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Press Release

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[MTA Headquarters](#)

IMMEDIATE

33 New Performers Invited to Join MTA's Music Under New York Program

New Additions Were Chosen from 72 Finalists Who Auditioned Live for Judges & Public

MTA Arts & Design announced today that 33 musical acts have been added to its Music Under New York program (MTA MUSIC) following a highly competitive application process and auditions held earlier in May at Grand Central Terminal.

The performers were chosen from 72 finalists who were invited to audition live for a panel of judges and the public at the annual MTA MUSIC auditions held on May 21. They each had five minutes to perform for judges scoring them on quality, variety, and appropriateness for the transit environment, among other criteria. For this year's new class of performers, MTA Arts & Design received 318 applications to join MTA MUSIC.

"We thank all of our finalists for treating us to an amazing day of auditions, and we're very excited to introduce the 33 groups and performers who are joining our MTA MUSIC family this year," said MTA Arts & Design Director Sandra Bloodworth. "We can't wait for our customers to catch them in the transit system performing under the Music Under New York banner for the first time."

MTA Arts & Design typically adds approximately 20 acts each year to the MTA MUSIC roster, which includes more than 350 performers representing a wide variety of musical genres and cultures as diverse as New York City itself. This year's new performers come from all five boroughs of New York City, as well as surrounding areas such as Nassau and Westchester counties, New Jersey and as far away as Glastonbury, Conn.

Applications for MTA MUSIC open each year in January with a deadline for completed submissions online in March. Finalists are invited to audition before judges, and performers are chosen based on their scores from the auditions. Once accepted, MTA MUSIC performers are hosted at approximately 30 high-traffic locations throughout the transit network, including MTA subway stations and commuter rail terminals, with schedules revised every two weeks.

The program, which started as a pilot in 1985, is currently in its 32nd year and is one of the many visual and performing arts programs administered by MTA Arts & Design to enhance the station environment for customers. Classical guitarist Shogo Kubo, who joined MTA MUSIC nearly 15 years ago, performed during the lunch break of this year's auditions.

As with all performers in the subway system, MTA MUSIC performers must abide by MTA New York City Transit's Rules of Conduct, which are enforced by the New York Police Department.

This year's additions to MTA MUSIC are:

Mike Barry

folk/blues, guitar/harmonica & vocals

Benny D

trombone

John Bivona

folk/rock guitar & vocals

Champion Milkshake

duo, sax & vibraphone

Damiyr*guitar & vocal***Dawn Drake & Zapote***global groove***Dingonek Street Band***brass band***DoMo The Jack Of All Trades***steel pan***Fiddler & The Crossroads***Cajun bluegrass group***Mylez Gittens***violin duo***Hasta La Zeta***world music Latin/Caribbean group***Ishmael Levi***reggae/soul Vocals & guitar***Jake Kulak & The Low Down***blues/rock trio***Justin & Aiyana***pop/gospel vocal duo***Kazoo 365***vocals & guitar***Kokugonza Mugarula***guitar & vocals***Letting Vallenato***Colombian music group*

Ness Dove*Singer-songwriter & guitar***Olivia K***soul/pop guitar & vocals***Cameron Orr***violin & keyboard***Kei Otaki***cello***Emma Park-Hazel***pop vocalist***Qenu***violinist***Troy Ramey***vocals & guitar***Roxie Reese***R&B Vocalist***Gilberto Rivera***pop/R&B vocalist***Orlando Sanchez Soto***jazz sax***Strangers***vocal duo***The Clubs***jazz/funk group & vocals***The Pan-American Duo***Latin jazz, flute & guitar***Troy Weekes Music***R&B vocalist*

Walker Adams*funk/jazz duo, drums & sax***Morgan Weidinger***violin/guitar/vocal***About Music Under New York (MTA MUSIC)**

Through Music Under New York, 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. The MTA Percent for Art program is one of the largest and most diverse collections of public art in the world, with close to 300 commissioned works by well-known, mid-career and emerging artists including Jacob Lawrence, Nancy Spero, Romare Bearden, Milton Glaser, Xenobia Bailey, Elizabeth Murray, Roy Lichtenstein, Shinique Smith, Al Held, Duke Riley, Faith Ringgold, Vik Muniz, Sarah Sze, Mickalene Thomas, Rico Gatson, Derek Fordjour, Firelei Baez and Diana Al-Hadid. Arts & Design produces award-winning graphic and digital art, photography installations, live musical performances, the Poetry in Motion program and other special events. It serves more than 2.6 billion people who ride MTA subways and trains each year and strives to create meaningful connections between sites, neighborhoods, and people. To learn more, visit mta.info/art or follow on Twitter at [@MTAArtsDesign](https://twitter.com/MTAArtsDesign).