



## American Repertory Theater

LOEB DRAMA CENTER  
64 brattle street,  
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cambridge, ma 02138

[americanrepertorytheater.org](http://americanrepertorytheater.org)

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**INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED SILKROAD ENSEMBLE  
REUNITES TO PREMIERE  
“PHOENIX RISING”  
NOVEMBER 19 - 21, 2021  
AT AMERICAN REPERTORY THEATER**

**GRAMMY AWARD WINNER RHIANNON GIDDENS  
MAKES HER PERFORMANCE DEBUT AS SILKROAD ARTISTIC DIRECTOR  
IN CONCERT FEATURING 25 SILKROAD ARTISTS**

Three Nights Only – [Tickets on Sale Now](#)

[IMAGES FOR DOWNLOAD](#)

**Cambridge, MA—American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.) at Harvard University and Silkroad** announced today that tickets are now on sale for the premiere of *Phoenix Rising*, a new production celebrating rebirth with more than twenty-five Silkroad artists and the debut performance of Silkroad Artistic Director Rhiannon Giddens. *Phoenix Rising* will be performed at the Loeb Drama Center in Harvard Square on November 19, 20, and 21, 2021.

Tickets from \$25 are now available at [AmericanRepertoryTheater.org/PhoenixRising](http://AmericanRepertoryTheater.org/PhoenixRising). See below for the performance schedule and additional ticketing information.

Silkroad Ensemble reunites to debut *Phoenix Rising*, a musical rebirth and celebration featuring more than twenty-five Silkroad artists alongside Artistic Director and Grammy Award-winning musician and vocalist Rhiannon Giddens. Silkroad offers *Phoenix Rising* as a collective grieving song and a clarion call, uniting audiences through varied cultural experiences to create a more peaceful and just world as we emerge from a long and stunning upheaval.



As a performer, composer, and cross-cultural connector, Rhiannon Giddens has pursued a lifelong mission to shine light on previously under-recognized voices, genres, and musical traditions. Her performance with the Silkroad Ensemble in ***Phoenix Rising*** will be her first since beginning her tenure as Artistic Director of the organization, which was founded by cellist and humanitarian Yo-Yo Ma in 1998.

“We are thrilled to collaborate with A.R.T for the debut of ***Phoenix Rising***, and I’m especially excited to finally be reunited (and in most cases, just ol’ plain united!) with my colleagues and friends in the Silkroad Ensemble,” says Silkroad Artistic Director Rhiannon Giddens. “The last eighteen months have tested our physical and mental strength in unfathomable ways, but we have proven our resilience of mind and spirit time and time again. ***Phoenix Rising*** recognizes this challenging time in our collective history, while also celebrating our ability to endure and come together in the midst of pain and hardship.”

Silkroad and Giddens have collaborated on new works that coalesce her unique worldview with the Ensemble’s collective experience during the pandemic to put together a program that features a cross-section of Silkroad’s award-winning compositions and arrangements; four major new commissions by Silkroad artists Shawn Conley, Sandeep Das, Maeve Gilchrist, and Kaoru Watanabe; and new arrangements by Giddens, Colin Jacobsen, Edward Pérez, and Mazz Swift.

Boston and Cambridge audiences familiar with Silkroad through its residency at Harvard University and the Ensemble’s numerous local appearances including at A.R.T.’s OBERON will get the first look at ***Phoenix Rising*** before the program tours the United States in 2022.

Silkroad’s ***Phoenix Rising*** is made possible thanks, in part, to the generous support of the **Alice L. Walton Foundation**, the **Barr Foundation**, and the **MAP Fund**. Generous underwriting of Silkroad is provided, in part, by **The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation**.

American Repertory Theater 2021/22 Programming support is provided by **Harvard University, The Bob and Alison Murchison New Work Development Fund, The Shubert Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, Massachusetts Cultural Council, Bank of America, Barton & Guestier, Meyer Sound, and JetBlue**. A.R.T. 2021/22 Programming is dedicated to the memory of Karen Mueller in recognition of her many contributions to the theater.

## **PERFORMANCE AND TICKETING INFORMATION**

### **Performance Times:**

- Friday, November 19 at 7:30PM
- Saturday, November 20 at 7:30PM
- Sunday, November 21 at 2PM

**Tickets from \$25** are available at [AmericanRepertoryTheater.org/PhoenixRising](https://AmericanRepertoryTheater.org/PhoenixRising). Discounts are available to students and ticket buyers under age 25, Blue Star families, EBT card holders, seniors, Harvard faculty and staff, and others. More information at [AmericanRepertoryTheater.org/PlanYourVisit](https://AmericanRepertoryTheater.org/PlanYourVisit).

**Audience, artist, and staff safety is A.R.T.'s top priority.** The theater is taking many steps to protect against COVID-19. Enhanced ventilation, universal masking, vaccination, and testing are critical cornerstones of our multi-layered mitigation efforts that prioritize the safety of our community. Visit A.R.T.'s website for a full list of current ticketing and attendance protocols and procedures: [AmericanRepertoryTheater.org/Covid19Protocols](https://AmericanRepertoryTheater.org/Covid19Protocols).

