



FOR RELEASE ON  
December 28, 2009  
Contact: Meredith Richards  
970.827.4308  
[mrichards@vailmusicfestival.org](mailto:mrichards@vailmusicfestival.org)

### **World-renowned Cellist Yo-Yo Ma Coming to Town**

**Vail, CO**—He performed at President Obama’s Inauguration, he’s one of the best selling recording artists in the classical field, and he’s been entertaining audiences around the globe for 30 years with his awe-inspiring cello playing. His name is Yo-Yo Ma and he’s making his way to town.

Cellist Yo-Yo Ma will perform a recital with pianist Kathryn Stott during the Bravo! Vail Valley Music Festival’s opening night of its 23<sup>rd</sup> season. This will mark Ma’s debut performance in Vail.

This recital takes place June 25, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. at the Gerald R. Ford Amphitheater in Vail. The program starts with Ennio Morricone’s “*Gabriel’s Oboe*” from the film *The Mission*, followed by George Gershwin’s Prelude No. 2 and Cesar Mariano’s “Cristal” and Brahms’ Sonata No. 1 in E Minor for Cello and Piano. Following a short intermission the duo will play British composer Graham Fitkin’s “L,” written for Yo-Yo on the occasion of his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday, and Sergei Rachmaninoff’s Sonata in G minor for Cello and Piano.

Bravo’s artistic director Eugenia Zukerman says the Festival is honored that Yo-Yo Ma and his longtime piano collaborator Kathryn Stott will perform a recital together. Their program includes some of the most thrilling music ever written for cello and piano.

“I’ve known Yo-Yo for more than 30 years, and with all his accolades and fame, he has remained the approachable and modest person he was in his late teens,” says Zukerman. “To hear him play in person is to be transported--don’t miss the journey.”

“With its fine acoustics and natural environment, the Gerald R. Ford Amphitheater is a unique setting in which to experience a live performance by one of the most famous and beloved classical instrumentalists in the world,” says Zukerman.

Tickets go on sale April 5<sup>th</sup> and range from \$40 to \$150 depending on seating preference. To purchase tickets contact the Bravo ticketing department at 970.827.5700 or order online at [www.vailmusicfestival.org](http://www.vailmusicfestival.org).

“We are so fortunate to have this masterful artist appearing in Vail,” says Zukerman.

Ma recently celebrated his 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary with Sony Classical and Sony Masterworks. He has a discography of more than 75 albums including 15 Grammy Award winners.

Yo-Yo Ma's most recent recordings include *Paris: La Belle Époque*, with pianist Kathryn Stott, *Appassionato*, which contains some of the world's most romantic music and *New Impossibilities*, a live album recorded with the Silk Road Ensemble and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra; he also appears on John Williams's soundtrack for Rob Marshall's film *Memoirs of a Geisha*.

All of his recent albums have quickly entered the *Billboard* chart of classical best sellers, remaining in the Top 15 for extended periods, often with as many as four titles simultaneously on the list.

One of Ma's recent career highlights was performing the new John Williams composition, “Air and Simple Gifts” at Barack Obama's inauguration speech. Ma has continued to play for the First family at various events including the G-20 Summit Meeting.

President Obama recently appointed Ma to the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities. Other career highlights include being appointed the first ever creative consultant for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

Kathryn Stott is one of Britain's most versatile and imaginative piano players. She has a long-standing musical relationship with Ma, including their Grammy Award-winning Sony CD *Soul of the Tango* and *Obrigado Brazil*. She travels around the world with Ma performing recitals.

The Bravo! Vail Valley Music Festival celebrates its 23rds season June 25 through August 3, 2010. Another spectacular season of music will feature a recital by Yo-Yo Ma, and the return of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, The Philadelphia Orchestra, and the New York Philharmonic. Relish the artistic excellence of the Festival and its many musicians in the reserved seating sections or relax on the lawn with friends, family, a picnic basket and wine at the Gerald R. Ford Amphitheater.

Enjoy the inspiring sounds of chamber music at the intimate Vail Mountain School, Vilar Performing Arts Center and other Festival venues all throughout the Vail Valley. From instrument petting zoos to intimate soirées; from Tchaikovsky to Broadway Pops, the Festival has it all in the glorious setting of the Rocky Mountains. Bravo! Vail Valley Music Festival...Where Music Happens! For a Festival lineup and to purchase tickets visit [www.vailmusicfestival.org](http://www.vailmusicfestival.org) or call 970.827.5700

###