



## Metropolitan Transportation Authority

State of New York

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Contact: MTA Press Office  
(212) 878-7440

### **MTA Music Under New York Celebrates Mozart** *Biographies of Participating MTA MUSIC Performers*

#### **Luellen Abdoo**

Luellen Abdoo has performed at Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, as well as concert halls around the world, through her work with the New York Philharmonic, the orchestra of the New York City Ballet, and other ensembles in the metropolitan area. She has been featured in recordings and videos with Aerosmith and Oasis, and in concerts with artists such as Bon Jovi, Ray Charles and The Who. She is a founding member of the Synergy String Quartet and is the artistic director, performer and originator of the New York City Ballet Musicians & Friends chamber music series. She has been featured on WBAI Radio, NPR, and WQXR Radio.

#### **Leah Coloff**

Leah Coloff is a cellist and singer/songwriter who was raised in the Pacific Northwest. Her classical roots collide with 1970s rock and a pioneering spirit, creating songs and arrangements that are honest, sensual, funny, brutal, beautiful and sweet. Coloff's first self-released record, "Dark Sweet Heart," features clunk, a self-coined musical style that mixes classical with punk. Selections from "Dark Sweet Heart" were performed at Beth Morrison Projects' first 21C Liederabend Festival. With her band Lucibel Crater, she recorded an album, "The Family Album," featuring Lou Reed on guest guitar. Coloff was the executive producer and graphic designer for Sarth Calhoun's graphic album "Book of Sarth." She played the cello on Ted Hearne's oratorio "The Source," which premiered at the 2014 BAM Next Wave Festival.

#### **Jim Graseck**

Jim Graseck has spent more than 40 years making music and virtuoso performances accessible — virtually at arm's length — to the public. A graduate of the Juilliard School, Graseck plays for captive audiences on the New York subway, at Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall with a repertoire ranging from Johann Sebastian Bach and Niccolò Paganini to George Gershwin and Led Zeppelin.

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### Emily Hopkins

Emily Hopkins began studying harp at the age of 8 under the instruction of Jeanne Fintz-Goldstein. She has performed in Carnegie Hall and was featured in the New York Post, on WQXR Radio, FOX News, CUNY TV and ABC News. She is an active performer dedicated to bringing harp music to a wider audience through street fairs and subway stations around New York City.

### Susan Keser

A native of Terre Haute, Ind., Keser was born into a musical family. Her parents were professional musicians/teachers and her sister was an opera singer. Keser holds a bachelor's degree in violin performance from Indiana University School of Music in Bloomington, Ind., and also studied violin at the Musikhochschule zu Koln in Cologne, Germany. She was first violinist/concertmaster in orchestras in Germany, Italy, France and Turkey, and held the same position in the U.S. for orchestras in Wisconsin, Illinois and Indiana.

### West Village Quartet

The West Village Quartet is a string quartet performing works from the classical repertoire. The Quartet, whose name derives from their frequent performances in the West Village, was founded in 1987 by David Burnett-Caines, who manages the group and plays second violin. The West Village Quartet has performed at special events, various venues including Gracie Mansion and area malls, and music festivals throughout New York City. The group also made its international debut on the islands of Antigua and St. Kitts. The group has appeared on "Entertainment Tonight," "20/20," and PBS's "Children's Express," and has been featured in the North County News, Croton Gazette, Reader's Digest, Amsterdam News, Daily News and New York Times.

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