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Press Release

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IMMEDIATE

MTA Music Under New York (MUNY) Announces Results of Auditions

23 Acts Selected to Perform in MTA Facilities

Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) Arts for Transit announced today the selection of 23 acts as a result of the Music Under New York (MUNY) 21st annual auditions held on May 1, 2008, in Grand Central Terminal.

During the auditions, approximately 55 acts performed in front of a live panel of judges, consisting of musicians, music and performing arts professionals, MTA and NYC Transit representatives and others. The acts were judged on the criteria of quality, variety, and appropriateness for the mass transit environment. Poet Bob Holman, "Ringmaster of the Spoken Word" and proprietor of the Bowery Poetry Club, served as emcee for the event.

As a result of the judges' scores, 23 acts were selected including: BABY SODA JAZZ BAND, New Orleans jazz; HUGO BARAHONA, Harpist; HEIDI BURGER, Singer songwriter; CANTONESE TRIO, Chinese classical; LEAH COLOFF, Classical punk cello and voice; GIBRAN SOUL, "Ghetto folk singer"; HALCONES de la SIERRA, "Tex-Mex" duo; COLIN HUGGINS BAND, "Ole time Rock & Roll"; HYPNOTIC BRASS ENSEMBLE, New Age jazz; JAMI JACKSON, R&B singer; KRAGH-MULLER, Jazz band; La STRADA, Orchestral Indie-folk ensemble; SEAN MCCAUL, Vibraphonist; MOVIMIENTO, Latin fusion group; BILLY ROGAN, Finger-style tap guitarist; KIP ROSSER, Theremin player; SIDETRACK, Harmony and dance moves; RAY STARR, Country singer; DAN STEVENS, Finger-style acoustic blues guitarist; JOE TAYLOR, Pop/rock singer songwriter; TIN PAN, Old style New Orleans jazz & blues band; BALLA TOUNKARA, Malian kora player; and The UKULADIES, Ukuleles, saw & tap "sister act."

Open to the public, MUNY auditions are an exciting day of many types of performances. This year's performances ranged from bagpipe to kora, violin to accordion, bottle-neck guitar to piano, didjeridoo to xylophone with ensembles spanning the world from Africa to Europe, Asia and Latin America. Various styles included folk, country, blues, jazz, rhythm and blues, old-time rock and roll, guitarists, singer/songwriters and female a cappella.

Currently, MUNY has over 100 individuals and groups on its roster, performing 125 weekly performances in 23 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.