Our annual Jazz Venue Guide is your passport to excellent music rooms around the globe. On the following pages, the listings are divided by geographic region, and a venue’s name in boldface capital letters indicates there is an advertisement for that establishment within this guide. Interspersed among the listings are features on four venues: Jazz Standard in New York City (page 54), Wally’s Cafe in Boston (page 59), the Jazz Showcase in Chicago (page 62) and Dièse Onze in Montreal (Page 70). On page 68, we present an article on the bustling jazz scene in Vienna, Austria, which is home to numerous jazz clubs.
Fans Flock to NYC’s Jazz Standard

THE MARIA SCHNEIDER ORCHESTRA played its first shows at New York’s Jazz Standard Jan. 19–23, 2000. The shows were a critical and commercial success. That they yielded Days Of Wine And Roses, the orchestra’s first live recording, made them historic.

So when Schneider opened her show at the club this past Thanksgiving Eve with “Days Of Wine And Roses,” there was more than the usual holiday cheer flowing among the crowd packed into the multi-tiered basement space.

“I love the proximity of the audience to the band,” she said before the first set. “Everybody is happy to be here. And that makes the band play great.”

Great playing has never been in short supply at the club, though management has over the years made changes in the extra-musical realm. For starters, the definite article was excised from the club’s name: It is now Jazz Standard, sans “the”—a change made after a 2001 renovation and reopening in March 2002.

With the shorter name came a simplification in the gastronomic strategy: In the post-9/11 world, frills were out—and in response, the kitchen ditched mainstays like roast pheasant with julienned rose-petal sauce for barbeque.

But the programming philosophy hasn’t changed. “For the identity of the club, it’s important that the programming is consistent,” said Seth Abramson, the longtime artistic director. “Whether it’s Latin jazz or straight-ahead to more modern, to sometimes pushing the envelope a little bit on more adventurous stuff that’s right for the space—within that, it’s important to be very authentic.”

In the early years of the club, which opened at its 27th Street location in 1997, titans of straightahead piano like Cedar Walton and Tommy Flanagan held forth. In a rare club date, pianist André Previn appeared with bassist David Finck in a performance recorded and released by Deutsche Grammophon in 2001.

At the same time, a generation of future keyboard stars enjoyed early major-club exposure, among them Jason Moran, Robert Glasper and Bill Charlap.

In time, cultural horizons broadened. “One of the things that’s changed is that some of the most exciting things have come from the Latin jazz side,” Abramson said, citing the work of Miguel Zenón, Yosvany Terry and Dafnis Prieto.

On the more adventurous side, a high point occurred on April 28, 2008, when trumpeter Ambrose Akinmusire, then an up-and-comer, first mesmerized the audience with a quartet that included saxophonist Mark Turner, pianist Aaron Parks, bassist Ben Street and drummer Eric Harland.

“He had this aura,” Abramson said. “I saw it right away—that intangible thing.”

The club has become one of the most reliable destinations for large ensembles, including Schneider’s, Ryan Truesdell’s Gil Evans Project and the Mingus Big Band, which has held down Monday nights since October 2008.

The band held a landmark concert on New Year’s Eve 2009, when it celebrated the 50th anniversary of the classic albums Mingus Dynasty, Mingus Ah Um and Blues & Roots with alumni Randy Brecker, Jeff “Tain” Watts and, at the podium, Gunther Schuller. WBGO broadcast the event live on NPR’s Toast of the Nation.

“I said, ‘If this comes out OK, we should think about bringing it out as a recording,’” Abramson recalled. Despite challenges—not least maintaining momentum—he and Sue Mingus, the co-producers, persevered. Two years later, Mingus Big Band Live At Jazz Standard won the Grammy for Best Large Jazz Ensemble album—the first for the group.

When it comes to meeting the demands of the market, the club has often been ahead of the programming curve. It was, for example, among the first clubs to abandon the custom of strictly booking six-night engagements.

“It was a natural evolution and a necessity for making things work,” Abramson said.

The club’s programming continues to evolve. Last summer, it launched a Sunday brunch for emerging artists. “It went well,” Abramson said, though the brunch lost a bit of steam in the fall when it switched to Saturdays to make way for a pre-existing program for school children, Jazz for Kids. But, he added, he thinks the Saturday brunch can build a loyal audience.

Meanwhile, the club is still taking risks. In March, Jazzmeia Horn, who hasn’t played as a leader at the club, will appear for three nights—a recognition of the buzz surrounding the singer. Such decisions have often worked to the advantage of the jazz public—and the club.

“In all likelihood,” Abramson said, “this will be our best year to date for the bottom line.”

—Phillip Lutz
Firehouse 12
45 Crown St.
New Haven, CT
(203) 785-0468
firehouse12.com
Located in the historic Ninth Square District, Firehouse 12 boasts a recording studio/75-seat auditorium dedicated to disseminating improvised music. Regional talent and national acts like Tim Berne’s Snakeoil, Nels Cline and Yosvany Terry grace the stage during Firehouse 12’s jazz shows.

The Side Door Jazz Club
85 Lyme St.
Old Lyme, CT
(860) 434-2600
thesidedoorjazz.com
The Side Door is more than just a clever name. This club is tucked into the historic Old Lyme Inn, which was given a new lease on life with a full renovation a few years ago. The club opened in 2013 with the goal of bringing world class musicians to Connecticut. Warren Wolf, Dayna Stephens, Russell Malone and Johnny O’Neal are only a handful of the acts that have recently played the intimate venue.

Chianti Tuscan Restaurant & Jazz Lounge
285 Cabot St.
Beverly, MA
(978) 921-2233
chiantitoulevery.com
Chianti is a jazz spot with an overriding mission. The venue is dedicated to supporting area jazz, an issue championed by the famous jazz advocate Sandy Berman, who died of cancer in 1991. Six nights a week, listeners can catch jazz shows by regional and national artists.

Lilypad
1353 Cambridge St.
Cambridge, MA
(617) 955-7729
lilypadinman.com
For more than a decade, the Lilypad has been a DoubleTree hotel the club presents as a Boston jazz spot. Now located in the heart of Inman Square, include the Joe Hunt Group and the Tim Miller Quartet.

Regattabar
1 Bennett St.
Cambridge, MA
(617) 661-5000
regattabarjazz.com
On the third floor of the Charles Hotel, this 220-seat listening room welcomes a range of famous and lesser-known acts. The owners have been bringing quality jazz to the area since 1985.

