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WHERE TO BUY JAZZ 2005

DOWNBEAT'S GUIDE TO THE MUSIC MARKETPLACE

Jazz has a way of getting under your skin, and once it takes hold, it infects the listener with an urge to buy ... and buy some more. A jazz collection can never be complete, even when there isn't an inch of space remaining to hold another LP or CD on your shelves.

The heyday of the brick-and-mortar music store is over. But luckily for jazz fans, when the itch to add to the collection emerges, there are plenty of stores that can provide the cure. Besides the vast resources of the internet and select major chains, there are still many independent stores—large and small—across the country with knowledgeable staffs, where aficionados and casual listeners, musicians and fans alike, can congregate to peruse the bins to search for listening treasure.



NEW YORK CITY

Downtown Music Gallery
342 Bowery
☎ 212-473-0043 | dtmgallery.com

Bruce Gallanter's store is the first stop for the hard-to-find album—the latest from John Zorn's Tzadik label, Japanese Disk Union, Tim Berne's Screwgun, independent works by veteran European and newer Asian improvisers, obscure psychedelia, experimental electronics, contemporary compositions and other items from "beyond." The Gallery offers new and used CDs, vinyl, a few videos and insider information on East Village culture. —H.M.

Jazz Record Center
236 W. 26th St. Room 804
☎ 212-675-4480 | jazzrecordcenter.com

In pursuit of vinyl rarities? Head to Fred Cohen's store, the "rare and out-of-print specialists." Open 22 years, the JRC boasts

some 60,000 LPs, plus CDs, DVDs, posters, books, postcards and art work, including an Ornette Coleman painting. Besides "pre-owned" collectors items, there are licorice pizza reissues across genre. —H.M.

J&R Music World
23 Park
☎ 212-238-9000 | jr.com

J&R Music World offers a deep catalog of new and classic jazz. It boasts a respected sales staff, and hosts an annual free summer music festival. —H.M.

ROCHESTER, N.Y.

Bop Shop
274 N. Goodman St.
☎ 585-271-3354 | bopshop.com

Record collector Tom Kohn has built quite a store in Western New York, which offers top

new releases but specializes in the hard to find and independent new and classic treasures from jazz, blues and other American roots musics. It has a huge collection of LPs, and more than 10,000 of these are sold through its web site. The store holds numerous in-store concerts, and hosts the largest record show in the region twice a year. —J.K.

BOSTON

Looney Tunes
1106 Boylston St., Boston;
1001 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge
☎ 617-247-2238 | 617-876-5624

Looney Tunes owner Patrick McGrath got into selling records through an "overwhelming passion bordering on lunacy for music ... all of it." Saying that he's no fan of music that reeks of corporate control, his two stores offer an indie vibe and specialize in jazz, classical, indie rock and hip-hop. His Boston store is

near the Berklee College of Music and therefore attracts a significant number of students. —F.B.

Stereo Jack's
1686 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge
☎ 617-497-9447 | stereojacks.com

When Jack Woker (a pianist and trombonist) founded Stereo Jack's in 1982, he set forth to create an environment, specializing in jazz, blues and r&b, for the music lover, in which 40 percent of his sales are vinyl. "Classic jazz sells better now than 20 years ago," Woker said. "Many young musicians, trying to re-create the past, are generating interest in the originals." —F.B.

PHILADELPHIA

Sound of Market Street
15 S. 11th St.
☎ 215-925-3150 | jazzsound.com

Sound of Market Street offers the largest selection of jazz CDs of any independent in town—more than 19,000 titles in-store and on-line. Above an unassuming consumer electronics store, a roomful of jazz CDs entices listeners with mainstream titles as well as independent releases and imports. The store caters to a broad spectrum of customers, from big band fans to alt-rockers exploring free jazz. —J.A.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Joe's Record Paradise
1300 E. Gude Drive, Rockville, Md.
☎ 301-315-2235 | joesrecordparadise.com

Going here is like going to your neighborhood barbershop. You'll end up spending hours talking about anecdotes like the time Raasaan Roland Kirk nearly bought all the records in the store. And if all the banter does keep you there, Joe's amazing catalog of new and used CDs, LPs and (yes) eight-tracks will have you crate-digging all day. —J.M.

Melody Records
1623 Connecticut Ave. NW
☎ 202-232-4002 | melodyrecords.com

Customer service, deep catalog and low prices are the trump cards here. Situated in the District's Dupont Circle, the venerable record

store perennially wins "Best Record Store" in Washington Magazine and the Washington Blade. As for jazz, you can't find a better store to find almost all new releases displayed and at discount prices. —J.M.

DETROIT

Dearborn Music
22000 Michigan Ave.,
1747 Canton Ctr. Rd. N.
☎ 313-571-1000 | 734-981-7530
| dearbornmusic.com

Dearborn Music has served generations of record buyers for nearly 50 years. Co-owners Rick and Kevin LeAnnais bought the store from their father a few years ago watching, in particular, their jazz products section thrive. The store's Jazz Room at the 22000 Michigan Ave. location features ample floor space, well displayed and alphabetized new and used selections from swing to contemporary and a helpful, courteous sales staff. —E.H.



CHICAGO

Dusty Groove America
1120 N. Ashland Ave.
☎ 773-342-5800 | dustygroove.com

This is both an online resource (the bulk of their business) and a wonderful shop. They've been instrumental in importing Brazilian, French and Japanese sounds. They're a great place to find unusual CDs, too, but Dusty Groove's gestalt is one of rare vinyl, and they commonly turn up impossible-to-find LPs and singles; pricing is fair, but knowledgeable, so you're unlikely to find a steal but also unlikely to get fleeced. —J.C.

Jazz Record Mart
444 N. Wabash
☎ 312-222-1467 | jazzmart.com

Owned by Bob Koester, founder of the Delmark label, this is a jazz record mecca, and the vinyl selection ranges from a large new vinyl section to bins of used. It's an old-fashioned record store, the largest jazz record store in the country. New or used, CD, vinyl, DVD or cassette, the selection is huge, and browsing its bins can easily consume a day.



ST. LOUIS

Euclid Records
601 E. Lockwood
☎ 314-961-8978 | euclidrecords.com

When Joe Schwab consolidated his Vinyl Shack with Euclid Records in a new, larger location in 2003, what emerged was nirvana for jazz fans. Founded in 1980, Euclid features deep catalog with plenty of great used bargains as well as hard-to-find European and Japanese imports. Schwab buys top quality jazz collections around the country—and sends out regular e-mail set sale lists of the best items. His web site is extensive as well. —T.P.

AUSTIN, TEXAS

Waterloo Records
600A. N. Lamar Blvd.
☎ (512) 474-2500 | waterloorecords.com

The perennial Austin Music Poll winner as best record store has established a reputation through its aggressively indie approach and stalwart support of the local music scene. The store's staff, traditionally dominated by Austin musicians and DJs, is informed and proactive. Since employee turnover is rare, customers have built up personal relationships with the staff. —M.P.