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Press Release

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IMMEDIATE

MTA Holds 21st Annual Music Under New York Auditions

60 Musical Acts Audition for Chance to Perform in the New York City Subway

Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) Arts for Transit held the 21st annual Music Under New York (MUNY) auditions today in Grand Central Terminal to add new talent to the MUNY roster. More than 60 acts were each allowed five minutes to perform in front of a panel of judges consisting of musicians, music and 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.

Open to the public and the press, MUNY auditions are an exciting day of diverse performances. This year's performances included instruments such as the cello, didgeridu, flute, theremin, accordion, slide guitar, fiddle, bagpipe, Erhu and more. Spanning the world from Japan to Peru, the range of music will include such styles as classical, opera, easy listening, folk, blues, jazz, rhythm and blues, singer/songwriters and rock and roll.

After receiving approximately 200 applications, the auditions will consist of approximately 60 selected performances. A panel of judges will evaluate each performance and about 20 new performers will be added to the MUNY roster as a result of the auditions. Poet Bob Holman, "Ringmaster of the Spoken Word" and proprietor of the Bowery Poetry Club, will serve as emcee for the event for the second year.

"With more and more people using the subway, it is more important than ever that we provide unique customer amenities like those offered by the musicians who participate in the Music Under New York," said Elliot G. Sander, MTA Executive Director and CEO.

Currently, MUNY has over 100 individuals and groups on its roster, performing 150 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.