



# MIKE BLOCK

## Cello

[Mike Block](#) is a pioneering cello player, singer, composer, and educator, passionate about cross-cultural collaboration through music. Acclaimed by the *New York Times* for his "vital rich-hued solo playing", and by *Salt Lake City Desert News* as "a true artist... a sight to behold", Mike Block "is one of the bravest, most intriguing musicians on the American fusion scene." (*Gramophone*).

Mike's performances offer a rich mixture of classical repertoire, folk music, original compositions, and songs. Since 2005, Mike has been a member of Yo-Yo Ma's Silk Road Ensemble, with which he has been featured as both cello and vocal soloist, contributed arrangements and compositions, and earned a Grammy Award in 2017 for their album *Sing Me Home*.

Mike is among the first wave of cellists to adopt a strap to stand and move while performing. Using his patented design, [The Block Strap](#). Mike was the first standing cellist to perform at Carnegie Hall, which the *New York Times* characterized as "breathless ... half dance, half dare." In 2020, Mike founded [Play for the Vote](#), which organizes musical performances at polling locations across the country on Election Day, with the goal of increasing voter turnout by providing a more positive voting experience. As an educator, he is the founder/Director of two summer programs: the [Mike Block String Camp](#), as well as *Silkroad's* [Global Musician Workshop](#). Mike teaches online through his Multi-Style Cello School at [ArtistWorks.com](#), and is on faculty of New England Conservatory.