



## MTA Press Releases

Press Release

June 15, 2015

[MTA Headquarters](#)

IMMEDIATE

### 26 Musical Acts Join MTA Art & Design's Music Under New York Program

#### *Performers Chosen from Among 70 Acts During May 2015 Auditions*

MTA Arts & Design has accepted 26 groups and performers into the Music Under New York program (MTA MUSIC). The musicians were chosen from approximately 70 acts that performed before a panel of judges on May 19, 2015, at the program's 28th annual auditions in Grand Central Terminal.

This year's candidates had five minutes to wow judges with performances that ranged in musical diversity from classical music, jazz, a cappella, Celtic folk and Chinese monochord to aboriginal didgeridoo. The musicians were scored on criteria such as quality, variety and appropriateness for the mass transit environment. This year's panel of judges comprised music professionals, performing artists and transit operations officials.

Arts & Design typically welcome 20 to 25 acts each year to Music Under New York, which has more than 350 acts in its rotating roster of performers. These individuals and groups give approximately 7,500 performances in 30 locations around the MTA system each year.

Editors: Photos from this year's auditions are available on the [MTA's Flickr site](#), and video is available on the MTA's YouTube channel [here](#).

This year's additions to the program are:

Chloe Iman

*steel drum player*

Cory Davis

*classical and modern cello*

Denis & Saint-Amour

*8-string guitar and drums*

E.C. Salsero

*Latin singer*

Eric Archer

*Celtic and folk finger-style guitar*

G Wyll

*R&B/jazz guitar & singer*

Kane Mathis

*West African harp-kora player*

Mark Nomad

*blues guitar & singer*

Naomi Frank

*American and British folk, banjo & singer*

NYC Jazz Underground

*straight-ahead jazz*

Oliver Dagum

*guitar/vocals*

Opal El

*pop/folk singer-songwriter*

Receta Secreta

*dance music trio*

Spirit

*Caribbean steel pan and mbira*

Stiletta

*female a cappella group and beat-box*

Street Mule

*didgeridoo world and tribal beat*

Terra Quartet

*string quartet*

Thayls Peterson

*Brazilian guitar*

The Blue Dahlia

*French, reggae, klezmer and jazz*

The Queen's Cartoonists

*swing-style cartoon music*

The Wisterians

*French waltzes and American standards*

Utopian Winds

clarinet quartet

VioliNYC

*crossover classical violins*

Zong Li Lu

*Chinese monochord*

Lost in Rhythm

*Afro-Cuban percussion*

The Sunnyside Social Club

*New Orleans jazz band*

To audition, musicians must submit a completed application form and a performance sample on CD by March. Music Under New York is one of many visual and performing arts programs administered by Arts & Design to enhance the station environment for customers.

All performers can play in the New York City Transit (NYCT) subway system as long as they follow NYCT's Rules of Conduct, which are enforced by the New York City Police Department. To view the NYCT rules, go to <http://web.mta.info/nyct/rules/rules.htm>.

#### **About Music Under New York**

Through Music Under New York (formerly known as MUNY), more than 350 individual performers and ensembles participate in more than 7,500 performances in approximately 30 locations throughout the transit system annually. A variety of performers entertain the public, such as classical strings, jazz ensembles, world music bands, folk, a cappella groups, singer-songwriters and more, playing instruments ranging from Gambian kora, Korean drum, West Indian steel drums, Andean pipes, cello, Celtic and baroque harps to guitars, violins, hammered dulcimers and musical saws.

**About MTA Arts & Design**

MTA Arts & Design (A&D) encourages the use of mass transit in the metropolitan New York area by providing visual and performing arts in the transit environment. Its permanent art program is one of the largest and most diverse collections of site-specific public art in the world, with more than 300 commissioned works by world-famous, mid-career and emerging artists. A&D also produces award-winning graphic art, photography installations and live musical performances through Music Under New York, and relaunched the Poetry in Motion program in collaboration with the Poetry Society of America. A&D serves more than eight million people who ride MTA subways and commuter trains daily and strives to create meaningful connections between sites, neighborhoods, and people. For more information, please visit [www.mta.info/art](http://www.mta.info/art).