Scullers Jazz Club
400 Soldiers Field Rd.
Boston, MA
(617) 777-8932
scullersjazz.com
Scullers Jazz Club has a long history as a Boston jazz spot. Now located in a DoubleTree hotel the club presents marquee acts on the weekends and local talent on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Upcoming shows include Bria Skonberg (Jan. 20), Monty Alexander (Jan. 26) and Bill Charlap (Jan. 27).

Wally’s Café Jazz Club
427 Massachusetts Ave.
Boston, MA
(617) 424-1408
wallyscafe.com
Family run since the late 1940s, this jazz club is focused on jam sessions. Each night, an open mic begins the evening, giving way to a genre-specific concert. Dubbed “the musicians’ training ground,” the owners truly aim to prepare the next generation of musicians for the spotlight.

Robin’s Nest Rhythm & Blues
3103 Tremley Point Rd.
Linden, NJ
(908) 275-3043
robinrenestrhythmandblues.com
Going for “great Mississippi feel in the heart of New Jersey,” this venue strives to create an immersive juke joint experience. Sunday is reserved for a jazz open mic jam session, and there are themed open mic sessions throughout the week.

Shanghai Jazz
24 Main St.
Montclair, NJ
(973) 822-2899
shanghaijazz.com
Shanghai Jazz brings an assortment of music to the 1930s Shanghai themed restaurant six nights each week. The goal is to make customers feel like they’re in the “Paris of the Orient” while listening to musicians like Claudio Roditi, Jan Findlay and Don Braden.

Trumpets Jazz Club
6 Depot Square
Montclair, NJ
(973) 744-2600
trumpetsjazz.com
Jazz is the name of the game five nights...
each week at Trumpets, and it’s been that way for more than three decades. Blues and classical music are also presented, but Trumpets is certainly geared toward the jazz lover. Houston Person, John Stowell and Don Braden are among the jazz-leaning acts booked at the club.

**NEW YORK**

**55 Bar**  
55 Christopher St.  
New York, NY  
(212) 929-9883  
55bar.com  

Bookers promote a healthy mix of jazz, blues and funk at this Greenwich Village basement spot. A tasty cocktail is appropriate for a venue that touts itself as “a Prohibition-Era dive bar.” Legendary guitarist Mike Stern will play there on Dec. 31.

**Birdland**  
315 W. 44th St.  
New York, NY  
(212) 581-3080  
birdlandjazz.com  

Birdland has now risen from the ashes twice, and it’s still flying high. The top acts in jazz continue to be booked on a nightly basis, just as they were seven decades ago when Birdland sat a block west from the jazz mecca of 52nd Street. John Pizzarelli will have a residency from Jan. 16–20, followed by Vincent Herring’s residency on Jan. 23–27.

**Blue Note**  
131 W. Third St.  
New York, NY  
(212) 475-8592  
bluenote.net  

The Blue Note has spread its brand throughout the world, but the New York location still remains the center of the jazz universe. Everybody who’s everybody has been associated with Blue Note, and the history of the venue is intertwined with the history of jazz. These days, listeners can find Chick Corea, Jimmy Heath and his big band, Dee Dee Bridgewater and other luminaries at the club. Upcoming residencies include Keyon Harrold (Jan. 15–18), Ray Angry with Warren Wolf (Jan. 22–24) and José James (Feb. 5–6)

**Club Bonafide**  
212 East 52nd St.  
New York, NY  
(646) 918-6189  
clubbonafide.com  

No longer the center of the jazz world, 52nd Street is still home to venues that offer wide-ranging takes on the evolution of jazz music. Club Bonafide recently presented shows from bands like Snarky Puppy spin-off Ghost-Note and the Harry Smith Quartet.

**Cornelia Street Café**  
29 Cornelia St.  
New York, NY  
(212) 989-9319  
corneliastreetcafe.com  

In business for more than 40 years, this Greenwich Village spot that is “a culinary as well as a cultural landmark,” per a mayoral proclamation. Bookers stack the lineup with a variety of musical performances as well as readings and a lecture series. Upcoming shows include Lage Lund (Dec. 29), Tom Rainey (Dec. 30), Paul Shapiro’s Ribs & Brisket Revue (Dec. 31) and the Andrea Wolper Quartet (Jan. 3).

**Dizzy’s Club Coca-Cola**  
10 Columbus Circle, 5th Floor  
New York, NY  
(212) 258-9595  
jazz.org/dizzys  

At Dizzy’s Club Coca-Cola, the view behind the stage can be breathtaking, but the musicians who perform in front of the floor-to-ceiling window overlooking Columbus Circle are pretty good, too. After nightly performances by renowned musicians like Steve Nelson, Wycliffe Gordon and Dayna Stephens, lesser-known acts take over.

**Fat Cat**  
75 Christopher St.  
New York, NY  
(212) 675-6056  
fatcatmusic.org  

Early birds need not look into the Fat Cat jam session: four nights a week, the session begins at 12:30 a.m., and it’s an hour later on Friday and Saturday. For jazz lovers who need more sleep, Fat Cat bookers present a range of jazz earlier in the evenings throughout the week.

**Iridium**  
1650 Broadway  
New York, NY  
(212) 582-2121  
theiridium.com  

The Iridium bills itself as bringing jazz, rock and blues to the city, but it’s famous in jazz circles for the exceptional live albums recorded at the venue over the years. Current booking includes rock and pop acts. Upcoming shows include Roy Ayers (Dec. 26–27), Macy Gray (Dec. 30–31) and Albert Lee (Jan. 3–4). Once a month, “Mondays at the House” showcases emerging artists.

**The Jazz Gallery**  
1160 Broadway, 5th floor  
New York, NY  
(646) 494-3625  
jazzgallery.org  

With a dedication to commissioning new works from less-established artists, the owners of the Jazz Gallery have created a unique space with a goal of cultivating the next generation of jazz talent. This small jazz space also tries to book the best jazz musicians out there today mixed with more adventurous programming; in November, an evening of Gamelan music shared the calendar with gigs by drummer Johnathan Blake and the big band fueled Jazz Composers Showcase.

**Jazz Standard**  
116 E. 27th St.  
New York, NY  
(212) 576-2232  
jazzstandard.com  

For nearly a decade, the Mingus Big Band has played two sets at the Jazz Standard each Monday night. The Maria Schneider Orchestra has a long history with the venue, which has also presented shows by Donny McCaslin, Bill Frisell, Joe Lovano, Matt Wilson and dozens of other major jazz stars.

**(le) Poisson Rouge**  
158 Bleecker St.  
New York, NY  
(212) 505-3474  
lpr.com  

Le Poisson Rouge rose from the ashes of the noted jazz club The Village Gate, but that doesn’t mean bookers rely on a steady diet of jazz acts. The venue highlights a broad range of musicians, with everything
from classical to rock hitting the stage. The venue’s jazz shows feature the country’s top musicians, such as Wadada Leo Smith and John Hollenbeck.

