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Press Release

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IMMEDIATE

### MTA Music Under New York (MUNY) Announces Winners of 2007 Auditions

#### *21 Acts Will be Added to the Roster*

Metropolitan Transportation Authority's Arts for Transit announced today the selections of 21 acts as a result of the Music Under New York (MUNY) 20th annual auditions held on May 15. To preview new MUNY members, three 2007 winners will be performing this morning at the shuttle platform in Grand Central Terminal.

"This unique MUNY program gives a pleasant ride to millions of riders throughout the MTA's transit system," said Sandra Bloodworth, Director of MTA Arts for Transit. "The new acts will be adding exciting diverse performances to offer a quality travel environment to all New Yorkers using mass transit."

During the auditions, approximately 70 acts performed in front of a live panel of judges, consisting of musicians, performing arts professionals, MTA and NYCT transit representatives, and others. The acts were judged on the criteria of quality, variety, and appropriateness for the mass transit environment.

As a result of the judges' scores, 21 acts were selected including:

Break of Reality, cellos and percussion ensemble; Gabe Cummings, new jazz guitar; Dagnar 2, art-rock opera; Double Entendre Music Ensemble, classic wind sextet; Dulaney Banks, blue and folk duo; Kahn Hightower, R&B vocalist; Jason Hill, country, blue guitar; Gillen & Turk, folk singer; Una Harders, opera singer; Darryl Milton, singer and guitar; Albert Mulad, violin; NY Strings, string quartet; Patrick Wolff Trio, jazz group; Greg Pettillo, beat-box flute; Frank Achaap, jazz duo; Giovanni Suquillo, fusion guitar; Mohamadu Salieu Suso, west African kora; Yanouv & Zigmat, flute world folk duo; and ZZC, Chinese Erhu duo. For special events. Takahirotop, dance duo and Toli & the Femm Nameless, Afro one-world beat ensemble were added.

This year's performances ranged 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 included classical string quartets, folk, blues, jazz, rhythm and blues, Latin, ragtime, hip hop, guitarists, singer/songwriters and family bands.

Philip Caggiano, President of a consulting firm specializing in the performing arts, and one of the judges at MUNY Auditions said, "Often you hear a folk singer in the subway, but on that day there were so many singers that were performing music on native and exotic instruments and bring to New York the cultural flavors of their home country. I think the sense of ethnic diversity that was showcased that day was the most inspiring part to me."

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