

- Playing music from the east to the west -

OKINA SILKROAD PROJECT

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クールジャパン
プロデューサーコラム



My Passion for the Silk Road

My passion for the Silk Road resulted from 38 years of working in Italy and other parts of Europe, holding art events and acting as a producer for artists. After returning to Japan, I launched the OKINA Silk Road Project, starting with the Magic Bazaar in Kyoto, where I was born and raised. We are promoting projects in various locations to connect Japan and the world, and the past, present and future.

Dedication Performances in Locations Associated with Silk Road culture

The Silk Road, which has brought culture and economic activity through encounters and exchanges with many people, is a road that reaches from the West through the Mediterranean to its terminus in Japan. People from many countries have always interacted and met along the road, and the creation of rich cultures, performing arts and sensibilities has blossomed, serving as an important signpost to the present day. I have, as a producer, been dedicating and performing at Yasaka Shrine, Jonangu Shrine and Toji Temple in Kyoto, Kasuga Taisha Shrine, Todaiji Temple, Kofukuji Temple, Horyuji Temple and Asuka Temple in Nara, Iki and Tsushima Islands, etc. from 2021 to 2023, remembering the times brought about by the Silk Road culture. Coincidentally, last year, 2023, marked the 1200th anniversary of Kukai receiving Toji Temple from Emperor Saga. Our project finally took its longed-for first step towards the continent, with a dedication in South Korea. Finally, this year, 2024, we have entered the China section. We believe that the world is one and that cultural links will lead to world peace through performing arts and the arts, and we hope to continue our journey of dedication from the Silk Road to the Mediterranean.



“Prayers from Ground Zero” Concert, with the Concept of Contemplating Water, Embracing Culture, and Cherishing Peace

Throughout history, when confronted with natural disasters, pandemics, wars and other great difficulties, people have overcome them through the power of culture, the power of art, and through people's solidarity, cooperation and dialogue. One of the symbols of this is the Silk Road. On 27th October 2023, the world-renowned cellist Yo-Yo Ma, who believes that music has the power to connect and unite people, was invited as a special guest to hold a Prayers from Zero concert, with the concept of “contemplating water, embracing culture, and cherishing peace” at Toji Temple, the head temple of the World Heritage Shingon sect.

Yo-Yo Ma founded the Silk Road Project in 1998 to promote research into the cultural, artistic and intellectual traditions that flourished along the ancient Silk Road trade route from the Mediterranean to the Pacific, and to make great strides towards the future of ‘One World’ through music. With the power of the people and cultures of the world, we will weave the warp and weft of exchange and transmit the beautiful fabric ‘One World’ from Japan to the world.

Information

OKINA Silk Road Travel from Xi'an to Dunhuang

Journey from Xi'an to Dunhuang. The tour will visit Yangguan, an important gateway on the Silk Road, and Mogao Grottoes, with their mural paintings and colored Buddhist relics, and will include a sound dedication. If you are interested, please contact Miho Project.

Date: Around March 2025 (tentative)

Planning: Miho Project, Inc. and culture and peace Incorporated Association

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