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*For Immediate Release*

## **TIMES SQUARE ALLIANCE ANNOUNCES SCHEDULE FOR FREE SUMMER PERFORMANCES & PROGRAMMING**

*Lineup includes live performances by Broadway actors and up-and-coming jazz musicians,  
coloring from Strand Book Store, and more*

This summer, Times Square will once again celebrate New York City's talent, culture, and creativity with concert series on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, ambient music at lunch and happy hour, and coloring and drawing activities for all ages on Wednesdays throughout the summer. There will be more than 40 hours of events each week — all of it entirely free and open to the public. These performances and activities are complemented by the Times Square Market of local food and retail kiosks. See the full schedule of performers and activities below.

### **Tuesdays – Broadway Buskers**

Before you take your seat in the theatre on Tuesday evenings, enjoy original music performed by Broadway actors and composers at the Crossroads of the World. The lineup for June and July includes Tony Award and Pulitzer Prize winners, veteran ensemble members, performers making their Broadway debut in new hit shows, a world champion whistler, and a simple sponge who lives in a pineapple under the sea.

### **Thursdays – Jazz in Times Square**

Give your Thursday night a new rhythm as you head to the train or wait for a colleague to join you for dinner. Jazz at Lincoln Center brings New York City's hottest young jazz bands to the plaza, creating the feeling of an intimate club amidst the lights and sounds of Times Square.

### **Wednesdays – Coloring and Drawing**

This unique weekly series in partnership with Strand Book Store consists of free coloring sessions with one-of-a-kind coloring pages designed by the team behind Strand's iconic tote bags, apparel, and merchandise, as well as custom pages from fan favorite Coloring Broadway. Seating, materials, and live music accompaniment are provided.

In July, Times Square will host Street Lab's DRAW NYC — an open-air art studio that offers New Yorkers access to fine art materials and encourages them to gather together to draw and create in public. Participants can use artist prompts and take part in activities, or draw from their own inspiration. DRAW NYC travels across New York City and is designed for all ages and abilities.

### **FREE LIVE MUSIC at Lunch and Happy Hour**

Normally found in the subways, musicians from the MTA Music Under New York program join us above ground for free performances again this summer. At Lunch and Happy Hour, audiences can enjoy New York City's diversity and depth of talent with a bite and drink while relaxing in Times Square.

## **CONCERT SERIES SCHEDULE**

### **Broadway Buskers**

Tuesdays 5–7pm, 6/11 – 9/24

Broadway Plaza between 46<sup>th</sup> and 47<sup>th</sup> Streets

Curated and hosted by Ben Cameron

\* *denotes artist curated by Musical Theatre Factory*

Schedule for June & July:

June 11:

5pm: **Loose Cattle** (**Michael Cerveris**, Kimberly Kaye, and Justin Smith) (*Fun Home, Sweeney Todd, Assassins*)

6pm: **Ethan Slater** (*SpongeBob SquarePants, "Fosse/Verdon"*)

June 18:

5pm: **Carner & Gregor** (*Island Song, Toast*)

6pm: **Lauren Elder** (*Hair, Side Show, Mary and Max*)

June 25:

5pm: **Molly and the Memphis Thunder** (Molly Hager & Ian Kagey) (*Waitress, Heathers*)

6pm: **Alysha Umphress & Jeff Blumenkrantz** (*Bright Star, Murder for Two, How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*)

July 2:

5pm: **Jennifer Sanchez** (*Pretty Woman, On Your Feet!, Sunday in the Park with George*)

6pm: **Jaime Cepero**\* (*"SMASH," Francois & the Rebels*)

July 9:

5pm: **John Krause** (*Hadestown, Wicked tour, Rock of Ages Las Vegas*)

6pm: **Desi Oakley** (*Chicago, Waitress tour, Wicked*)

July 16:

5pm: **Stereo Dawn** (Will Van Dyke & Chris Dwan) (*Pretty Woman, Finding Neverland*)

6pm: **Alison Luff** (*Escape to Margaritaville, Matilda*)

July 23:

5pm: **Marcus Paul James** (*Ain't Too Proud, In the Heights, Rent*)

6pm: **Diana Oh (with Gyun Cute)**\* (*{my lingerie play}, Clairvoyance, Infinite Love Party*)

July 30:

5pm: **Suzan-Lori Parks and the Band** (*Topdog/Underdog, The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess, White Noise*)

6pm: **Dru Serkes** (*Jersey Boys, Guys and Dolls tour, Rock of Ages Las Vegas*)

### **Jazz in Times Square**

Thursdays 5–7pm, 6/13 – 7/25

(No concerts on 6/20 and 7/4)

Broadway Plaza between 46<sup>th</sup> and 47<sup>th</sup> Streets

Curated by Jazz at Lincoln Center

Schedule for June & July:

**June 13: Endea Owens and the Cookout featuring Shenel Johns**

Lincoln Center's Emerging Artist of 2019, Endea Owens is a vibrant up-and-coming bassist. She has been mentored by the likes of Marcus Belgrave, Rodney Whitaker, and Ron Carter, and has toured and performed with Jennifer Holliday, Jazzmeia Horn, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Steve Turre, and Lea Delaria.

**June 27: Alexa Tarantino Quartet**

Saxophonist and composer Alexa Tarantino brings a killer quartet to Times Square to continue the celebration of her debut release on Posi-Tone Records, *Winds of Change*. With recent performances at Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola and Birdland Theater, every member of the band is an accomplished leader and first-call sideman, and they come together with great enthusiasm to play Tarantino's original compositions and modern takes on jazz classics.

**July 11: Henry Conerway III Trio**

Drummer, bandleader, and composer Henry Conerway III has performed at *The Atlanta Jazz Festival*; *National Black Arts Festival*; *The Kennedy Center*; and more, and worked with such global touring artists as Freddy Cole; Jazzmeia Horn; Russell Gunn; and several residencies with Jazz at Lincoln Center in Doha, Qatar.

