



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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# Listings Alert: Music Under Above New York!



*New York, NY, June 30, 2009* – Lincoln Square, the gateway to the Upper West Side, will heat up this summer with a series of free outdoor concerts - ***Music Under New York at Richard Tucker Park***. Music lovers are invited to bring lunch, join friends and relax at the lively oasis at **Broadway and 66th Street** to enjoy a taste of New York’s “underground” music scene.

*Music Under New York at Richard Tucker Park* will be held every **Wednesday at Broadway and 66th Street** this **July and August** from **Noon until 2:00 p.m.** and will feature an eclectic mix of talented and creative performers with a range of styles and weekly themes:

<b>July 1</b>	<b><u><i>American Roots</i></u></b>	<b>August 5</b>	<b><u><i>Percussion Discussion</i></u></b>
<b>July 8</b>	<b><u><i>Singer Songwriters</i></u></b>	<b>August 12</b>	<b><u><i>Gypsy Spirit</i></u></b>
<b>July 15</b>	<b><u><i>Idiophone Vibrations</i></u></b>	<b>August 19</b>	<b><u><i>Day at the Beach</i></u></b>
<b>July 22</b>	<b><u><i>Underground Divas</i></u></b>	<b>August 26</b>	<b><u><i>Blues Finale... Brooklyn to the Mississippi</i></u></b>
<b>July 29</b>	<b><u><i>Moving South</i></u></b>		

This weekly series of free lunch time performances is presented by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) Arts for Transit and the Lincoln Square Business Improvement District (BID). Through these live performances at Richard Tucker Park, we celebrate New York City’s diversity of music and cultures and remember the great opera star, tenor Richard Tucker (1913-1975) who worked as a cantor before joining the New York Metropolitan Opera for a thirty-year career. *Richard Tucker Park is located at Broadway and 66th Street and is a major subway stop on the 1 line.*

## **About Music Under New York (MUNY)**

Music Under New York is one of many visual and performing arts programs administered by MTA Arts for Transit – a division of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority. For 20 years, MUNY has provided customers in the transit system with daily music performances. At present, more than 100 soloists and groups participate in MUNY with over 150 weekly performances at 25 locations throughout the transit system. For more information, please call 212-878-7250 or visit [www.mta.info/mta/aft](http://www.mta.info/mta/aft).

## **About the Lincoln Square BID**

The Lincoln Square BID is a not-for-profit tax-exempt organization whose mission is to make Lincoln Square cleaner, safer, and more beautiful, and to undertake various improvement projects. Efforts are focused on supplemental sanitation and security services; the beautification of public spaces, malls, and parks; and the promotion and marketing of the area's diverse business and cultural offerings. The Lincoln Square BID acts as a catalyst working with business, community and city partners to promote positive change in Lincoln Square. For more information, please call 212.581.3774 or visit [www.lincolnsquarebid.org](http://www.lincolnsquarebid.org).

For details on performers, please see attached.

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## **July 1 *American Roots***

### **Noon-12:30 p.m. Sean Grissom**

The "Cajun Cello®" is a Texas-born, classically-trained cellist who plays a stripped-down, homemade electric cello. He became an international attraction with his hit one-man show O'Cello, and has travelled, performing before enthusiastic crowds in Japan, Hong Kong, Canada, and throughout Europe. Sean has hosted and performed for a number of years in a holiday vaudeville show at Washington D.C.'s Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. His jazzy style of country, swing, rock, and Cajun, all delivered in an offbeat, vaudeville manner, is a trip through Americana. Sean has produced and released eight recordings. [sgemp2000@yahoo.com](mailto:sgemp2000@yahoo.com)

### **12:30-1 p.m. Amity Rose**

Meghan McGeary, known as Amity Rose, plays "Music for a New Depression Era" on four strings. Times are hard, but ukuleles are the healthiest anti-depressant, the secret to lifelong happiness! You will find her in the tunnels and platforms of subway stations throughout the city, slinging her circa 1930 banjolele. Inspired by the many songbirds and roses of days gone by, when women's voices sparkled and bloomed on the radio and in our living rooms, lifted our hearts with their own quirky sass, sweetness, smoke and fire, Amity Rose hopes you'll sing along. [www.myspace.com/amityrosemusic](http://www.myspace.com/amityrosemusic)