Mezzrow
163 W. 10th St.
New York, NY
(646) 476-4346
mezzrow.com
While clarinetist Milton Mezzrow may have been the inspiration for the club’s name, Mezzrow, which is owned by the folks who run Smalls Jazz Club, presents intimate music with a heavy focus on pianists and duos. On Sunday through Thursday, admission into Mezzrow includes a pass for Smalls Jazz Club (good for the same evening). For example, on Sept. 26, fans caught a duo show by Julian Lage and Steve Swallow at Mezzrow, then headed over to Smalls for a set by the Lucas Pino No Net Nonet.

Minton’s
206 W. 118th St.
New York, NY
(212) 243-2222
mintonsharlem.com
In the 1930s Minton’s Playhouse became the go-to place to hear adventurous jazz, and the venue soon rightly earned its place in the annals of jazz history. Minton’s is the product of that same pioneering spirit, reopening in 2013 to keep the history intact. The club now presents a range of music acts, with many of them leaning toward the jazz realm.

Nublu
151 Avenue C
New York, NY
(646) 546-5206
nublu.net
Nublu is a live music venue, and it’s a record label, and it presents the Nublu Jazz Festival, which has premiered in New York, São Paulo and Istanbul. Nublu showcases DJs, jazz and rock at 151 Avenue C and at its “classic” location at 62 Avenue C.

ShapeShifter Lab
18 Whitwell Place
Brooklyn, NY
(646) 820-9452
shapeshifterlab.com
Creative Director Matthew Garrison and Director Fortuna Sung have worked to create a space that mixes a variety of different genres. One night could highlight a Jeff Buckley tribute concert, and the next might feature the jazz group Mostly Other People Do the Killing.

Smalls
183 W. 10th St.
New York, NY
(646) 476-4346
smallslive.com
Smalls started as a noted jazz club, a must-stop haunt for the best musicians, but has expanded its reach in the genre with a series of live recordings. The Smalls Live record label works to capture the fire that happens at the club every single night. These concerts can also be streamed on the venue’s website.

On Sunday through Thursday, admission into the venue Mezzrow includes a pass for Smalls Jazz Club (good for the same evening). Smalls has recently booked the Akiko Tsuruga Quartet, the Adam Larson Quartet and the Mark Whitfield Trio.

Smoke
2751 Broadway
New York, NY
(212) 864-6662
smokejazz.com
Even though this 50-seat club isn’t the largest venue in town, booking agents pack the club with huge names. Musicians play there every night of the week. Bill Charlap, Vincent Herring and Kenny Washington are among the recent stars showcased at the venue. The venue owners are involved with the label Smoke Sessions Records, and fans can purchase CDs right at the bar.

The Stone
Avenue C at 2nd St. (until Feb. 2018)
55. W. 13th Street (Feb. 2018 onward)
thestonenyc.com; newschool.edu
This non-profit venue was founded by musician John Zorn as a space dedicated to avant-garde and experimental music. After a 13 years on Avenue C, in February the acclaimed venue will move to The New School’s College of Performing Arts’ Glass Box performance space in Arnhold Hall. In the new partnership, The Stone’s tradition of being an artist-centric venue will continue, and there will be increased opportunities for students.
The Village Vanguard
178 7th Ave. S.
New York, NY
(212) 255-4037
villagevanguard.com
This iconic venue is one of the most famous in jazz history. The noted Vanguard Jazz Orchestra has a running Monday gig, and the rest of the week is reserved for the biggest names in jazz. Musicians like John Zorn, Fred Hersch and Ravi Coltrane all play lengthy residencies at the club. Seemingly everyone from Sonny Rollins and Gerry Mulligan to Barbra Streisand has recorded a live record at the Village Vanguard. The Bad Plus selected this venue for its final shows with pianist Ethan Iverson in the lineup.

Pennsylvania

Chris’ Jazz Café
1421 Sansom St.
Philadelphia, PA
(215) 568-3131
chrisjazzcafe.com
With an all-ages show policy and discounted tickets for students, Chris’ Jazz Café caters to the next generation of jazz musicians without explicitly spelling out that goal. Weekday shows are reserved for lesser-known talent, and on the weekends, listeners can see jazz luminaries like Pat Martino, Kurt Rosenwinkel and Joey DeFrancesco.

Deer Head Inn
5 Main St.
Delaware Water Gap, PA
(570) 424-2000
deerheadinn.com
The 10-room Deer Head Inn, which markets “sumptuous” dinner fare and a range of local beers on tap, brings a range of jazz acts to the Pocono Mountains. Jazz has been the music of choice at the club since 1950, but the inn’s notoriety really started to build in the 1960s and has grown across two ownership changes. Concerts, which have recently included Dave Liebman and Houston Person, happen Thursday through Sunday nights.

MCG Jazz
1815 Metropolitan St.
Pittsburgh, PA
(412) 322-0800
mcgjazz.org
Manchester Craftsmen’s Guild has been a staple of the Pittsburgh jazz scene for 31 years. During the 13-show season in 2017–18, musicians like Arturo Sandoval, Earl Klugh and Dee Dee Bridgewater grace the 350-seat music hall. The owners say they have a mission to “preserve, present and promote jazz,” which is accomplished through live performances, live concert recordings and educational programs. Students can attend shows at free or discounted rates, and MCG frequently hosts master classes by touring artists.

South Jazz Parlor
600 N. Broad St.
Philadelphia, PA
(215) 600-0220
southrestaurant.net
This jazz venue is nestled in the highly rated South restaurant, which is among the best places to eat in Philadelphia. A weekly jazz jam hosted by the Leon Jordan Sr. Trio shares the schedule with routine appearances by notable bands like the Warren Wolf Quintet and Carmen Lundy’s ensemble.

Washington, D.C.

Blues Alley
1073 Wisconsin Ave. NW
Washington, D.C.
(202) 337-4141
bluesalley.com
Roberta Gambarini, Arturo Sandoval and Freddy Cole represent the caliber of internationally known jazz musicians Blues Alley books for multi-night residencies around twice a month. For the remainder of its 360-days-of-music schedule, the venue is packed with local and regional talent covering a variety of genres. The venue has a 50-year history, and the staff’s devotion to jazz education is particularly impressive.

