



Photo by Patrick Cashin, Metropolitan Transportation Authority

The MTA's Music Under New York program has brought exciting musical performances to the subway system since 1995. More than 350 musicians perform at 30 different stations throughout New York City. The roster includes classical violinists, jazz ensembles and even opera singers.

Let's take a look at one of these musicians and think about how we can make our own instruments and concerts from home.



Photo by Rob Wilson, Metropolitan Transportation Authority

## LOOK

Take a moment to look closely at all of the details in this picture. What do you notice?

## THINK and SHARE

- What kinds of instruments do you see?
- Can you imagine what kind of music these instruments make?
- What unexpected materials can you find?

## ACTIVITY

Now that we've looked at some non-traditional instruments, let's make our own instrument with reusable and recycled materials from home. Choose between a guitar, drum, shaker or something else!

**Materials:** Rubber bands, a small box, any kind of container with a lid, and any other recycled materials from home.

**Step One:** Decide what musical instrument you would like to make. Options include a guitar, drum, shaker, or your own creation.

**Step Two:** Make your instrument from the materials you gathered. You can experiment to find what works. Here are some ideas to get started.

- Build a **guitar** by stretching rubber bands over the open end of a cardboard box.
- Make a **drum** out of a closed container, such as an ice cream carton.
- Assemble a **shaker** by filling a container with small objects, such as sand, beads, rice or legos. Experiment using different materials to create different sounds.

**Step Three:** Make some music! Make up a melody of your own, or sing your favorite song and accompany yourself on your recycled instrument.

Share photos of your recycled musical instruments using [#nytransitmuseum](#)

