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Press Release

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IMMEDIATE

MTA Music Under New York Celebrates the 20th Annual Audition in Grand Central Terminal

More Than 70 Artists Will perform in Front of a Live Audience

Metropolitan Transportation Authority's Arts for Transit announced today the celebration of its 20th Annual Audition of Music Under New York (MUNY) in Grand Central Terminal, Vanderbilt Hall. This year, more than 70 musicians will perform to be part of a program that for more than two decades has brought the unique experience of New York's musical and cultural diversity into the MTA's transit system.

"Music is a wonderful part of the subway experience and we are pleased that performers are joining MUNY to offer an attractive environment to millions of MTA customers," said Elliot G. Sander, MTA Executive Director and CEO. "Since 1987, MUNY auditions have offered the opportunity to expand the music program that enhances the quality of traveling to all New Yorkers using the transit system."

MUNY auditions are judged on the criteria of quality, variety, and appropriateness for the mass transit environment. This year's performances will range from Shakuhachi to kora, violin to accordion, bottle-neck guitar to piano with ensembles spanning the world from India to China to the Republic of Georgia, Haiti to Brazil. Various styles will include classical string quartets, folk, blues, jazz, rhythm and blues, Latin, ragtime, hip hop, guitarists, singer/songwriters and family bands.

After receiving approximately 200 submissions, dozens of musicians will act in front of a panel of judges and a live audience in a day long activity in which each participant will have about five minutes to perform. About 20 new artists will be added to the MUNY roster as a result of the auditions. Poet Bob Holman, from the "Ringmaster of the Spoken Word", will serve as emcee for the event.

Currently, MUNY has over 100 individuals and groups on their roster, and 150 weekly performances in over 25 transit locations around the City. MUNY is one of many visual and performing arts programs administered by MTA Arts for Transit. For more information, log on to www.mta.info.