KC Jazz Club at the Kennedy Center
2700 F Street NW
Washington, D.C.
(202) 416-8524
kennedy-center.org
Housed inside the Kennedy Center arts complex is the KC Jazz Club, which has a 160-seat capacity for seated shows, and room for 250 for standing shows. Pianist Jason Moran, who serves as the Kennedy Center Artistic Director for Jazz, occasionally performs, but he also curates the programming, bringing a blend of emerging jazz talent and nationally known musicians. Moran helps bring large jazz acts to other performance spaces in the Kennedy Center, too. Louis Hayes is booked for the KC Jazz Club on Jan. 19–20, and Eric Harland will play there on Feb. 9.

Twins Jazz Lounge
1344 U Street NW
Washington, D.C.
(202) 234-0072
twinsjazz.com
The original Twins began as a 1980s Ethiopian restaurant in a space where jazz had once ruled supreme. It didn’t take long for the music to once again take over, and now, after a 2000 relocation to the U Street Corridor, jazz is the main course. Students get half-priced tickets for some Friday concerts. The Ethiopian food is still served, but patrons can now hear acts like Tim Whalen, Joe Vetter, Levon Mikaelian and the Twins Jazz Orchestra.
Wally’s is the world’s oldest black-owned, continuously operating jazz club. Founded in 1947 by Joseph L. Walcott, Wally’s Café Jazz Club is located in Boston’s historic Jazz Corner (Massachusetts Avenue and Columbus). Barbados-born Walcott built Wally’s as an oasis where the black community could socialize and listen to bands led by Sabby Lewis, Jimmy Tyler, J.C. Higginbotham and Alan Dawson, and guests like Sarah Vaughan, Oscar Peterson, Roy Haynes, Stan Getz and Coleman Hawkins.

Walcott engaged the community, letting school kids practice on the house piano and hosting neighborhood holiday dinners. Daughter Elynor and her sons Paul, Frank and Lloyd Poindexter maintain that commitment today, hosting open-minded music and practicing open-handed generosity. “When high school students from New Jersey attended Berklee’s summer program a few years ago,” said Elynor, “they had no housing funds, so some stayed with me and our family.”

Since Walcott died in 1998 at age 101, little has changed the 20- by 80-foot bandbox. Its brick wall of photos and tables face a well-stocked bar lit brighter than the cramped, low bandstand. Policies stand firm: no cover, quick service, low-cost name-brand drinks. The music is usually jazz, but fans might also hear salsa, blues or funk.

There are three sets nightly, showcasing young players honing their craft and seasoned pros perfecting it. When in town, Wally’s alumni like the Marsalis brothers, Roy Hargrove, Tim Warfield, Sean Jones, Ambrose Akinmusire, Aaron Goldberg or Vicic Archer have been known to drop by to hang or jam.

Wally’s proudly labels itself a “musicians’ training ground,” and bandstand protagonists of three generations enthusiastically back up the claim. Trumpeter Jason Palmer, a 20-year veteran began his career at this modest forum, said: “The owners are always encouraging, open to my bringing in tunes and musicians. They never told me to play a certain way, and that’s given me freedom to experiment.”

Italian trumpeter Cosimo Boni, a Berklee grad student, concurred: “Wally’s just says, ‘There’s jazz or blues or funk tonight.’ So people come for the music, not for you. It makes you question how to engage the audience and teaches you to read their vibe and attention level. It’s like stand-up. Try your new joke to see if people get it. How’s your timing? Adjust your expectations. Try new tempos, sequences.”

Jeremy Pelt introduced me to Wally’s in 1997,” Palmer recalled. “He saw me walking by Berklee to NEC with my trumpet case, had me sit in and call a tune, and took me under his wing. He was rooming with Darren Barrett, now a Berklee colleague. I’ve played there ever since. I hosted Sundays from 2002, and later added Fridays and Saturdays.” He leads 10 p.m. weekend sets currently with Noah Preminger (saxophone), Lee Fish (drums), Max Light (guitar), Domi Degalle (piano) and Simon Willson (bass). Their album of originals recorded live by Jimmy Katz is due out in April on SteepleChase.

On a recent night at Wally’s, Boni led a quartet through a playful Monk set. “Lately I’ve been working on a concept in lessons with Joe Lovano of cueing the band through my phrases,” Boni said. “This group can react when I turn a ballad into bossa nova or double-time.” They did that after Boni opened “Ask Me Now” alone. Later Israeli pianist Tom Oren launched a super-slinky “In Walked Bud” as alto saxophonist Jonathan Goetz joined them, and the five played an electric “Evidence.”

Saxophonist Grace Kelly referred to the club as “our historic, buzzing home.” She added, “Sundays with Jason’s band, we’d play originals, go anywhere, everywhere, pick up on the room’s great energy. It’s a playground to work stuff out—the opposite of pristine and sterile.”

Bassist Sahil Warsi, who’s from Delhi, led sets with Andrew DeNicola (alto saxophone), Mitchell Selib (guitar) and Samuel Bolduc (drums) and loves Wally’s atmosphere: “In an era where music is increasingly electronic, synthesized and over-produced, it’s good knowing there’s a space where I still get to play raw, messy tunes.”

—Fred Bouchard
South

**Florida**

**Blue Bamboo Center for the Arts**
1905 Kentucky Ave.
Winter Park, FL
(407) 636-9951
bluebamboocenter.com

Ignacio Berroa, Selwyn Birchwood, the Fred Hughes Trio: This diverse array of artists is typical of the bookings at the Blue Bamboo Center for the Arts, which also has a gallery space. In addition to music, the venue presents dance, theater and spoken-word performances. Live shows happen most nights of the week. Bill Cunliffe will perform with his trio on March 3.

**Bradfordville Blues Club**
7152 Moses Lane
Tallahassee, FL
(850) 906-0766
bradfordvilleblues.com

This venue has colorful history as a barbeque establishment that presents live music. The club is a bit out of the way—it’s situated among fields and oak trees outside Tallahassee—so it’s a scenic trip. Upcoming shows include Johnny Rawls (Feb. 14) and James Armstrong (Feb. 17).

**Heidi’s Jazz Club**
7 North Orlando Ave.
Cocoa Beach, FL
(321) 783-4559
heidisjazzclub.com

Founded in 1992 to foster the jazz scene on Florida’s Space Coast, Heidi’s presents local and regional jazz acts every Wednesday through Sunday. Each week is capped off with a jam session. Artists who have performed at the venue include Bria Skonberg, Larry Coryell and Allan Harris.

**Georgia**

**Velvet Note**
4075 Old Milton Pkwy.
Alpharetta, GA
(855) 583-5838
thevelvetnote.com

The Velvet Note, located a 30-minute drive from midtown Atlanta, is now the only jazz club in the metro area. Thursday nights are reserved for open-mic performances, and the weekend routinely features national jazz talent, such as Christian McBride, Kenny Garrett and Gretchen Parlato.