A limited number of press tickets are available. Please contact [Rebecca.Curtiss@harvard.edu](mailto:Rebecca.Curtiss@harvard.edu) for details.

## **ABOUT SILKROAD**

Yo-Yo Ma conceived Silkroad in 1998, recognizing the historical Silk Road as a model for radical cultural collaboration—for the exchange of ideas, tradition, and innovation across borders. In an innovative experiment, he brought together musicians from the lands of the Silk Road to co-create a musical language founded in difference, thus creating the foundation of Silkroad: both a touring ensemble comprised of world-class musicians from all over the globe and a social-impact organization working to make a positive impact across borders through the arts. Today, under the leadership of Artistic Director Rhiannon Giddens, Silkroad leads social impact initiatives and educational programming alongside the creation of new music by the Grammy Award-winning Silkroad Ensemble. For more information, please visit [Silkroad.org](https://Silkroad.org).

## **ABOUT AMERICAN REPERTORY THEATER**

The American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.) at Harvard University is a leading force in the American theater, producing groundbreaking work that is driven by risk-taking and passionate inquiry. A.R.T. was founded in 1980 by Robert Brustein, who served as Artistic Director until 2002, when he was succeeded by Robert Woodruff. Diane Paulus began her tenure as Artistic Director in 2008.

*A.R.T. acknowledges that its theaters are situated on the traditional and ancestral homelands of the [Massachusetts Tribe](#).*

## **MISSION**

The American Repertory Theater is dedicated to expanding the boundaries of theater, always including the audience as a partner.

## **VISION**

We focus on the research and development of groundbreaking theatrical experiences that catalyze dialogue and transformation. We believe that by engaging our hearts, minds and bodies, theater has the power to heal and imagine collective pathways forward.

We commit to advancing public health in our practice and our programming, recognizing that racism in America is a national public health crisis. Our new home in Allston will be a breathable and healthy building envisioned as a town hall for the twenty-first century. Inspired by the model of a teaching hospital, the building will be a vibrant center for research, experiential pedagogy, and performance.

We build community with our audiences, artists, students, staff, and neighbors across Greater Boston, embracing theater's power to cultivate the full breadth and beauty of our shared humanity. We affirm and celebrate a multitude of perspectives and experiences that reflect the diversity of our country and world. We are dedicated to making a welcoming and accessible space for people of any identity, background, or ability.

## VALUES

We hold the institution and each other responsible and accountable for living our shared values. There is no hierarchy to these values; they are all equally important and interrelated. We acknowledge that as an institution we must devote time to implementing and sustaining these values:

We center anti-racism

*Habituate anti-racist practices in our policies, structure and culture.*

We lead with inquiry

*Ask questions in a spirit of brave curiosity in our never-ending journey of learning and growth*

We believe in collaboration

*Work together with trust and respect to unlock collective creativity*

We practice adaptability

*Challenge assumptions and create capacity to support "next" practices*

We embrace regenerative practice

*Promote the health and vitality of our planet, our organization, and each other*

## HONORS & AWARDS

Throughout its history, A.R.T. has been honored with many distinguished awards including the Tony Award for Best New Play for ***All the Way*** (2014); consecutive Tony Awards for Best Revival of a Musical for ***Pippin*** (2013) and ***The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess*** (2012), both of which Paulus directed, and sixteen other Tony Awards since 2012; a Pulitzer Prize; a Jujamcyn Prize for outstanding contribution to the development of creative talent; the Regional Theater Tony Award; and more than 100 Elliot Norton and IRNE Awards. Additional Broadway productions include ***SIX***; ***Jagged Little Pill***; ***Waitress***; ***Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812***; and ***Finding Neverland***. Since their premieres in Cambridge, A.R.T. productions have also [gone on](#) to reach audiences Off-Broadway, on US National Tour, and at partner theaters across the country, as well as in London's West End, Tokyo, and Sydney. Under Paulus's leadership, A.R.T.'s club theater, OBERON, has been recognized annually as a top performance venue in the Boston area, and has attracted national attention for its innovative programming and business models.

## HARVARD UNIVERSITY

As the professional theater on the campus of Harvard University, A.R.T. is committed to playing a central role in the cognitive life of the University, catalyzing discourse, interdisciplinary collaboration, and creative exchange among a wide range of academic departments, institutions, students, and faculty members. A.R.T. plays a central role in Harvard's undergraduate Theater, Dance & Media concentration, teaching

courses in directing, dramatic literature, acting, voice, design, and dramaturgy. A.R.T. staff also mentor students in the Harvard Radcliffe Dramatic Club working at the Loeb Drama Center and OBERON.

A.R.T. is also engaged in a number of multi-year initiatives with partners at Harvard that explore some of the most pressing issues of our day. Current work includes collaborations with the Harvard University Center for the Environment (to commission and develop a series of new works that address climate change and the environment), the Healthy Buildings Program at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health (to develop a [Roadmap for Recovery and Resilience for Theater](#)), and the Initiative for Racial Equity at Harvard Business School (to pilot the Program in Arts and Culture Organization Management).

## **ENGAGEMENT**

Dedicated to making great theater accessible, A.R.T. actively engages community members and local students annually in project-based partnerships, workshops, conversations with artists, and other enrichment activities both at the theater and across the Greater Boston area.

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