

For Immediate Release

October 9, 2020



## Grammy® Award-winning Silkroad Ensemble Releases *Falling Out of Time* on In a Circle Records

*The new album features composer Osvaldo Golijov's gripping "tone poem in voices."*

Available exclusively on [Apple Music](#) (digital)  
CD available on [Bandcamp](#) and wherever albums are sold

Boston, MA — Silkroad and In a Circle Records today announced the release of Osvaldo Golijov's *Falling Out of Time*, written for and recorded by his longtime collaborators, the Silkroad Ensemble. The group's recent albums include the Grammy® Award-winning *Sing Me Home* (2016) and the soundtrack for Ken Burns and Lynn Novick's film, *The Vietnam War* (2017).

*Falling Out of Time* is being released on Friday, October 9, 2020. The digital version is available exclusively on [Apple Music](#) and the physical CD on [Bandcamp](#) and wherever albums are sold.

Addressing the new release, Silkroad's founder Yo-Yo Ma shared, "Silkroad's gorgeous new recording of Osvaldo Golijov's latest creation is not to be missed. This transcendent work achieves a remarkable in-between space, one in which each of us can explore the grief and intimacy that no one lives without. *Falling Out of Time* is a reminder to pause and listen to all that we have in common."

Rhiannon Giddens, Silkroad's newly appointed Artistic Director, added, "The first thing I noticed about Silkroad's new recording of Osvaldo Golijov's *Falling Out of Time* was its beauty. As I listened more, I was struck by how deeply rooted this work is—rooted in places, in people, and in relationships. It's rare to hear something that is at once so personal and so interconnected, so specific and so global."

The seed of this musical project was sown at a 2002 encounter between Osvaldo Golijov and Yitzhak Frankenthal, founder of The Parents Circle, an organization of Israelis and Palestinians who have lost family members due to the ongoing conflict. Frankenthal shared the story of a bereaved father who could not reconcile himself to leaving his dead son and reentering the world of time. For many days he remained at his son's side, at night sleeping upon the grave, and narrating with his actions a story of madness and truth.

The seed found soil 12 years later when Golijov read David Grossman's brilliant yet almost unbearable novel about a man who walks—a father who describes with his feet impossible, ever-widening circles driven to go to his dead son. Part play, part poem, and part fable, the book is a journey “out of time” as parents grieve the death of a child, in a quest to comprehend a loss beyond words.

Golijov conceived this 80-minute tone poem in voices for 13 members of the Silkroad Ensemble, the collective whose delicacy of musical expression he describes as like “a harp of a thousand hairs.” In a form that he calls an “epic lament,” and in a voice that draws from the musical and narrative roots of the ballads of Central Asia and early Delta Blues, Golijov gives new expression to the timely notion that, as Edward Hirsch writes in his *New York Times* review of the book, “Grief is democratic. It crosses barriers and strikes at will.”

Golijov said, “When I first read David Grossman's novel, *Falling Out of Time*, I could think of nothing else. I felt I had to set it to music. And I knew the only people who could manifest in sound the infinitely nuanced world of the book are the musicians of the Silkroad Ensemble.”

Over the course of 2017-2019, the composition was workshopped at The Juilliard School in New York City and in the Joyce Contemplative Center at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts, where Golijov has taught since 1991.

*Falling Out of Time* author, David Grossman, described one of the workshops in this way:

“In late January of 2019, I spent three days with Osvaldo and the Silkroad Ensemble in the Joyce Contemplative Center at the College of the Holy Cross. I told the artists gathered there about my son, Uri, who was killed in Israel's war in Lebanon in 2006. His death created this book in me. I named my book *Falling Out of Time*, and the subtitle of the Hebrew edition was ‘A Story in Voices’ because while I wrote I felt that the written work would find its most apt expression when it had a voice. Not only in the reader's internal awareness, but a voice that would be heard outside, in the world. In the Joyce Center's chapel, the book was given that voice. It was granted a new and powerful presence.”

Grossman continued: “In this work by Osvaldo and the wonderful Silkroad Ensemble, I heard the voice of human pain and grief laid bare—the scream of an animal. Osvaldo's music reached me from inside, from a place that has no words and can probably be reached only by music. It embodies a distilled expression of bereavement, bordering on a shout—or on the border

between a shout and utter silence. Because how can one articulate logical, coherent, human speech when the foundations of logic and proper order, the so-called natural order, the order whereby parents should not mourn their children—have foundered?”

He concluded: “Writing this book, and listening to Osvaldo’s music being born, taught me something: it is true that no one knows what hides behind the impenetrable wall of death. But there is one place, or rather one dimension, where we can feel, if only for an instant, both the absolute nihilism of death and the full abundance of life. And that dimension is art. It is literature and poetry, music, theater and cinema, painting, and sculpture. When we are in that place we can sense, concurrently, both the everything and the abysmal void. The negation of life and its affirmation.”

Golijov recently added: “It so happens that we all are, as a world, living in a moment in which the ‘natural’ order of things has been upended. More than ever, we are in need of stories that help us make sense of the broken pieces.”

Due to the pandemic, scheduled performances of *Falling Out of Time* at the Tanglewood Music Festival, Carnegie Hall, and Boston’s Celebrity Series have been postponed to the 2021-2022 season. New dates and more details about these performances will be available at [silkroad.org](http://silkroad.org).