**Louisiana**

**Blue Nile**
532 Frenchmen St.
New Orleans, LA
(504) 948-2583
blueniletlive.com

Here at one of the oldest clubs on Frenchmen Street, listeners can hear an assortment of traditional New Orleans jazz and more contemporary fare. There are two stages, and shows take place six nights a week.

**d.b.a**
618 Frenchmen St.
New Orleans, LA
(504) 942-3731
dbaneworleans.com

This club has been firmly planted in New Orleans jazz lore for about two decades. Patrons come here to get a dose of local jazz and blues, with performances by artists such as Hot Club of New Orleans, the Treme Brass Band and Walter “Wolfman” Washington.

**Fritzel’s European Jazz Pub**
733 Bourbon St.
New Orleans, LA
(504) 586-4800
fritzelsjazz.net

For authentic Dixieland and New Orleans jazz music, Fritzel’s is the place. Founded in 1969, Fritzel’s is situated in an 1830s building. The Dukes of Dixieland will play on Dec. 31.

**Jazz Playhouse**
300 Bourbon St.
New Orleans, LA
(504) 553-2299
sonesta.com/us/louisiana/new-orleans/royal-sonesta-new-orleans/jazzplayhouse

Formerly called Irvin Mayfield’s Jazz Playhouse, the venue, which is situated in the Royal Sonesta Hotel, cut ties with the trumpeter in the fall of 2016. That ended a seven-year residency with the trumpeter. Today, the club books acts like Gerald French and the Original Tuxedo Jazz Band.

**Preservation Hall**
626 Frenchmen St.
New Orleans, LA
(504) 522-2841
preservationhall.com

Preservation Hall is one of the most famous venues in New Orleans, so visitors will likely contend with quite a few tourists during the multiple sets each night. The Preservation Hall Jazz Band is the big name in the lights here, but the venue also books a range of local and national acts. It’s an all-ages venue.

**Prime Example**
1909 N. Broad St.
New Orleans, LA
(504) 701-9007
primeexamplejazz.com

Local acts perform at this “jazz, blues and food” venue throughout the week. Tuesday nights are reserved for jam sessions.

**The Maple Leaf Bar**
8316 Oak St.
New Orleans, LA
(504) 866-9359
mapleleafbar.com

On two stages, Maison bookers bring funk and brass bands to a clientele of tourists and locals. Any night of the week, listeners might catch a regional brass band or a touring national act. During dinner hours, traditional jazz is provided until 10 p.m.

**The Maison**
508 Frenchmen St.
New Orleans, LA
(504) 371-5543
maisonfrenchmen.com

On two stages, Maison bookers bring funk and brass bands to a clientele of tourists and locals. Any night of the week, listeners might catch a regional brass band or a touring national act. During dinner hours, traditional jazz is provided until 10 p.m.

**Palm Court Jazz Café**
1204 Decatur St.
New Orleans, LA
(504) 525-0200
palmcourtjazzcafe.com

Palm Court packs its music offerings with traditional jazz five nights per week. The French Quarter venue pairs its regionally appropriate jazz with local cuisine.

**The Spotted Cat**
623 Frenchmen St.
New Orleans, LA
(504) 943-3887
spottedcatmusicclub.com

With three different bands playing each night, The Spotted Cat buzzes with activity. The Preservation Hall Jazz Band plays on Tuesdays, and the rest of the week is given over to a mix of jazz, funk and blues.

**The Maple Leaf Bar**
8316 Oak St.
New Orleans, LA
(504) 866-9359
mapleleafbar.com

This venue has a deep history of jazz presentation. The Rebirth Brass Band plays on Tuesdays, and the rest of the week is given over to a mix of jazz, funk and blues.
Meschiya Lake & The Little Big Horns and The New Orleans Cottonmouth Kings have both played extensively at the club.

Three Muses
536 Frenchmen St.
New Orleans, LA
(504) 252-4801
3musesnola.com
Chef Daniel Esses makes sure that the food at Three Muses is as good as the brass bands and New Orleans jazz the club presents.

Tipitina’s
501 Napoleon Ave.
New Orleans, LA
(504) 895-8477
tipitinas.com
The owners of Tipitina’s see music as one of Louisiana’s greatest assets; to back up that philosophy, they created a foundation that supports music education. The venue itself is a city staple, providing local, regional and national artists with a place to play for an enthusiastic audience. The 2018 bookings include Maceo Parker (Feb. 9) and Dweezil Zappa (May 13).

MISSISSIPPI
Ground Zero Blues Club
387 Delta Ave.
Clarksdale, MS
(662) 621-9009
groundzerobluesclub.com
Live music happens at Ground Zero, which is owned by Morgan Freeman, every Wednesday through Saturday. Befitting a club that sits at the birthplace of Delta blues, blues is king at this club. Blues aficionados will want to check out the Delta Blues Museum, located next door.

NORTH CAROLINA
Beyu Café
341 W. Main St.
Durham, NC
(919) 683-1058
beyucaffe.com
With an open mic on Wednesdays and Latin-flavored music on Thursdays, this jazz club offers a wide swath of musical activity. Big-name acts occasionally drop by; in the past, the club hosted a presentation of Gerald Clayton’s Piedmont Blues.

SOUTH CAROLINA
THE JAZZ CORNER
1000 William Hilton Pkwy.
Hilton Head Island, SC
(843) 842-8620
thejazzcorner.com
The Jazz Corner, open since 1999, provides fans with the best regional jazz and national acts. Jazz artists throughout the Southeast journey to the club for gigs; Atlanta musicians are featured prominently each month.

TENNESSEE
Alfred’s on Beale
197 Beale St.
Memphis, TN
(901) 525-3711
alfredsonbeale.com
Alfred’s has been on Beale Street for more than 30 years, setting up shop in the mid 1980s. Much of the week is reserved for club-music fare, but jazz still has a presence at this Memphis institution.

The Jazz Cave
1319 Adams St.
Nashville, TN
(615) 242-5299
nashvillejazz.org
The Jazz Cave is the performance arm of the Nashville Jazz Workshop, which offers vocal and instrumental classes. The NJW hosts more than 40 shows a year, with top local and visiting jazz artists swinging by the Jazz Cave, featuring an 80-seat listening room.

Rudy’s Jazz Room
809 Gleaves St.
Nashville, TN
(615) 988-2458
rudysjazzroom.com
This new jazz club has quickly become a key spot for jazz fans and musicians in Nashville. The club is named after the late saxophonist Rudy Wooten. Every week, the Wooten Wednesday performance is assembled by Regi Wooten. (His siblings Victor Wooten and Roy “Futureman” Wooten have been known to sit in.) Jeff Coffin has played the club, and the Jason Marsalis Vibes Quartet is booked for Jan. 9.

