



Media Announcement

For Release

IMMEDIATE

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MTA Arts & Design Hosts 34th Annual Auditions for Music Under New York

Approximately 50 Finalists Competed for Limited Spots in Program

NEW YORK, May 15, 2024 – Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) Arts & Design today hosted the 34th annual auditions for Music Under New York for the second year at Grand Central Madison.

“Music Under New York is an essential part of Arts & Design’s mission to create meaningful experiences for all who use the MTA system,” said MTA Arts & Design Director Sandra Bloodworth. “Through our annual auditions, MTA MUSIC selects talented new performers to join the roster and elevate the transit experience in the months and years to come.”

All auditioning musicians submitted an application to join Music Under New York before the March 1 deadline. From the pool of applicants, finalists were selected representing a wide range of musical genres and instruments. This year, the morning performances included salsa, funk, Andean music, Latin fusion, jazz ensembles, folk, electric violin, accordion, and Charango guitar. The afternoon session included classical, pop, reggae, rock, rhythm & blues, singer-songwriters, Bolero, and Gayageum.

Finalists performed for up to five minutes. During the audition, a panel of judges reviewed performers on criteria such as quality, musical variety, and appropriateness for the transit environment. The judges included music industry professionals, members of cultural institutions, fellow musicians, and MTA operations staff. Approximately 25 new acts will be added to the program roster through this process. MTA Arts & Design will announce the new program members in June.

Once accepted into the program, MTA MUSIC talent is eligible to perform at approximately 40 designated locations throughout the MTA network, including subway and commuter rail stations, as well as the Staten Island Ferry Terminal. Participating musicians perform under a pink Music Under New York banner that features the performer’s name and the Music Under New York

logo. MTA Arts & Design presents more than 7,500 MTA MUSIC performances in the transit system every year, with schedules revised every two weeks.

About Music Under New York (MTA MUSIC)

MTA MUSIC has more than 350 performers showcasing classical strings, jazz ensembles, world music bands, folk, a cappella groups, singer-songwriters and more, featuring a wide range of instruments such as the Gambian kora, Korean drum, West Indian steel drums, Andean pipes, Cajun cello, Celtic and Baroque harps, guitars, violins, hammered dulcimers and musical saws. Performers are programmed at about 40 MTA MUSIC locations throughout the transit system, including subway stations and MTA commuter rail terminals and the Staten Island Ferry terminal. MTA Arts & Design presents more than 7,500 musical performances in the transit system every year. The musicians perform in designated locations with a Music Under New York banner that features their name and the Music Under New York logo.

About MTA Arts & Design

MTA Arts & Design encourages the use of public transportation by providing visual and performing arts in the New York metropolitan area. The Percent for Art program is one of the largest and most diverse collections of site-specific public art in the world, with more than 400 commissions by world-famous, mid-career and emerging artists. Arts & Design produces Posters, Digital Art, photographic Lightbox exhibitions, as well as live musical performances in stations through its Music Under New York (MTA MUSIC) program, and the Poetry in Motion program in collaboration with the Poetry Society of America. It serves the millions of people who rely upon MTA subways and commuter trains and strives to create meaningful connections between sites, neighborhoods, and people. To learn more, visit mta.info/art.

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