### Track Listing

Heart Murmur	6’12
Night Messengers	8’00
Come Chaos	3’00
Step	3’18
Come, Son	3’50
In Procession	9’04
Pierce the Skies	1’38
Walking	14’43
If You Meet Him	3’05
Fly	4’07
Go Now	13’37
Ayeka (Where Are You?)	5’55
Breathe	3’13

### The Silkroad Ensemble

Biella da Costa	Woman, later Woman Atop Belfry
Nora Fischer	Centaur
Wu Tong	Man, later Walking Man
Dan Brantigan	Trumpet, Flugelhorn
Shawn Conley	Acoustic Bass, Electric Fretless Bass
Nicholas Cords	Viola
Jeremy Flower	Guitar, Modular Synthesizer
Johnny Gandelsman	Violin
Kayhan Kalhor	Kamancheh, Shah Kaman

Karen Ouzounian	Cello
Shane Shanahan	Percussion, Drum Set
Mazz Swift	Violin
Wu Man	Pipa
Wu Tong	Sheng
Jaime Haddad	Additional Percussion (Track 6)

## Credits

### *Falling Out of Time*

A Tone Poem in Voices

by Osvaldo Golijov

Performed by the Silkroad Ensemble

Commissioned by Silkroad

Text adapted by Osvaldo Golijov from the novel by David Grossman

Translation from Hebrew by Jessica Cohen

Sung in Hebrew & English

## Production Credits

Recorded at The Barns at Wolf Trap, Vienna VA on November 15 and 16, 2019

Recorded at the Moss Arts Center, Virginia Tech on November 17, 2019 in the Street & Davis

Performance Hall, Anne & Ellen Fife Theatre, Blacksburg, VA

Edited at Ootermind Studio, NYC & Bass Alley Studio, NH (March-June 2020)

Mixed at Studio K, NYC (June 2020)

Mastered at Zampol Productions, NY (June 2020)

Recording Engineers	Jody Elff, Kevin Killen
Editing Engineer	Alex Venguer
Mixing Engineer	Kevin Killen
Mastering Engineer	Oscar Zambrano
Producer	Johnny Gandelsman
Producer	Jeremy Flower
Executive Producer	Cristin Canterbury Bagnall

Artwork	Mary Frank, courtesy of the artist and DC Moore Gallery, NYC
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Art Design	Christopher Kornmann for Spit + Image
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For Silkroad

Anthony Barbir, Deputy Director

Kathy Fletcher, Executive Director

Rhiannon Giddens, Artistic Director

Adam Gurczak, Artistic Programs Coordinator

Liz Keller-Tripp, Producer and Artistic Programs Director

Jessica Shuttleworth, Director of Marketing

## About the Collaborators

**David Grossman**'s books have been translated into more than 30 languages. He is the 2017 recipient of the Man Booker Prize and the 2018 recipient of the Israel Prize for Literature.

A recipient of the Guggenheim Fellowship and the MacArthur "genius" Fellowship, **Oswaldo Golijov** has enjoyed collaborations with some of the world's leading chamber music ensembles such as the Kronos Quartet and the St. Lawrence String Quartet, in addition to relationships with artists such as Yo-Yo Ma, Dawn Upshaw, and Robert Spano. In 2000, the premiere of Golijov's *La pasión según San Marcos* (St. Mark Passion) took the music world by storm. The Boston Globe called it "the first indisputably great composition of the 21st century." Golijov has also received acclaim for other groundbreaking works such as his opera *Ainadamar* and the clarinet quintet *The Dreams and Prayers of Isaac the Blind*, as well as music he has written for the films of Francis Ford Coppola.

Inspired by the exchange of ideas and traditions along the historical Silk Road, cellist Yo-Yo Ma established **Silkroad** in 1998 to explore how the arts can advance global understanding. Since 2000, the musicians of the Grammy Award-winning Silkroad Ensemble have been central to Silkroad's mission. Representing a global array of cultures, the artists of the Ensemble draw on the rich tapestry of traditions from around the world that make up our many-layered contemporary identities, weaving together the foreign and familiar to create a new musical language. Earlier this year, celebrated singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Rhiannon Giddens was named the new Artistic Director of Silkroad.

As a producer, **Johnny Gandelsman**'s credits include 2 albums with the Silkroad Ensemble and Yo-Yo Ma, the Grammy-winning *Sing Me Home* (Sony 2016) and *Music for The Vietnam War*, a film by Ken Burns and Lynn Novick (In a Circle, 2017). Currently, Johnny is producing music for two forthcoming films by Ken Burns and Lynn Novick for PBS.

**In a Circle Records**' recent releases include Brooklyn Rider's *Healing Modes*, Sandeep Das and HUM Ensemble's *Delhi to Damascus*, and Christina Courtin's *Situation Station*. Music from the In a Circle Records catalogue is also featured in Ward Serrill's film, *The Bowmakers*, which tells the story of the hope and beauty of the "silent servant" of the music world—the bow.

To learn more about *Falling Out of Time*, please visit [silkroad.org/time-about](http://silkroad.org/time-about).

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