### **1-2 p.m. Ebony Hillbillies**

As one of the last black string bands in the U.S., the Ebony Hillbillies keep an important legacy alive with a homegrown, rootsy-style that many forget was a key element in the genesis of all the music we cherish as uniquely American—jazz, blues, bluegrass, rockabilly, rock and roll, and country. Bringing fresh urgency to the scene, the band – led by Henrique Prince (fiddle, vocals) and Norris Bennett (banjo, mountain dulcimer, guitar, vocals), currently features "Salty Bill" Salter (acoustic bass) and A.R. (washboard, percussion) – creates an untamed and joyful vibe that echoes across the generations, transcending racial and cultural boundaries. From the subways and streets of NYC to concert halls and festival stages worldwide, the Hillbillies' repertoire pays homage to tradition and to wonderfully unexpected contemporary pop/soul songs. [www.TheEbonyHillbillies.com](http://www.TheEbonyHillbillies.com)

## **July 8 *Singer Songwriters***

### **Noon-12:30 p.m. Luke Ryan**

A seasoned performer who's been plugging away in the underground of NY for as long as anybody, Luke Ryan has three recording contracts and countless appearances in clubs and dives. He also appears in a number of documentaries, has spots on every major TV network, and performed an original song in the motion picture "Deception." But the subway seems to be the perfect arena for his unique brand of alternative blues and off-the-wall street performance...delivering his message, "wake up and have some fun." Luke also works as a recording engineer and producer in a home recording studio called Hootch Studio and produced his most recent recording "Hoochie Tunes." [Ry7805@aol.com](mailto:Ry7805@aol.com)

### **12:30-1 p.m. Dorian Spencer**

Infusing folk, alternative, rock, and pop into each song, Dorian creates a sound he calls "Bohemian Soul." The lyrics range from introspective, autobiographical, romantic and entertaining to serious and political. His music steers clear of the conventional and promises a fresh perspective. No matter what the venue or how big the crowd, you can always be assured that Dorian's strong voice and passionate performances will present a new artist to follow. [www.dorianspencer.com](http://www.dorianspencer.com)

### **1-1:30 p.m. Theo Eastwind**

This modern-day troubadour became an icon on New York subway platforms through years as a busker and MUNY performer. The hole worn through the body of his acoustic guitar is a tangible reminder of his musical commitment. Theo's blend of edgy alternative strumming and melodies quickly hook straphangers and have resulted in sales of over 30,000 CDs. Theo Eastwind earned the "Big Apple Icon" label from the *New York Post*, and won the "100 Musician Williamsburg Live Singer/Songwriter Competition" with material from his latest release, "The O." [www.theoeastwind.com](http://www.theoeastwind.com)

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**1:30-2 p.m. Gibran Soul**

Recording several albums in the Midwest and performing in countless clubs while waiting for a breakthrough in his Ohio hometown, Gibran moved to NYC in 2007. His voice and self-styled guitar playing, his intimately raw and tender songwriting, and his leisurely paced performances have caught the attention of native New Yorkers and tourists alike.  
[www.Noisehead.com](http://www.Noisehead.com), [voice12670@yahoo.com](mailto:voice12670@yahoo.com)

**July 15 *Idiophone Vibrations***

**Noon-12:30 p.m. Sean McCaul**

Sean, a NYC-based vibraphonist and composer, has been a MUNY member since 2008. In addition to performing at venues around the city, he has played on many great recordings, including being a featured guest on the Philip Glass, Yo Yo Ma soundtrack "Naqoyqatsi." When he is not dragging his unwieldy instrument around the city, which is no easy task, Sean is in the studio working on original music and his self-released albums, four to date. His latest effort is the solo vibraphone album entitled "Alone." He has also provided music for many film soundtracks and dance performances.  
[myspace.com/seanmccaul](http://myspace.com/seanmccaul)

**12:30-1:15 p.m. Mamalama**

The weaving together of modern and ancient musical culture through the sounds of Troubadour harp, African balafon, violin, and organic percussion produces a hypnotic song form with haunting female vocals. Mamalama is a collision of ambience with rhythm, a kind of Hildegard-meets-West Africa, while tumbling around in ancient Greek modality. The group consists of Elizabeth Clark, harp and vocals, Timothy Allen, balafon and percussion, and Charlie Shikowitz, violin.  
[mamalama777@aol.com](mailto:mamalama777@aol.com)