TEXAS
Carmen’s De La Calle
320 North Flores
San Antonio, TX
(210) 281-4349
carmensdelacalle.com
This Spanish restaurant hosts jazz nights on Thursdays. Friday is reserved for flamenco, with world music on Saturdays.

Cezanne
4100 Montrose Blvd.
Houston, TX
(832) 592-7464
cezannejazz.com
Jazz only happens at Cezanne on Friday and Saturday nights, but for a $10 cover, listeners can hear the best regional and local musicians around.

Elephant Room
315 Congress Ave.
Austin, TX
(512) 473-2279
elephantroom.com
Gigs by the acts like John Fedchock Quartet, Ephraim Owens and Red Young Quintet are representative of the calendar at the Elephant Room, a basement bar. Bookers are dedicated to a wide variety of jazz and blues acts. Admission is free on weekdays, and there’s a small cover charge on the weekend.

SCAT JAZZ LOUNGE
111 W. 4th St.
Fort Worth, TX
(817) 870-9100
scatjazzlounge.com
Promising “a vibe that only exists in our dreams or maybe in the movies,” this club is located in the basement of the historic Woolworth building. It presents music six nights a week, mostly booking local and regional musicians, but national acts do drop in from time to time.
Jazz Showcase: Shrine for Serious Music

THE CIRCULAR LOGO OF THE JAZZ Showcase reads, “Where Jazz Lives in Chicago,” with “Since 1947” added under an illustration of a trumpeter and saxophonist wailing against the city’s skyline. This medallion tells the story: Touring stars and local artists alike have been presented under the Jazz Showcase banner for 70 years, since founder Joe Segal put on shows featuring then-emerging players—Charlie Parker among them—as a student at Chicago’s Roosevelt College.

At age 91, Segal—who was honored as a 2015 National Endowment of the Arts Jazz Master and is the author of a recently published autobiographical scrapbook titled Stay On It! (Chicago Jazz Publishing)—can still be found sitting at the entrance of his club, poking his head inside to listen, sometimes announcing the acts and urging customers to return soon. Bebop and hard-bop, his favorite jazz styles, are often presented at the Showcase, which offers music seven nights a week, including Sunday matinees.

The venue has long been renowned locally and internationally as a shrine, haven and laboratory for serious music. Over the course of seven decades, there have been changes, of course, including a higher profile for Wayne Segal, Joe’s son, as manager of the club.

“Joe is the Jazz Showcase, but I’ve always been in the background, keeping things running,” said Wayne, who is in his early 60s. “When I started [circa 1970], I was driving around town putting up posters, which was frustrating because someone would follow behind me slapping up their posters over ours.”

In those days, the elder Segal presided over his Showcase in a basement of the Happy Medium theater on the Rush Street entertainment strip. Earlier Showcase productions were held in others’ clubs and rented spaces; later the Showcase had lengthy runs in a ballroom of the Blackstone Hotel and a spot of its own a few blocks north of downtown.

In 2008 it opened at its current address, 806 S. Plymouth Court, in a side building of the old Dearborn Street railroad station. Wayne Segal, who been the previous decade booking a Showcase offshoot called Joe’s Bebop Café at tourist destination Navy Pier, designed the new place.

“I wanted it to look like the only home we ever had,” he says of the 170-capacity club. He accomplished that with soft lighting, seating at small tables and strategically placed, cushioned sofas, a horseshoe bar and tall cocktail tables in the rear. Hanging on plush red curtains over a broad stage with a Steinway grand piano is a huge photo of Parker, who looks like he’s evaluating what’s happening. Other decorative elements include an equally large portrait of Duke Ellington on a side wall, as well as images of Dizzy Gillespie, Miles Davis, Sonny Rollins, Thelonious Monk, Dexter Gordon, Johnny Griffin, Art Blakey—all of whom played the Showcase—and Showcase posters from past decades.

Cutout caricatures of musicians line the foyer, readying attendees who pay a $20 cover or use student and Jazz Institute of Chicago member discounts to have a good time. “When they walk up to the music room entrance,” Wayne said proudly, “and see all the history and the music starts, it’s magical. The place has a good vibe.”

Musicians think so, too. “I always look forward to singing at the Showcase,” affirmed vocalist Dee Alexander, whose quartet with pianist Miguel de Cerna, bassist Junius Paul and drummer Ernie Andrews played a week in December. “One of the reasons is what it stands for, as a pivotal place in Chicago music, historically. So many great artists have come through it—whenever Betty Carter was there, I’d be sitting in the front row.”

Since opening at Plymouth Court, Joe and Wayne Segal have worked closely together on bookings. Wayne estimated the ratio of nationally touring acts to local groups is 70 to 30. Multi-instrumentalist Ira Sullivan, one of the few stars of Joe Segal’s generation remaining active, visits from his Florida home every August to headline the Showcase’s Charlie Parker Month, while recent younger attractions have included Robert Glasper, Catherine Russell, Joey DeFrancesco and Jon Irabagon, with Roy Hargrove coming for New Year’s. Chicago artists who frequently perform there include keyboardists Robert Irving III and Dave Gordon, drummers Xavier Breaker and Dana Hall, saxophonists Pat Mallinger and Juli Wood, trumpeters Corey Wilkes and Victor Garcia, and guitarists George Freeman and Mike Allemana.

“I have a million things to do for the club from the moment I wake ‘til we close after our 10 p.m. show,” Wayne Segal said. “But that’s OK. I like the music, I’ve learned a lot about the business and it’s such a great joy to be able to work with my father.”

—Howard Mandel
MIDWEST

ILLINOIS

ANDY’S JAZZ CLUB
11 E. Hubbard St.
Chicago, IL
(312) 642-6805
andysjazzclub.com
Since 1977, local, regional and nationally known jazz musicians have played at Andy’s. Pharez Whitted will lead the jam session every Sunday night in January and February.

B.L.U.E.S.
2519 N. Halsted St.
Chicago, IL
(773) 528-1012
chicagobluesbar.com
Blues fans at this club can hear artists like Vance “Guitar” Kelly and Claudette Miller. Wednesday is the night for blues jams.

Buddy Guy’s Legends
700 S. Wabash Ave.
Chicago, IL
(312) 427-1190
buddyguy.com
Bluesman Buddy Guy will play 16 shows in January 2018 at his namesake club, with opening acts such as Bobby Rush, Eric Gales and Toronzo Cannon. The rest of the year, emerging and national blues grace the stage.

