



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **The Huntsville-Madison County Public Library launches new local music streaming platform**

**HUNTSVILLE (August 31, 2021)** – Today, the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library (HMCPL) launched a new local music streaming platform called Blast that features over 40 musicians from the Tennessee Valley. HMCPL is only the fourteenth library system in the country to offer this service, joining large music cities such as Austin, Nashville and Seattle.

[Blast](#) is the Library's living music collection that documents North Alabama's vital, evolving music scene. Music lovers will be able stream sounds from a local community of diverse artists anytime, anywhere.

"Blast is another avenue for HMCPL to connect with our community. By working in alignment with the Music Initiative of the City of Huntsville, we are not only showcasing the talents of our local musicians, but potentially introducing them to a national audience," said Annie Phillips, HMCPL's Digital Services Manager and Blast's project manager. "Because you can stream Blast without a library card from any browser."

The Library also announced it is collaborating with the Huntsville Amphitheater to showcase Blast artists live at the venue after it opens next year.

"When I first heard about Blast a few months back I thought it was not only a great opportunity for area musicians to connect with listeners but also a fabulous way for them to benefit financially from their art," said Mark Torstenson, Huntsville Music Board Chair. "I think the platform and licensing arrangement make this a win-win for music-makers and music-lovers alike."

The Library plans to open up the platform for submissions twice a year, with its next one planned for early 2022. Any musicians interested in signing up for the next round can email [blast@hmcpl.org](mailto:blast@hmcpl.org) to get notified. Artists from the counties of North Alabama (Colbert, DeKalb, Franklin, Jackson, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Limestone, Madison, Marshall, Morgan) are eligible.

Artists are compensated with an honorarium made possible by funding through the Marguerite Cartwright Hawthorne Foundation.

"The Library is excited to be able to offer this platform for local musicians that will highlight the talent of our artistic and musical community," said Phillips. "And this adds even more value to what the Library offers to the community."

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For more information about Blast, including how to submit music, please visit the website: [blast.hmcpl.org](http://blast.hmcpl.org) HMCPL partnered with a company called [Rabble](#), who developed the online streaming service exclusively for local music and libraries.

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### **About Huntsville-Madison County Public Library**

This is the public’s library. Huntsville-Madison County Public Library (HMCPL) is a nonprofit library 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. In addition to the collection of over 500,000 items, HMCPL also provides outreach services, a BookMobile and BookBike, online services, training, an extensive digital collection, public-use computers, free Wi-fi, meeting spaces and much more. For more information about HMCPL and its services, please visit [hmcpl.org](http://hmcpl.org).

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