

# Charlotte Symphony

## CELLIST WITHOUT BORDERS

After a decade-long absence, Yo-Yo Ma returns to the Queen City in October for his fourth appearance with the Charlotte Symphony. Named the 2009 “Musician of the Year” by *Musical America*, Yo-Yo Ma is considered the world’s greatest living cellist. Here are a few fast facts about the musical superstar.

- Yo-Yo Ma was born in 1955 to Chinese parents living in Paris and soon moved to New York. He began studying the cello at age four.
- He graduated from Harvard University in 1976.
- He is married to Jill Horner, whom he met in the 1970s at the Marlboro Music Festival. The couple has two children, Nicholas and Emily.
- Ma’s discography of more than 75 albums (including 15 Grammy® Award winners) reflects his wide-ranging interests – from Brahms piano trios to Brazilian dances to Appalachian folk tunes. He has collaborated with such diverse musicians as Bobby McFerrin, Emanuel Ax, Ennio Morricone, Itzhak Perlman and John Williams, and is featured on the celebrated soundtracks to *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* and *Memoirs of a Geisha*.
- In 1998, he founded the Silk Road Project, which promotes cultural interchange, presenting multi-media performances of music from around the world.



• Yo-Yo Ma is strongly committed to education and when touring, conducts master classes as well as more informal programs for

students. He has also reached young audiences through appearances on *Arthur*, *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood* and *Sesame Street*.

• His favorite children’s book is *Goodnight Moon*.

• Yo-Yo Ma has received numerous awards, including the Avery Fisher Prize (1978), the Glenn Gould Prize (1999), the National Medal of the Arts (2001), the Dan David Prize (2006), the Sonning Prize

(2006) and the World Economic Forum’s Crystal Award (2008).

• Yo-Yo Ma was appointed a CultureConnect Ambassador by the United States Department of State in 2002 and has trained and mentored thousands of students worldwide. In 2006 he was named a U.N. Messenger of Peace.

• “It is extraordinary the way people, music and cultures develop. The paths and experiences that guide them are unpredictable. Shaped by our families, neighborhoods, cultures and countries, each of us ultimately goes through this process of incorporating what we learn with who we are and who we seek to become. As we struggle to find our individual voices, I believe we must look beyond the voice we’ve been assigned, and find our place among the tones and timbre of human expression.”

– Yo-Yo Ma, *This I Believe*

Ticket Info

### Yo-Yo Ma with the Charlotte Symphony

Tues. Oct. 27 • 8PM • Belk Theater

704.972.2000 • www.charlottesymphony.org