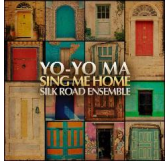


Yo-Yo Ma - Sing Me Home (2016)

Written by bluesever

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1 *Green (Vincent's Tune)* 2 *O'Neill's Cavalry March* 3 *Little Birdie* 4 *Ichichila* 5
Sadila Jana 6 *Shingashi Song* 7 *Madhoushi* 8 *Wedding* 9 *Going Home* 10 *Cabalino*
11 *St. James Infirmary Blues* 12 *If You Shall Return...* 13 *Heart And Soul* Cello –
Yo-Yo Ma + Accordion – Roberto Camesaña Balafon – Balla Kouyate Bagpipes [Gaita] –
Cristina Pato Bass – Shawn Conley, Jeffrey Beecher Bass Drum, Calabash, Caxixi, Rattle,
Scraper – Shane Shanahan Cajón – Mark Suter Cello – Eric Jacobsen Cello, Banjo, Vocals –
Abigail Washburn Clarinet – Kinan Azmeh Drum [Flower Pot] – Joseph Gramley Guitar – Bill
Frisell Kora – Toumani Diabaté Vocals – Roomful Of Teeth Vocals – Sarah Jarosz, Dima
Orsho, Rhiannon Giddens, Gregory Porter, Lisa Fischer Vocals – Black Sea Hotel Fiddle [Irish]
– Martin Hayes Gong [Beijing Opera, Wind], Bells, Cymbal [Chinese], Shaker, Congas, Drum
[Shime-Daiko], Cymbal [Chappa] – Haruka Fujii Hurdy Gurdy [Zanfona], Arranged By – Anxo
Pintos Kamancha [Kamancheh, Shah-Kaman] – Kayhan Kalhor Marimba, Crotales, Bongos,
Tom Tom – Joseph Gramley Piano – Cristina Pato Pipa – Wu Man Shaker – Haruka Fujii
Shakuhachi – Kojiro Umezaki Sheng, Suona, Flute [Bawu], Vocals – Wu Tong Tabla –
Sandeep Das Taiko – Kaoru Watanabe Tambourine - Davíde Salvado Viola – Nicholas Cords
Violin – Colin Jacobsen, Johnny Gandelsman Yangqin – Reylon Yount

The potential buyer encountering this release by Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble is apt to form several mistaken impressions of its contents. From the track list and accompanying description you will learn that it is "the companion album to the Morgan Neville documentary *The Music of Strangers: Yo-Yo Ma and The Silk Road Ensemble*." And the long list of "featured" artists suggests the type of lazy, all-star album famous artists tend to phone in during the later stages of their careers. Neither of these impressions corresponds with the considerable riches here. The music is entirely effective independently of the little-publicized film. And, more importantly, the real "featured artists" here are not the named stars (who skew toward younger members of the new acoustic scene like bluegrass Sarah Jarosz), but the members of the Silk Road Ensemble themselves. The structure of the album, as with so many of the creations of these remarkable artists, is unique. The Silk Road members, and a few visitors, select music of personal significance to them, many of them related in a general way to the theme of home. Then, a guest musician with skills appropriate to the music was added. With a range of source

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material running from Heart and Soul to Mali to the Balkans to East Asia, the resulting fusions are never less than interesting and are often marvelous. Sample the much-recorded St. James Infirmary Blues (track 11) in its unique realization here with accordionist Michael Ward Bergeman (one of the guest Silk Roaders), Chinese yangqin player Reylon Yount, and the wonderful blues-country vocalist Rhiannon Giddens, a border crosser herself. The album gives insights into the histories of the Silk Road players, and indeed into the musical and personal depth that has made this ensemble one for the ages, and its leader a true musical exemplar of our time. ---James Manheim, AllMusic Review

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