

AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY 
GLOBAL WEEKENDS

Living in America: Voices of the Silk Road
Saturday, January 16 and Sunday, January 17

The Message Behind the Music
Sunday, February 21





Left to Right: 1) Chinese Theatre Works, © Mickens/AMNH 2) IMPACT Repertory Theatre, © Hubert Williams 3) Kaoru Watanabe, © Akiko Nishimura 4) IMPACT Repertory Theatre, © Hubert Williams

AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

GLOBAL WEEKENDS

Enter the Global Weekends passport raffle: Attend all four Global Weekends for a chance to win a surprise gift from the Museum!

Living in America: Voices of the Silk Road

Saturday, January 16 & Sunday, January 17
Free with Museum admission

In conjunction with the exhibition *Traveling the Silk Road: Ancient Pathway to the Modern World*, this weekend program features performances, conversations, and hands-on activities by folk artists and specialists that demonstrate the cultural arts from today's "voices" of the Silk Road. Experience the contemporary paths of music, arts, textiles and other cultural forms in this event for the entire family.

Saturday, January 16 • Noon–5:00 pm
Grand Gallery, first floor

Cultural Exchange and Conversations



Chinese face painting

Enjoy hands-on activities with **Ming Liang Lu**, folk paper cutter; **Maw-Chyuan Wang**, calligrapher; and members of the **Chinese Theatre Works** who will delight young visitors with face painting. Journey on to hear Arab folktales from **Inea Bushnaq** and observe the intricacies of Arab calligraphy with **Elinor Aisha Holland**. Then discover exquisite textiles from India with **Ingrid Van Shipley**, special spices found along the Silk Road with **Nirmala Narine**, and cultural Central Asian treasures with **Zulya Rajabova**.

Musical Exchange with the Artists

Julian Kytasty, on Ukrainian bandura (stringed instrument of the psaltery family) and **Kaoru Watanabe**, on Japanese fue (flute) and taiko, will perform with other folk musicians, including Tibetan folk singer **Jampa Youden**; Uzbek singer **Muhabat Shamayeva**, who performs Bukharan Jewish music; Kyrgyz traditional musician **Kudabay Avyshov**, who plays a flute used to herd sheep; and Iranian vocalist **Bahram Sadeghian** with **Shahla Nikfal** on qanun.

There are three special opportunities to interact with these artists and their accompanying musicians:

Noon–3:45 pm • Stout Hall of Asian Peoples and Hall of Birds of the World, second floor

Meet the *Voices of the Silk Road* singers and musicians.

Short Talk and Demonstrations • Linder Theater, first floor

1:00 pm Kaoru Watanabe, fue and taiko (Japan)

1:30 pm Muhabat Shamayeva, singer, with Iosif Abramov on tar (string instrument) and Asher Barayev on doire (hand-held drum) with interpreter/manager, Svetlana Levitin (Bukhara, Uzbekistan)

2:00 pm Jampa Youden, singer, accompanied by Dawa Sangpo on danyan (three-stringed instrument) with interpreter Phurbu Dorjee (Tibet)

2:30 pm Bahram Sadeghian, singer, with Shahla Nikfal on qanun and Khashayar Negit on tombak (Persian drum) (Iran)

3:00 pm Julian Kytasty, bandura (Ukraine)

3:30 pm Kudabay Avyshov, flute (Kyrgyzstan)

Concert with the Voices of the Silk Road singers and musicians
4:00 pm • Kaufmann Theater, first floor



Spices of Bukhara, © Joe Eastern

(Continued)

Sunday, January 17 • Noon–5:00 pm
Kaufmann Theater, first floor

Three companies will perform music, dance, and acrobatics from three unique cultures with ties to the Silk Road.

Noon Tenri Gagaku Music Society of New York will present a program of Gagaku, the oldest traditional orchestral music with roots in the Silk Road period. Gagaku



© George Hirose

comprises music and dance traditions that flourished in southeast Asia and China during the Tang Dynasty (AD 618-907) and was preserved for centuries in Japan. The program will introduce Gagaku and ensemble instruments, Chinese poetry, vocal music, and dance.


2:00 pm Chinese Theatre Works's performance will feature music, acrobatics, and dance that reflect the culture of the Tang Dynasty, which developed along the eastern end of the Silk Road and are still performed today. The program will feature the ever-popular Ribbon Dance, created in the early 20th century by Chinese opera master Mei Lan Fang, who was inspired by images of floating Buddhist goddesses and fairies found on murals in the Dunhuang Caves along the Silk Road in western China.



Maqam, photo: Courtesy of Maqam

4:00 pm Bukharan Jewish music ensemble **Maqam** plays in the Central Asian music style of *shashmaqam*, incorporating vocal performance and stringed and percussion instruments. Maqam's broad repertoire includes songs based on Sufi love poems, rousing wedding dances, and mournful religious songs. Originally from Uzbekistan, the group is now based in Queens, New York.

For details, please call 212-769-5315 or visit amnh.org/livingvoices.

 Living in America: Voices of the Silk Road is supported, in part, by the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency.

