



## Media Announcement

For Release  
**IMMEDIATE**

Contact: MTA Press Office  
(212) 878-7440

### **25 New Acts Selected to Join MTA Music Under New York Following Annual Auditions**



*MTA MUSIC Auditions, May 14, 2015, Cupid's Nemesis. Photo: MTA/Marc Hermann*

**25 Musicians Chosen from 54 Finalists and 130 Total Applications Across All Genres**

[See Video of Musicians Selected](#)

[See Photos of Musicians Selected](#)

(NEW YORK, NY — May 22, 2025) The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) announced today that it is adding 25 soloists and groups to the MTA MUSIC roster. These performers were chosen through the 35th annual auditions held on May 14 at Grand Central Madison.

The auditions were held by MTA Arts & Design, which is responsible for providing visual and performing arts throughout the MTA system. From the 130 acts that applied, 54 Finalists were chosen, and 47 acts took to the stage. During the auditions, musicians were given five minutes each to perform live for the public and a panel of judges consisting of musicians, music professionals, and transit representatives. The judges scored each performance based on the criteria of quality, variety, and appropriateness for the transit environment.

“The performers at this year’s auditions raised the bar for talent in the MTA MUSIC program,” said **MTA Arts & Design Interim Director Juliette Michaelson**. “I know this group of talented musicians will improve the transit experience for our thousands of daily riders.”

The 25 new acts selected through 2025 MTA MUSIC Auditions are:

**Mina Azad**, *Opera singer*  
**Anthony Bell**, *Handpan*  
**Bella Breen**, *Folk & pop singer songwriter*  
**Sammy Buttons**, *Groovy keyboard*  
**Chrissy**, *Neo soul, jazz & old school*  
**Cupid’s Nemesis**, *Acoustic rock & roll harmonies*  
**Lennie Disanto**, *Latin singer*  
**The Echos of Hougaku**, *Shakuhachi & koto*  
**Chanese Elifé**, *One woman band*  
**Even Out**, *Experimental jazz fusion*  
**Edward W. Hardy**, *Classical to pop violin*  
**Peter Kavanaugh**, *American songbook guitar*  
**KEELIN**, *Female vocalist*  
**Felipe Lima**, *Latin & classical rock*  
**Marcio Horsth Band**, *Pop rock band*  
**Marquis Sayles**, *Straight ahead jazz sax*  
**Denise Meltzer**, *Classical & pop trumpet*  
**Angel Moposita**, *Indigenous music*  
**Ahmad Pollard**, *Originals & Top 40s*  
**Columbes Ran**, *Singer*  
**Misha Seo**, *R&B & pop singer*  
**The Swingset**, *American standards jazz duo*  
**Trojan Horn Brass Band**, *Brass band*  
**Angel Williams**, *Uplifting, singer songwriter*  
**Rick Younger**, *R&B singer*

Once accepted into the program, MTA MUSIC talent is eligible to perform at approximately 40 designated locations throughout the MTA network. 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 thousands of MTA MUSIC performances in the transit system every year.

## **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 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 10,000 musical performances in the transit system every year. The musicians perform in designated locations with the MTA MUSIC banner that features their name and the MTA MUSIC logo.

## **ABOUT MTA ARTS & DESIGN**

MTA Arts & Design encourages the use of public transportation by providing visual and performing arts in the metropolitan New York 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, Photography 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.

### **PRESS CONTACT**

MTA Press Office  
(212) 878-7440  
[arts@mtahq.org](mailto:arts@mtahq.org)

### **CONNECT**

[mta.info/art](http://mta.info/art)  
Instagram: @mtaartsdesign  
X: @MTAArtsDesign  
Facebook: @MTAArtsDesign