**July 18: The Ladybugs**

The Ladybugs' music features the dreamy, dulcet tones of voices and trombones and a repertoire of favorites from the 1920s, '30s, and '40s, infused with country, blues, Latin, and classical music. The band has received high praise for recent performances at the Kennedy Center, the New York Hot Jazz Festival, the New York City Winter Jazzfest, and the Catskill Jazz Factory.

**July 25: Sean Mason Trio**

Sean Mason is an American musician, composer, and bandleader who interweaves through genres and styles. He is obsessed with the preservation of America's own democratic art form, jazz, as well as the potential of music to provoke unity, transform lives, and communicate love.

## **FREE LIVE MUSIC, COLORING, AND DRAWING**

### **FREE LIVE MUSIC**

Ambient music by **solo musicians** from **MTA Music Under New York**

Monday – Friday, 5/29 – 10/11

Lunch 12–3pm

Happy Hour 5–8pm

Broadway Plazas between 42<sup>nd</sup> and 47<sup>th</sup> Streets

### **Coloring**

Wednesdays 12–3pm, June & August

(No event on 6/5)

Broadway Plaza between 43<sup>rd</sup> and 44<sup>th</sup> Streets, at the Strand Book Store kiosk

### **DRAW NYC with Street Lab**

Wednesdays 12–3pm in July

(No event on 7/3)

Broadway Plaza between 43<sup>rd</sup> and 44<sup>th</sup> Streets

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### **About the Times Square Alliance**

The Times Square Alliance works to improve and promote Times Square — cultivating the creativity, energy, and edge that have made the area an icon of entertainment, culture, and urban life for over a century. Founded in 1992, the Alliance keeps the neighborhood clean and safe, promotes local businesses, manages area improvements, and produces major annual events including New Year’s Eve, Solstice in Times Square, and Taste of Times Square. As the custodians of Times Square, the Alliance works every day to improve the quality of life for the neighborhood residents and businesses while driving economic growth in New York City. [www.TSq.org](http://www.TSq.org)

### **About Ben Cameron**

Ben Cameron is your Broadway Buddy, bringing the Broadway community directly to you like a neighbor bringing over a tray of brownies (Broadway brownies, yum). Ben is the MainStage host of BroadwayCon and creator and host of the long-running NYC staple *Broadway Sessions*, now in its 11th season, which was the proud recipient of the 2019 Ruth Kurtzman Benefit Series Award at the MAC Awards. He is the creator and host of the worldwide hit podcast talk show “The Broadway Cast” and the web series “Dance Captain Dance Attack” on BroadwayWorld.com. Look for his brand-new web series “Booking It! W/ Ben” debuting on BroadwayWorld.com this summer. Ben hosts countless events within the Broadway community for organizations like Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS, NYMF, and Rockers on Broadway, and is a frequent face on PBS WNET. Your Broadway Buddy continues to present Broadway’s best to a wide variety of audiences. [www.BroadwayBuddy.nyc](http://www.BroadwayBuddy.nyc)

### **About Musical Theatre Factory**

Musical Theatre Factory (MTF) is a non-profit arts services organization dedicated to developing musical theatre artists and presenting new work in a collaborative atmosphere, free from the pressures of critical or commercial success. We cultivate new musicals that are artistically groundbreaking and socially inclusive — ultimately dismantling oppressive ideologies towards collective liberation through powerful and joyful story in song. [www.mtf.nyc](http://www.mtf.nyc)

### **About Jazz at Lincoln Center**

The mission of Jazz at Lincoln Center is to entertain, enrich and expand a global community for Jazz through performance, education and advocacy. With the world-renowned Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra and guest artists spanning genres and generations, Jazz at Lincoln Center produces thousands of performance, education, and broadcast events each season in its home in New York City (Frederick P. Rose Hall, “The House of Swing”) and around the world, for people of all ages. Jazz at Lincoln Center is led by Chairman Robert J. Appel, Managing and Artistic Director Wynton Marsalis, and Executive Director Greg Scholl. Dizzy’s Club, one of the three main performance venues of Frederick P. Rose Hall, produces world-class jazz performances nightly, often reflecting and augmenting the programming in Rose Theater and The Appel Room. [www.Jazz.org](http://www.Jazz.org)

### **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. [www.MTA.info/art](http://www.MTA.info/art)

**About Strand Book Store**

Located on 12<sup>th</sup> and Broadway in New York City, Strand Book Store is a family owned, iconic literary destination with more than 90 years of history and 18 miles of books to prove it. Its unparalleled inventory of 2.5 million new, used and rare books and locally designed totes, gifts and apparel makes it easy, and exciting, to get lost in the stacks. [www.StrandBooks.com](http://www.StrandBooks.com)

**About Coloring Broadway**

Coloring Broadway pairs coloring and creativity with the transformative messages of musical theatre. Their mission is to create opportunities to connect with and extend your theatre experience, to create space for pondering, self-reflection and growth — and to do it all while singing show tunes, of course! Coloring Broadway is the brain child of Andrea Koehler and Justine Fisher (Coloring Broadway's exclusive artist extraordinaire). [www.ColoringBroadway.com](http://www.ColoringBroadway.com)

**About Street Lab**

Street Lab is a nonprofit that creates programs for public space across New York City — pop-up reading rooms, open-air drawing studios, and more. They do this work in order to improve the urban environment, strengthen neighborhoods, and bring New Yorkers together. Street Lab also sends kits around the world so that other cities can do the same. Since 2011, the organization has deployed its programs over 650 times in 190 locations across New York City. [www.streetlab.org](http://www.streetlab.org)