**1:15-2 p.m. Xylopholks**

A dynamic group of musicians playing novelty ragtime music from the 1920s and featuring the xylophone, Xylopholks perform wearing furry animal costumes. They have been monkeying around at Rockwood Music Hall, House of Yes, Southpaw, East Village Radio and of course, in the subway, and on the street near you. The Xylopholks wish to make people happy and perhaps even dance.  
[www.xylopholks.com](http://www.xylopholks.com), [www.myspace.com/xylopholks](http://www.myspace.com/xylopholks)

**July 22 *Underground Divas***

**Noon-12:30 p.m. Cathy Grier**

When not jamming with blues bands or songwriting and crafting English lyrics for French recording artists, Cathy loves to perform with MUNY in the subway. Recently on the cover of *AM New York*, she has performed at Avery Fisher Hall and Radio City Music Hall and was featured on CBS Sunday Morning as well as in numerous documentary films based on subway performers. Cathy loves the energy and vitality of the city and riffs off the commuters who inspire exciting spontaneous moments. Recording on her own label, SideHill Music, you can sample her music on itunes and at [cdbaby.com](http://cdbaby.com) and [www.cathygrier.com](http://www.cathygrier.com)

**12:30-1 p.m. Neffe Kragh-Müller**

Neffe, born in the village of Harlem U.S.A., began singing in church at the age of five, later leading the choirs and participating in the church's theatrical performances. Her father was a Gospel singer and passed on his love of singing to Neffe. She traveled to Detroit and Hollywood singing and acting before being spotted performing in NYC streets and being invited to perform in Europe. In Scandinavia, she settled into a performer's lifestyle, singing in clubs in Copenhagen (Club Montmartre, Club Mojo, Hvid Lam, Huset) as well as working as a DJ on radio's American Top 40 and teaching music at Rythmiske Aften Skole. Back in NY, Neffe completed a neo-soul CD and a CD of jazz originals and covers.  
[mz.jonz@yahoo.com](mailto:mz.jonz@yahoo.com)

**1-1:30 p.m. Nicola**

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Indie pop rocker Nicola was featured in Billboard as a NYC front-woman, songwriter, vocalist, and guitarist. Over the past few years she has had four independently released CDs and charted on over 200 national radio stations. Her hybrid brand of sultry alt/folk/rock has racked up an impressive list of rock and pop credentials including appearances on ABC, NBC News, Music Under New York, MTV, vh1.com, "Women Who Rock" magazine, Songwriter Universe Magazine, and National Songwriters Hall of Fame. Last year Nicola was featured and showcased in Billboard Magazine's "Underground LP" section for Noteworthy Emerging Artists about to break. [www.nicolanicola.com](http://www.nicolanicola.com), [www.myspace.com/nicola](http://www.myspace.com/nicola)

**1:30-2 p.m. Martina Bruno**

Singing since the age of four, a native New Yorker and graduate of SUNY Purchase, Martina studied in Italy at the Conservatorio Di Mantova. Upon her return, she performed in such NYC underground clubs as Remote Lounge, Bobbaloo's, Five Spot Café, and Cheetah Club, presenting a synthesis of hip hop and classical song. She has also performed at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Apollo Theatre, Teatro Bibiena, and Soho Playhouse as a soloist or with an ensemble, and toured Europe with the Glory Gospel Singers. Martina pushes the limits of classical song by incorporating modern popular styles. Her goal is to touch every walk of life, unifying the world with one song. In the subway Martina is known as the "Angel of New York."

[martinabruno@gmail.com](mailto:martinabruno@gmail.com)

**July 29 Moving South**

**Noon-12:30 p.m. Remy Francois**

Remy was born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, and at a young age relocated to Montreal where he began singing and playing the guitar. He is influenced by his heritage and folk music, often incorporating blues, gospel, and anything that will help tell his story. He plays a regular gig at Le Bistro and other restaurants and the subway near you.

**12:30-1 p.m. Muhamadou Salieu Suso**

Born into a West African Gambian family of *Mandinka griots*, musicians and storytellers extending back nearly 1,000 years, Muhamadou continues the tradition of these keepers of history. He began training on the 21-string kora with his father, the renowned Alhaji Musa Makang, at eight years old and began a career at age 15. Since then he has performed throughout Africa and Europe, playing and promoting Gambian music and the kora, before settling in the US. He is leader of the *Jaliya Kafa* music ensemble as well as a leader in the nation's rapidly growing African music scene.

