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Media Contact:

Sherry Brukner

Director of Public Relations

256.970.6266

sbrukner@hmcpl.org

Blast Music Celebrates Five Years of Local Music with New Artist Submission Round

Huntsville, Ala. — The Huntsville-Madison County Public Library's (HMCPL) **Blast Music** streaming service is celebrating five years of showcasing local music and will open its annual artist submission round on Sept. 1. Applications will be accepted from North Alabama musicians through Sept. 30, 2026.

Since launching Aug. 31, 2021, Blast Music has grown into a free streaming platform featuring **244 juried artists and 278 albums and EPs**, representing a diverse range of musical genres.

Each September, artists and bands can submit their work for consideration, with up to 50 artists or bands selected during each annual submission round. Artists from all genres are encouraged to apply, including Americana, Bluegrass, Blues, Children's, Classical, Country, Folk, Gospel, Hip-Hop, Jazz, Latin, Pop, R&B, Rap, Religious, Rock, Soul and World music. Applicants should submit an application and one sample track for the curator team to review.

Blast Music's curators include HMCPL staff and members of the local music community. The 2026 curators are:

- **Sherry Brukner, HMCPL public relations director**
- **Marcus Nelson, also known as DJ Siza Hanz, Blast artist alum**
- **Blake Mitchell, local music enthusiast**
- **Caroline Prince, HMCPL youth services librarian**
- **Christian Mitchell, also known as "Cece" The Poet, poet and spoken-word artist**
- **James Anderson, also known as "Theories," artist development manager**
- **Tara Mello, freelance journalist and co-owner of the Cigar Box Guitar Store**

To learn more about the Blast Music curators, visit blast.hmcpl.org/curators.

Curators review submissions and select the artists featured on the platform. Selected artists upload their EP or album and sign a streaming license agreement. Artists retain full ownership of their work and receive a \$300 honorarium for each album accepted into the collection.

Blast Music is made possible through the Marguerite Cartwright Hawthorne Endowment, which supports music resources for HMCPL. The Huntsville Music Office has supported the program since its beginning and helps fund artist honorariums.

Over the past five years, Blast artists have been featured at events including PorchFest *FivePoints, Winter Blast at the Orion Amphitheater, MidCity's Camp to Amp Festival and on WLRH 89.3's *Valley Sounds*. The platform continues to showcase both emerging and established musicians from across North Alabama.

Blast Music is free to stream from any device, with no login or library card required.

As Blast Music marks five years of connecting the community with North Alabama musicians, HMCPL invites local artists to be part of the next chapter. For submission requirements, eligibility guidelines or to apply, visit blast.hmcpl.org. Applications will be accepted Sept. 1–30, 2026.



About HMCPL

This is the public's library. Huntsville-Madison County Public Library (HMCPL) is a nonprofit 10-branch system that serves all of Madison County, Ala. For 200 years, the library has been dedicated to enriching the educational, recreational and cultural lives of communities in Madison County through materials, information and programs that foster a lifelong love of learning.

Huntsville-Madison County Public Library | hmcpl.org

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