



MTA Press Releases

Press Release

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[MTA Headquarters](#)

IMMEDIATE

70 Groups, Performers Vie to Join MTA's Music Under New York Program

Program's 28th Annual Auditions Draw More Than 200 Submissions

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) today announced that Music Under New York's 28th annual auditions will be held on May 19, 2015, in Grand Central Terminal, setting the stage for a day of great performances featuring local talent in Vanderbilt Hall.

Seventy soloists and groups are expected to participate in the auditions for Music Under New York (MTA MUSIC). MTA Arts & Design administers the MTA MUSIC program, which presents more than 7,500 performances annually within the subway and MTA commuter railroad environment.

The auditions, which are open for public viewing, are part of a months-long process each year to add new talent to the highly competitive program. This year's candidates represent the diversity of New York City and of musical genres such as Aboriginal didgeridoo, French cabaret, Brazilian guitar, Celtic folk, Chinese monochord, Mexican electronic dance, Afro-Caribbean steel pan, and Latin cumbia.

Bob Holman, proprietor of the Bowery Arts + Science and the Bowery Poetry Club, will serve as event emcee for the eighth year. The morning session, to begin at approximately 9 a.m., starts with an all-female a cappella group and includes performances representing soul, classical violin, Celtic folk, French cabaret, the hurdy-gurdy tradition, clarinet quartet, a steel drummer, Chinese monochord, ukulele, and jazz. The afternoon session includes acts such as a mariachi band, a cumbia accordion band, Argentinian musicians, and other singer-songwriters and guitarists.

The musicians will be reviewed by a panel of judges who have expertise in the fields of music and performing arts, their familiarity with the MTA's transit system or for their understanding of New York's varied cultural spectrum. The performers are allowed five minutes of play time, which will be judged by the same set of criteria.

"Arts & Design seeks to create a meaningful experience for MTA customers as they use our subways or commuter rails, which is why the Music Under New York program is integral to that mission. Music is universal and deeply personal, and MTA MUSIC performers have the opportunity to change someone's mood or make someone's day with just a song, a chord or even a note," said Sandra Bloodworth, director of MTA Arts & Design. "This year's auditions, as they have every year for the past 28, have attracted the city's most talented performers."

Approximately 20 performers will be added to the program roster after the auditions. The MTA will announce the names of the performers who have been accepted shortly after the auditions.

All performers can play in the New York City Transit subway system as long as they follow NYCT's [rules of conduct](#), which are enforced by the New York Police Department. Performers on the Music Under New York roster are hosted at approximately 30 locations within the MTA system based on a schedule revised every two weeks.

Credentialed media are invited to cover the auditions process by submitting an RSVP to the MTA Press Office. Please note that given the limited space in Vanderbilt Hall, members of the media must show proper credentials or submit a coverage request prior to the event.

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 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.