[msuso2000@yahoo.com](mailto:msuso2000@yahoo.com)

**1-2 p.m. Edgar and Geo**

Andean flute player, **Edgar Paucar**, created the group Raices in 1992 to create a group of musicians from Peru, Bolivia and Ecuador with the desire to express their nostalgia and feelings of longing for their homelands. They have performed in numerous festivals as well as Symphony Space, Lincoln Center's Avery Fisher Hall, Town Hall, and the National Museum of the American Indian. Edgar has been the acting grand master of the *Inti Rami* festivities in NY for the last few years.

[www.raicesgroup.com](http://www.raicesgroup.com)

**Geo Suquillo** started his career in his native Ecuador learning cumbia, techno, Andean, and Latin rock, then fusing these into his own style. He has performed at the Concert for the Human Rights in Flushing Park, the UN Congress of Native People for World Issues, the National Museum of the American Indian, Children Educational Concerts, and more.

[gallitotena@hotmail.com](mailto:gallitotena@hotmail.com)

**August 5 Percussion Discussion**

**Noon-12:30 p.m. William Ruiz**

This young Native American (Taino) and Spanish Puerto Rican American percussionist plays the 12 tongue modern log drum accompanied by Edwin Cedeno on mayohuacan. The log drum is known by many different indigenous tribes by various names. Ruiz has worked and recorded with Jojo KuoAbdou Mboup, Victor Bailey, William Cepeda, Jay Rodriguez,

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Yossi Fine, Groove Collective, Osunlade, Nicodemus, and Nappy G, and has performed throughout the U.S., Europe, the Middle East, and worldwide. Locally he has performed at Lincoln Center Outdoors, Avery Fisher Hall, B.A.M., Nublu, and the Knitting Factory. His recordings include "In New York", "Cipriano", and his recent "Intayesha-It Will Rain," dedicated to all rainforest peoples. [www.williamruiz.com](http://www.williamruiz.com)

**12:30-1 p.m. Vongku Pak**

Jangu drum dance, a style that combines poongmul, samulnori, elements of traditional dance, and Western drama into innovative compositions that enhance and modernize Korea's native arts and preserves their fundamental forms. Vongku has been featured in tours of his homeland, Europe, and the Dominican Republic and in solo and symphony at Carnegie Hall and the Out of Doors Festival at Lincoln Center. He has been featured on Fox TV's Good Day New York and on recordings by Ishle Yi Park and by Xtatika. Trained by masters, Hyungsoon Kim in Suljanggu and KiBock Kim in Utdari Poongmul in Korea, Vongku currently lives in Brooklyn where he teaches drumming and mask dance.

[www.koreandrum.org](http://www.koreandrum.org)

**1-2 p.m. Mecca Bodega**

Rhythmists and brothers, Marc and Paul Mueller form this percussion-driven ensemble. Through seven CDs and live performances, they create a spirited, hypnotic sound, with the "Skin" CD featured on NPR's New Sounds and Garrison Keillor's Prairie Home Companion. They recorded several film scores including HBO's "Subway Stories" directed by Jonathan Demme, and have appeared in film and worked with Public Enemy and Stephen Stills on the soundtrack for Spike Lee's "He Got Game." Mecca Bodega's music has been a part of several internationally aired PBS programs including "Hasten Slowly." Recently featured in "The Life of Sir Laurens Van Der Post" and the German documentary "Musik Im Underground," the band collaborates with numerous other musicians, with an insatiable appetite for performing and appearances at Lollapalooza, Celebrate Brooklyn Summer Festival, Merkin Concert Hall, Avery Fisher Hall and tours of the U.S. and Australia. [www.meccabodega.com](http://www.meccabodega.com)

**August 12 *Gypsy Spirit***

**Noon-12:30 p.m. Jim Graseck**

Known and loved by New Yorkers, the "Recklessly Romantic" violinist has performed solo in venues ranging from Carnegie Hall to the subway. A graduate of the Juilliard School, he has been a soloist with orchestras in NYC, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and South Carolina and with Ronan Tynan. His numerous television appearances include the Tonight Show, Prime Time Live, the Morning Show, and VH1's Behind the Music. His film credits include "One True Thing," starring William Hurt and Meryl Streep. Jim has made great music and virtuoso performances accessible – whether on a subway platform or a concert hall – to anyone with the good luck to stumble onto him. [www.recklesslyromantic.com](http://www.recklesslyromantic.com)

**12:30-1 p.m. Valeriy Zhmud**

A violinist born in Dniprodzerzhynsk, Ukraine and educated at Kiev's University of Arts and Culture, Valeriy has worked with various folk and world music groups and toured internationally with Badmo ensemble at folk festivals. Touring the USA and Canada with Suzirya, he decided to relocate to NY. Valeriy has appeared in a number of films including "Renaissance Boxer" and "August Rush," and on a variety of television shows. He has a wide repertoire to perform at weddings, parties, and nightclubs, but is especially happy to play the gypsy folk music of his homeland.