The ancient Silk Road's trading routes promoted the exchange of ideas, arts, and goods among different peoples. In that spirit, this year's Global Weekends series will highlight contemporary cultural traditions and influences from varying perspectives through four programs: *Living in America: Voices of the Silk Road*; *The Message Behind the Music*; *From the Motherlands to El Barrio: New York's Latino Immigrant Experience*; and *Bollywood and Anime in America*.

The Message Behind the Music

Sunday, February 21
Free with Museum admission

The Message Behind the Music celebrates African-American History Month with an exploration of the transformative power of song and the shifting cultural influences that drive musical styles.

"Raise It Up!"

Performance • 1:00–2:00 pm, Kaufmann Theater, first floor

Since its inception in 1997, IMPACT Repertory Theatre has used the power of music and the creative arts to nurture and empower more than a thousand young people to assume leadership socially, academically, and culturally, a mission echoed in their name. In 2008, IMPACT was nominated for an Academy Award for the song *Raise It Up*, which was featured in the film *August Rush*. Their performance will be accompanied by jazz musician **Joey Morant**.



Obediah Wright, © Mickens/AMNH

"Wake Up Everybody"

Performance • 2:15–3:15 pm
Kaufmann Theater, first floor

Heralded as musical prophets with roots in the survival of the African-American family and community, award-winning musicians

Kenneth Gamble and Leon Huff capture the fervor of the Civil Rights Movement. In 1971, this phenomenal duo founded Philadelphia International Records, writing and producing more than 170 gold and platinum records. Artistic Director and Choreographer **Obediah Wright** will present a corps of dancers and singers in a retrospective tribute to Gamble & Huff featuring classics from the Sound of Philadelphia songbook.

"Lift Every Voice..."

Performance • 3:30–5:00 pm
Kaufmann Theater, first floor

Artistic Director and Broadway actor **James Stovall** will present excerpts from his original work, "Rivers Run Deep: The Paul Robeson Story." Robeson, son of an escaped slave, became one of the most revered Americans in the world as an athlete, scholar, actor-singer, and activist who championed world peace, justice, and civil rights. With songs such as "Steal Away" and "We Shall Overcome," which became an international anthem for human rights movements, spirituals and hymns created by African-Americans reflect a history of struggle for freedom and human rights. **June E. Townes & Gospera** is a dynamic ensemble of exquisite singers. They will perform classic Negro spirituals and traditional inspirational music as they have done to great acclaim for local and national audiences.

For details, please call 212-769-5315 or visit amnh.org/blackhistory.

The Message Behind the Music is co-produced by Community Works, an arts and education nonprofit organization founded 20 years ago, and New Heritage Theatre Group, the oldest nonprofit black theatre company in New York, currently under the artistic direction of James Stovall.



Courtesy of the Schomburg Center Collection

RELATED EXHIBITION AT AMNH

*Traveling the Silk Road:
Ancient Pathway to the Modern World*
Through August 15



Children with electronic interactive map of the Silk Road, © Finnin/AMNH

The exhibition *Traveling the Silk Road* transports visitors back to one of the greatest trading routes in human history, showcasing the goods, peoples, technologies, and cultures from four representative cities: Xi'an, China's Tang Dynasty capital; Turfan, a thriving oasis; Samarkand, city of merchants; and ancient Baghdad, a hub of scholarship and commerce.

For more information, please visit amnh.org/silkroad.

The Presenting Sponsor of *Traveling the Silk Road* is [MetLife Foundation](http://metlifefoundation.org).

Additional support has been provided by **Mary and David Solomon**.

The Silk Road Project residency is generously supported by **Rosalind P. Walter**.

UPCOMING GLOBAL WEEKENDS

*From the Motherlands to El Barrio:
New York's Latino Immigrant Experience*
Saturday and Sunday, March 20 and 21

The story of the ancient Silk Road is, in part, a story of immigration and of the cultural exchange that occurs at the border of immigrant communities. This family-friendly event focuses on Latino communities in New York City, drawing parallels to immigrant experiences around the world.

Bollywood and Anime in America
Saturday and Sunday, April 17 and 18

Much like the ancient Silk Road, today's social media promotes cultural exchange. One instructive example of such global exchange is the spread of India's Bollywood films and Japanese anime throughout the world. Discover how and why these forms have been quickly embraced by American pop culture with **Dr. Madhulika Khandelwal**, director of the Asian/American Center at Queens College, and **Taeko Baba**, president of event media company New York-Tokyo.



© 2005–2006 BONES/BANDAI



Coalitue Theater Company; photo: Courtesy of Coalitue Theater Company

The Global Weekends series is free with suggested Museum admission. Neither tickets nor reservations are required. Seating is limited and is on a first-come, first-served basis.

It is recommended that you arrive in plenty of time to enter the Museum and locate the program spaces. For further information, call the Museum's Department of Education at **212-769-5315** weekdays between **9:00 am** and **5:00 pm**.

The parking garage is open during Museum hours; enter from 81st Street. For public transportation, call **212-769-5100**.

All programs are subject to change.

Support for Global Weekends is made possible, in part, by the May and Samuel Rudin Family Foundation, Inc., the Tolan Family, and the family of Frederick H. Leonhardt.

Flyer Design: Fulcrum Communications, Olga Zhivov