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Press Release

May 17, 2011

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IMMEDIATE

MTA Holds 24th Annual Music Under New York Auditions

65 Musical Acts Audition for Chance to Perform Through MTA Program

Seeking to add new talent to the MTA's Music Under New York program, which presents musical performances throughout the transit system, MTA Arts for Transit today held the 24th annual auditions for the program, at Grand Central Terminal. About 65 soloists and groups were each allowed five minutes to perform in front of a panel of judges consisting of musicians, music and performing arts professionals, MTA representatives and others. The acts were judged on the criteria of quality, variety, and appropriateness for the mass transit environment.

Open to the public, the auditions showcased a diverse array of performances. This year, they included instrumentalists using a Brazilian guitar, Baroque harp, Chinese erhu, Italian mandolin, Peruvian cajon and Appalachian dulcimer. Ensembles included brass, Afro-beat, Bulgarian, pop, world and Latin folk. Singer-songwriters and vocalists sang Japanese traditional songs, folk, gospel, opera, jazz cabaret, blues, R&B and a cappella.

"At the MTA, everything we do is designed to achieve one goal: Delivering good service to our 8.5 million customers, each and every day," said MTA Chairman Jay H. Walder. "Music and art are a big part of that. They create a welcoming, friendly, and even fun environment-bringing humanity and spirit to New Yorkers every single day. They make our stations more pleasant and improve the overall experience of people using our system."

Arts for Transit received some 250 applications from acts seeking to perform in today's auditions. Although there is no fixed number of acts that can be selected into the MUNY program, about 20 new performers are expected to be added to the MUNY roster as a result of today's auditions. Poet Bob Holman, "Ringmaster of the Spoken Word" and proprietor of the Bowery Poetry Club, served as emcee for the event for the fifth year.

Currently, MUNY has more than 350 individuals and groups on their roster, performing 7,500 annual 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.