Constellation
3111 N. Western Ave.
Chicago, IL
(312) 555-5555
constellation-chicago.com
Started in 2013 by drummer Mike Reed, Constellation is a space dedicated to progressive and contemporary music, presenting jazz, classical and avant-garde works. Upcoming shows include Tom Rainey’s trio with Ingrid Laubrock and Mary Halvorson (Jan. 27), Thurston Moore (Feb. 10) and Tigran Hamasyan (Feb. 28).

Elastic Arts
3429 W. Diversey Ave., #208
Chicago, IL
info@elasticarts.org
Elastic Arts is a non-profit organization that develops and hosts concerts, exhibitions and multi-arts performances. Jazz musician Dave Rempis is the president of the board. Its space in the Avondale/Logan Square neighborhood has presented jazz musicians such as Rempis, Joe McPhee and Tim Stine.

The Green Mill
4802 N. Broadway Ave.
Chicago, IL
(773) 878-5552
greenmilljazz.com
This famed Chicago jazz spot programs the top-notch local and touring musicians. Jazz is featured every night of the week, and artists run the jazz gamut. The Fat Babies has a standing gig on Tuesdays. Recent performers have included Matt Ulery and Matt Wilson.

The Iron Post
120 S. Race St.
Urbana, IL
(217) 337-7678
facebook.com/theironpost
The Jeff Helgesen Quintet plays at this bar and grill once a month on Fridays, and the University of Illinois jazz bands make the Iron Post a frequent performance spot.

Jazz Showcase
806 S. Plymouth Ct.
Chicago, IL
(312) 360-0234
jazzshowcase.com
Russell Malone, Roberta Gambarini, Donald Harrison and Carmen Lundy are just some of the headliners who have performed at the Jazz Showcase recently. Joe Segal, who founded the club, was the recipient of the 2015 A.B. Spellman NEA Jazz Masters Award for Jazz Advocacy. Trumpeter Roy Hargrove and his quintet will play an extended residency from Dec. 26 to Jan. 7.

Kingston Mines
2548 N. Halsted St.
Chicago, IL
(773) 477-4646
kingstonmines.com
Since 1968, scores of blues musicians have graced the Kingston Mines stage. The blues jam with Linsey Alexander happens on Sunday nights. Performers in January will include Corey Dennison and Shawn Holt & The Teardrops.
SPACE
1245 Chicago Ave.
Evanston, IL
(847) 492-8860
evanstonspace.com
SPACE brings a wide variety of world-class music to Evanston, located just north of Chicago. Upcoming shows include Stacey Kent (Feb. 10), the Charlie Hunter Trio (March 21) and the Billy Cobham Band (March 29).

210 Restaurant & Live Music Lounge
210 Green Bay Rd.
Highwood, IL
(847) 433-0304
210restaurant.com
This restaurant, located in the Chicago suburb of Highwood, presents jazz, blues and other styles of music Wednesday through Sunday. On Feb. 1, The Bad Plus will perform.

Winter’s Jazz Club
465 N. McClurg Ct.
Chicago, IL
(312) 344-1270
wintersjazzclub.com
Winter’s presents jazz six nights a week. The venue seats about 150, so jazz listeners are in intimate surroundings to see musicians like the Dana Hall Trio.

INDIANA
Chatterbox Jazz Club
435 Massachusetts Ave.
Indianapolis, IN
(317) 636-0584
chatterboxjazz.com
In addition to booking shows, the venue also offers jazz hopefuls scholarship money to the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University via the Dick Dickinson Jazz Scholarship.

THE JAZZ KITCHEN
5377 N. College Ave.
Indianapolis, IN
(317) 253-4900
thejazzkitchen.com
The Jazz Kitchen hosts a free jam session on Mondays and a variety of jazz-leaning music throughout the week. Upcoming shows include The Bad Plus (Jan. 26) and Jason Marsalis (Jan. 28).

MICHIGAN
Baker’s Keyboard Lounge
20510 Livernois Ave.
Detroit, MI
(313) 345-6300
theofficialbakerskeyboardlounge.com
This 99-seat club with a piano-shaped bar presents jazz and other genres of music.

Bert’s Market Place
2727 Russell St.
Detroit, MI
(313) 567-2030
bertsentertainmentcomplex.com
This club hosts jazz Wednesday through Friday, with blues taking over on the weekend. Located in Detroit’s Eastern Market District, Bert’s is billed as a soul food restaurant/cocktail lounge/theater.

Cliff Bell’s
2030 Park Ave.
Detroit, MI
(313) 961-2543
cliffbells.com
This club has spotlights local and regional jazz musicians, and the occasional internationally known artist, such as James Carter.

Dirty Dog Jazz Café
97 Kercheval Ave.
Grosse Pointe, MI
(313) 882-5299
dirtdogjazz.com
Patrons flock to the Dirty Dog for jazz in an old English pub atmosphere. This charming venue hosts local, regional and international jazz artists. Past performers include Wayne Shorter, Cécile McLorin Salvant, Pat Martino, Cyrille Aimée, Stanley Jordan, Tia Fuller and Sean Jones. The Charles Boles Quartet plays a dinner performance on Tuesdays.

Jazz Café at Music Hall
350 Madison St.
Detroit, MI
(313) 887-8500
jazzcafedetroit.com
The Jazz Café at Music Hall features a range of music. In November, MundoMetal, a jazz-rock group, shared the calendar with a poetry session and the Dave McMurray Trio. The jazz jam session, presented in cooperation with the Metro-Detroit Jazz Workshop, happens on Mondays.

Kerrytown Concert House
415 N. 4th Ave.
Ann Arbor, MI
(734) 769-2999
kerrytownconcerthouse.com
This concert venue is a literal house that’s been transformed into a 110-seat space to spotlight a wide range of music. Home to the renowned Edgefest jazz festival, the venue also presents classical and folk music.

MINNESOTA
Crooners Lounge & Supper Club
6161 Highway 65 NE
Minneapolis, MN
(763) 760-0062
croonersloungemn.com
Crooners celebrates and pays homage to the era when Sinatra ruled the airwaves, America’s best restaurants served “Continental Cuisine” and patrons dressed up when dining out. The venue has received accolades from Fodor’s Travel, Trip Advisor, and OpenTable. Local artists perform nightly, including nationally recognized acts such as Davina & The Vagabonds.

Dakota Jazz Club
1010 Nicollet Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55403
(612) 332-5299
dakotacooks.com
Where does a concert by The Bad Plus share calendar space with Fodor’s Travel, Trip Advisor, and OpenTable. Local artists perform nightly, including nationally recognized acts such as Davina & The Vagabonds.
Jazz Central Studios
407 Central Ave. SE
Minneapolis, MN
(612) 520-1066
jazzcentralstudios.org
On Sundays, this nonprofit venue hosts a $5 jam session with Cole Mahlum; the following day, the weekly jam session is chaired by that night’s featured guest. The venue also books regional and local talent, including the Twin Cities Latin Jazz Orchestra.

