Silkroad’s gaita virtuoso and Learning Advisor Cristina Pato will explore the intersection of her artistic journey and digital literacy. In this class, Cristina will share the ways in which digital citizenship and tools have played a role in building a multifaceted career as an internationally acclaimed Galician bagpipe master, classical pianist and passionate educator. Cristina will also underscore how her multiple identities -- from businesswoman to performer, teacher to cultural citizen -- are a platform to probe social questions raised by the intersection of classical and folkloric music. Participating teachers will qualify to earn a Digital Learning credit. There will be an opportunity for discussion and questions.

Cristina Pato is a master of the Galician bagpipes (gaita), a classical pianist, and a passionate educator. Hailed as “a virtuosic burst of energy” by the New York Times, her professional life is devoted to cultural exchange and forging new paths for the Galician bagpipe. Cristina has performed on major stages throughout the world and has released and produced six solo gaita albums and two solo piano recordings, and collaborated on more than 40 albums as a guest artist. Education is a critical part of Cristina’s personal and professional life. She serves as one of Silkroad’s learning advisors, has been an artist-in-residence at a number of universities, including Harvard and the University of California, Santa Barbara, is the founder of the multidisciplinary Galician Connection Festival, and writes a weekly column for the Spanish newspaper, La Voz de Galicia. Cristina holds a Doctorate of Musical Arts from Rutgers University, degrees in piano, music theory, and chamber music from the Conservatorio de Musica del Liceu, and a Master of Fine Arts from the Universitat Pompeu Fabra. Cristina is getting her second PhD in Cultural Studies and has co-created a groundbreaking pilot class on Memory with neuroscientist Dr. Kenneth Kosik.