

**Virginia Arts Festival presents
Yo-Yo Ma, cello
Kathryn Stott, piano**

**Chrysler Hall, Norfolk
Tuesday, November 7 at 7:30pm
Program to include works by Prokofiev, Rachmaninoff, and Stravinsky
Tickets \$45-\$100**

He's the best-known name in classical music, and one of the most beloved artists performing today. His musical tastes run the gamut from classical to folk to bluegrass to the traditional musical forms of Asia, the Middle East, Africa and South America. His warm smile and open heart welcome audiences, and his unmatched artistry holds them spellbound. Yo-Yo Ma has received virtually every award that can be bestowed upon an artist, including the Kennedy Center Honors and the Presidential Medal of Freedom. His discography of more than 100 recordings reflects his broad-ranging musical explorations and includes the great cello masterworks, and has garnered 18 Grammy Awards.

Born to Chinese parents in Paris in 1955, Yo-Yo Ma began to study the cello at age four; the family moved to New York when he was just a small boy. He studied at the Juilliard School and also sought out a traditional liberal arts education at Harvard University, graduating in 1976. His lifelong commitment to education and to understanding between cultures has led him around the world; since being appointed a CultureConnect Ambassador by the United States Department of State in 2002, Yo-Yo Ma has met with, trained and mentored thousands of students worldwide in countries including Lithuania, Korea, Lebanon, Azerbaijan and China. He also serves as a UN Messenger of Peace.

In this Virginia Arts Festival performance, Yo-Yo Ma will perform with his frequent collaborator, British pianist Kathryn Stott. Hailed as "a master of subtle emotions and telling details" (*The Washington Post*), Stott is the perfect foil for Yo-Yo Ma; their interactions in recital are intuitive and fluid, sharing vivid, powerfully attuned interpretations of music with the audience. They will perform a program of Russian classics: Stravinsky's *Suite Italienne*, Prokofiev's Sonata in C Major for Cello and Piano Op. 119, and Rachmaninoff's Sonata in G minor for Cello and Piano, Op. 19.

Tickets for Virginia Arts Festival's presentation of Yo-Yo Ma and Kathryn Stott range in price from \$45-\$100 and may be purchased online at www.vafest.org, by phone at 757-282-2822 or by visiting the Virginia Arts Festival box office located at 440 Bank Street in Norfolk between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday-Friday.

About the Virginia Arts Festival

Since 1997, the Virginia Arts Festival has transformed the cultural scene in southeastern Virginia, presenting great performers from around the world to local audiences and making this historic, recreation-rich region a cultural destination for visitors from across the United States and around the world. The Festival has presented numerous U.S. and regional premieres, and regularly commissions new works of music, dance, and theater from some of today's most influential composers, choreographers and playwrights. The Festival's arts education programs reach tens of thousands of area schoolchildren each year through student matinees, in-school performances, artists' residencies, master classes and demonstrations.