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THREAD

Silk Road Music, Vancouver Inter-Cultural Orchestra & Friends

Saturday December 2, 8pm
(Orpheum) Annex

823 Seymour St. (2nd Level), Vancouver

Tickets (\$20 | \$30 | \$50*): <http://vicothread.bpt.me/>

Information: qxcloud@telus.net | 604-786-1738 | info@vi-co.org

**\$50 ticket includes reserved premium seating & complimentary copy of VICO
"Imagined Worlds" CD*

Two pioneering ensembles in Vancouver's world/intercultural music scene - the **Vancouver Inter-Cultural Orchestra (VICO)** and **Silk Road Music** - weave their talents together to present **THREAD**, a joyful celebration of artistic innovation and musical friendships that span cultures, genres and decades. The concert is timed to mark Silk Road Music's 26th year of creating and presenting Canadian music that fuses Asian sounds with Western/European and other world traditions.

"Both Silk Road and VICO have been on the front lines of multiculturalism in BC and across Canada, fostering cross-cultural collaboration and communication through music," says VICO Artistic Director **Mark Armanini**. "We see ourselves as showcasing a new kind of Canadian identity, one that is diverse and inclusive, yes, but organically so. It grows out of the concrete, painstaking, day-to-day work of building relationships between people and communities, and finding creative ways to talk to each other and work together."

THREAD promises to be an intercultural and multidisciplinary *tour de force*, featuring traditional and modern Chinese and intercultural repertoire, operatic song, and ecstatic contemporary dance, all in the intimate atmosphere of the Orpheum Annex. THREAD showcases a virtuosic who's who of Vancouver-based performers, under the baton of conductor **Janna Sailor: Qiu Xia He** (pipa), **André Thibault** (guitar and oud), **Yun Song** (erhu), **Zhimin Yu** (ruan), **Jill Russell** (flute), **Laurence Mollerup**, (bass), **Liam MacDonald** (percussion), and members of the Vancouver Inter-Cultural Orchestra on violin, viola, cello, oboe, clarinet, French horn, and harp. Vocals will be provided by **Feng Jun Wang** and **Willy Miles** with UBC a cappella group **The Undeclared Majors**. Also featured will be renowned dancer **Wen Wei Wang**. The program includes new arrangements created especially for Thread by several remarkable Canadian composers: **Alain Mayrand**, **Ron Hadley**, **Farshid Samandari**, **Jin Zhang**, and **Mark Armanini**.

MORE ABOUT THE FEATURED ENSEMBLES

SILK ROAD MUSIC

As recently as the mid-1990s, stereotypes of Chinese music as atonal and inaccessible dominated "mainstream" North Americans' perceptions of this country's sound. The idea of blending Chinese music with popular Western styles was seen as absurd, if not impossible. Silk Road Music changed all that. The ensemble pioneered the kind of Chinese-Western musical fusions that one now hears in acts ranging from The Sparrow Quartet to Yo Yo Ma's Silk Road project.

At the heart of Silk Road Music is the unstoppable artistic vision of its founder, Qiu Xia He, a one-time music teacher at China's Xian Academy of Music and professional pipa player with the Shaanxi Music and Dance troupe. While performing with the ensemble at the Vancouver Folk Music Festival, she made the dramatic decision to stay in Canada, and was welcomed in by a household of Irish musicians on Hornby Island. It was there that the seeds of her extraordinary cross-cultural musical experimentations were planted. Qiu Xia founded Silk Road Music in 1991 with two other B.C.-based Chinese musicians: erhu player Shirley Yuan and zheng player Li Zhou, later replaced by ruan player Zhimin Yu. From the very beginning, the goal was to create a new musical hybrid born of its members' dual experiences in China and Canada. The ensemble blended Chinese folk and classical music with Celtic, Latin, Arabic, Aboriginal, jazz, and blues music. It developed two exciting educational programs to bring world music to school children, and in 2001, it created a groundbreaking recording and performance project that paired Chinese and European-Canadian vocalists for bilingual duets of Chinese folk songs. Along the way, the group earned a Juno nomination, two West Coast Music Awards, two Canadian Folk Music Award nominations, and countless enthusiastic reviews. www.silkroadmusic.ca

The **Vancouver Inter-Cultural Orchestra (VICO)**, founded in 2001, was one of the first concert orchestras devoted specifically to performing new intercultural music on a grand scale. It is currently one of only a handful of such professional ensembles that exist in the world. The VICO brings together musicians and composers from many cultural and artistic communities in the Greater Vancouver area, including Chinese, Taiwanese, Japanese, Indian, Persian (Iranian), Latin and South American, Vietnamese, African, North American and European to create what has been described as "the United Nations of Music" (CBC Radio), and "music that sounds like Vancouver looks" (The Georgia Straight). The Vancouver Sun has called VICO "a world music super-group."

VICO strives to be a fresh and relevant voice in the contemporary music of our city, our province and our country. The ensemble builds bridges of imagination,

approaching diversity as a fascinating challenge and a creative call to action. Its work is to make connections, between performers and audiences of all ages and backgrounds, across the Lower Mainland, throughout Canada and the world; to create and perform orchestral music that transcends boundaries: cultural, social, political, geographical. Since its inaugural performance in 2001, VICO has developed and performed over 50 new intercultural pieces by ground-breaking Canadian composers.
www.vi-co.org

ONLINE

VICO's YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/user/vicovideo1

Silk Road Music YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/user/silkroadmusic

Special THREAD promo video on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/yGGq3YkPQdE>

VICO on Facebook: www.facebook.com/VancouverInterCulturalOrchestra

Silk Road Music on Facebook: www.facebook.com/qxcloud

VICO on Twitter: @VICOrchestra