[www.myspace.com/valeriyviolin](http://www.myspace.com/valeriyviolin)

**1-2 p.m. Django Experiment**

Stephane Wrembel may be referred to as a nomad, a gypsy and a world traveler. The music that he plays and his lifestyle are expressive of the gypsy way of life. Born in Paris and raised in Fontainebleau (home of impressionism and Django Reinhardt's music), Stephane's life took a decisive turn when he moved with his group, The Django Experiment, to New York City in 2002. Stephane also composed the soundtrack music for Woody Allen's latest Golden Globe movie winner, "Vicky Cristina Barcelona." If you love Django, African grooves, Middle Eastern colors, or Indian moods, all played with a breathtaking level of energy, you'll love Stephane Wrembel's music. [www.stephanewrembel.com](http://www.stephanewrembel.com)

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## **August 19** *Day at the Beach*

### **Noon-1 p.m. Jahstix**

An acoustic roots rocker shares songs of love and redemption. Born in London and raised in Ethiopia, Jahstix's intimacy makes the audience his community much the same way as the musicians who inspired him- Bob Marley, Tracy Chapman, and Stevie Wonder. From NY's subway to its music clubs – B.B. King's Blues Café, The Lion's Den and The Cutting Room – his performance "lights a cool fire in your belly." [www.Jahstix.com](http://www.Jahstix.com)

### **1- 2 p.m. Freelance Whales**

Five musicians found one another late last year amid a strange amalgam of unfamiliar instruments and precariously composed pop songs. Using whatever musical gadgets they happened upon – harmonium, banjo, glockenspiel, synthesizers, guitars, bass, drums and waterphone – they worked at crafting songs with interlocking rhythmic patterns, lush textural layering, and an engaged group-vocal energy. Freelance Whales can be spotted in the streets and humble venues of NYC as they finish up their first full-length recording. [www.freelancewhales.com](http://www.freelancewhales.com)

## **August 26** *Blues Finale...Brooklyn to the Mississippi*

### **Noon-12:30 p.m. Jeremiah Lockwood**

Son of composer Larry Lockwood and grandson of Cantor Jacob Konigsberg, Jeremiah's musical career began with performances in the streets and subways of NY with Piedmont Blues master Carolina Slim. He fronts for the Sway Machinery ensemble, which mines the Cantorial music tradition as a jumping off point for creating unique new music. Jeremiah composes for film and theater, scoring the Adam Vardi film "Mendy;" works extensively with director Paul Andrejco's Puppet Heap production company; and toured extensively with Balkan Beat Box. A blues-oriented solo album, "American Primitive," was released by Vee-Ron Records. [www.myspace.com/jeremiahlockwood](http://www.myspace.com/jeremiahlockwood)

### **12:30-1 p.m. Delta Dave**

Delta Dave, a one-man band, plays Delta and Chicago blues in an authentic style all his own. A rich full sound expressed in a combination of his voice, harmonica, and guitar, is influenced by Little Walter, Jimmy Reed, George "Harmonica" Smith, Lightning Hopkins, Muddy Waters, and Howling Wolf. He's performed with Honey Boy Edwards, John Hammond Jr., Little Smokey Smothers, Louisiana Red in Europe, and R L Burnside in Canada. His Delta Dave Blues band in Jacksonville, Florida recorded the "Pig Nose Boogie" CD. [www.deltadavejohnson.com](http://www.deltadavejohnson.com)

### **1:00-2:00 Mississippi Delta Blues**

From Sylvia's to BB King's, before audiences above ground and below, at festivals from Clarksdale, Mississippi to Toulouse, France and, Moscow's first blues festival, on numerous tours of Japan and in recordings at the famed "Checkers Club," Mississippi Delta Blues has become something of a blues legend! A son of the Delta, Floyd Lee's recordings range from digging into the past and preaching of the soul in "Mean Blues," to brooding menace in "Blues: Mississippi, Tokyo, Ain't Doin' Nothin' Wrong," and a legacy in "Full Moon Lightin'." The DVD of the same name documents these recording sessions and Floyd's travels south in search of his family and his past. We hear the music of a living legend when Delta Blues kicks into gear! [www.floydlee.com](http://www.floydlee.com)

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