a legend and an inspiration for many of us.”*

*- American Railroad Concert Attendee*

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## SOCIAL IMPACT

Beyond the stage, Silkroad artists are catalysts for change, creating programs that inspire and uplift communities. While on tour last year, Silkroad artists engaged with:

- **Elementary school students**
- **A carceral community**
- **Osher Lifelong Learning Institute**
- **Middle school students**, who joined behind the scenes for a live soundcheck
- **Over 700 people** at Los Angeles Union Station for a free performance

*“To create and express, to reach out and find a connection with someone in a situation as extreme as this—it was overwhelming.”*

- Silkroad artist Kaoru Watanabe, after an engagement with residents of California State Prison in Lancaster, CA

*Read a full behind-the-scenes interview with Kaoru [here](#).*



# EDUCATION

*American Railroad* has been integral to Silkroad's educational programs, sharing diverse artistic practices.

**Silkroad Connect** worked alongside:

- **441 middle school students** from under-resourced communities
- **Six local historians**
- **Over 1,400 audience members** at four culminating performances



*“Today, there are people who put in the work to make our community better, and it may not seem as big in the big scheme of things, but to us, it means a lot.”*

- 2024 Silkroad Connect Student

Listen to a Silkroad Connect participant from Stockton, CA share his perspective on the lyrics he wrote as a part of Silkroad's residency [here](#).

**Global Musician Workshop hosted:**

- **Two workshops** in Boston, MA and for the first time, in Hangzhou, China
- **100 participants** representing **30 countries**
- **Eight performances** for the public, blending music from India, Mali, the United States, China, Lebanon, and more.



*“This type of respectful, curious and supportive person to person dialog is what our world needs now.”*

- 2024 GMW Hangzhou Participant



**University Residencies and Workshops built:**

- Programs at **eight** universities
- An **online course** on *American Railroad* through George Mason University and 92nd Street Y (NYC) through the Roundtable platform



**Check out the course [here!](#)**



## AMERICAN RAILROAD ON AIR

**PBS Series:** Season 2 of *My Music with Rhiannon Giddens* began airing May 1, sharing the stories behind *American Railroad*. **Stream [here](#)!**

**Podcast Series** (Launching November 14!)

This five-episode journey weaves together music and storytelling, exploring how the railroad's legacy from different regions of the country resonates today. **Check out the trailer [here](#).**

## OUR SHARED FUTURE

Silkroad is eagerly looking ahead to its next major artistic initiative, *Sanctuary: The Power of Resonance and Ritual*, which will explore music as a staple of traditional healing practices around the world. This new lens will capture the essence of what *American Railroad* and Silkroad are all about: **building a more hopeful and inclusive world.**





## **BECOME AN INSTRUMENT OF CHANGE**

Through *American Railroad*, we are resetting the narrative and celebrating diversity. While no small task, we believe in this crucial, exciting work – and we need your support!

**You make our work possible.**

*Join us on our journey today by making a gift to Silkroad securely online [here](#).*

*For questions regarding giving or to learn more about the impact of your gift, please contact Anna Harris, Development Manager at [anna@silkroad.org](mailto:anna@silkroad.org)*



**SILKROAD**