MISSOURI
The Blue Room
1616 E. 18th St.
Kansas City, MO
(816) 474-8463
club.americanjazzmuseum.org
Kansas City’s American Jazz Museum is a jazz-lover’s dream. The museum’s jazz collections and educational outreach events are underscored by its performance space, The Blue Room. The venue features free jam sessions on Mondays.

Ferring Jazz Bistro
The Harold & Dorothy Steward Center for Jazz
3536 Washington Avenue
St. Louis, MO
(314) 571-6000
jazzstl.org
Tucked in the Harold & Dorothy Steward Center for Jazz, this 200-seat venue hosts the cream of the jazz crop. While the center is a home base for educational and community engagement programs, the bistro spotlights artists like Joshua Redman, Jane Monheit and Freddy Cole. Most artists perform for extended stays.

Nighttown
12387 Cedar Rd.
Cleveland, OH
(216) 795-0550
nighttowncleveland.com
For more than 50 years, the bookish Nighttown (it’s named for the red-light district in James Joyce’s Ulysses), has presented jazz, rock and world music in surroundings modeled after turn-of-the-century New York pubs. Performers have included the Ernie Krivda Fat Tuesday Big Band and the Sammy DeLeon Latin Jazz Sextet.

OHIO
BLU JAZZ+
47 E. Market St.
Akron, OH
(330) 252-1190
blujazzakron.com
BLU Jazz+, which is open Wednesday through Saturday, is a combination photo gallery/jazz spot that mainly features local and regional musicians. The BLU Jazz+ Masterclass Foundation is committed to jazz education endeavors. Nationally known artists are booked at the club, too, with past performances by JD Allen, Fred Hersch, Chris Potter and Terell Stafford. Upcoming shows including Huntertones (Jan. 21) and Becca Stevens (Jan. 26).

Wisconsin
The Jazz Estate
2423 N. Murray Ave.
Milwaukee, WI
(414) 964-9923
jazzestate.com
Hosting local and regional jazz and jazz-adjacent music, the Jazz Estate has been operating since 1977. It’s open seven days a week. The Bobby Broom Trio visited in December.

Jazz Gallery Center for the Arts
926 E. Center St.
Milwaukee, WI
(414) 374-4722
riverwestart.org
The goal of the Riverwest Artists Association, which runs this venue, is to “foster reflective, innovative, and proactive art to enrich and stimulate our community.” The organization presents local musicians and other events in an art-gallery setting. Jazz jam sessions occur on Tuesdays.
**WEST**

**AZ**

**Elliott’s On Congress**
135 E. Congress St.
Tucson, AZ (520) 622-5500
elliottsoncongress.com
On Tuesday nights, blues fans in Tucson can head to Elliott’s to hear Tommy Tucker.

**The Nash**
110 E. Roosevelt St.
Phoenix, AZ (602) 795-0464
thenash.org
This downtown venue is owned by Jazz in Arizona, a nonprofit organization. The Nash hosts a mix of touring acts and local players, with a dedication to nurturing student musicians. Jam sessions happen on Sundays.

**Pastiche**
3025 N. Campbell Ave.
Tucson, AZ (520) 325-3333
pastichehmo.com
Weekends are given over to jazz at this restaurant, which is located right down the street from the University of Arizona campus.

**ARIZONA**

**Bach Dancing & Dynamite Society**
311 Miranda Road
Half Moon Bay, CA (650) 325-3333
bachddsoc.org
This prized jazz haunt presents jazz, world music and classical performances on Sunday afternoons. As a nonprofit, the Bach Dancing & Dynamite Society has spent more than half a century hosting shows by artists such as Lew Tabackin and Jeremy Pelt at the picturesque 1800s Napa Valley Opera House. The programming includes jazz, rock and other genres. Upcoming shows include Brian Culbertson (Dec. 29–31), Spoon (Jan. 15) and Lee Ritenour (Feb. 16–17).

**KUUMBWA JAZZ CENTER**
320 Cedar St.
Santa Cruz, CA (831) 427-2227
kuumbwajazz.org
More than 40 years ago, organizers founded the 200-seat Kuumba Jazz venue to bring touring jazz acts and educational programming to the area. The center also runs a jazz summer camp, brings artists to area schools and hosts a scholarship program. Upcoming shows include Jason Marsalis (Jan. 22), Katie Thiroux (Jan. 29) and Julian Lage (Feb. 19).

**Sequoia Room**
444 N. Main St.
Fort Bragg, CA (707) 964-3400
northcoastbrewing.com/calendar
On Friday and Saturday nights, jazz takes over in the North Coast Brewing Company’s Sequoia Room. Owners book a range of local, regional and national talent. The Edward Simon Trio is booked for Jan. 13.

**The Sound Room**
2147 Broadway
Oakland, CA (510) 496-4180
soundroom.org
The Sound Room is the concert arm of the Bay Area Jazz and Arts organization. In the performance space, owners welcome everyone from Oakland School for the Arts students to touring musicians.

**YOSHI’S OAKLAND**
510 Embarcadero West
Oakland, CA (510) 238-9200
yoshis.com
A second location, which was in San Francisco, is no longer in business, but the original Yoshi’s has been presenting world-class jazz in Oakland area since the 1970s. Listeners know Yoshi’s is the spot for Japanese cuisine matched with the best touring musicians on the scene today. There’s live music every night. Upcoming shows include Poncho Sanchez (Jan. 26–27) and Stanley Jordan (Feb. 16).

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

**The Baked Potato**
3787 Cahuenga Blvd. Studio City, CA (818) 980-1615
thebakedpotato.com
Open nightly for jazz, this venue has been presenting local and national music for nearly 50 years. Upcoming shows include Jeff Lorber Fusion (Jan. 12–13), Vivino Brothers (Jan. 17) and Brian Charette (Jan. 31).

**Blue Whale**
123 Astronaut E. S. Onizuka Street #301
Los Angeles, CA (213) 620-0908
bluewhalemusic.com
While listeners hear live jazz from a variety of performers, they can also scope out art in the adjoining gallery. Steve Coleman, Jen Shyu, Nicole Mitchell and Anthony Wilson all played the Blue Whale recently.

**Catalina Bar & Grill**
6725 W. Sunset Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA (323) 466-2210
catalinajazzclub.com
This is a supper club with “old-world charm” that is dedicated to presenting’s who’s who of jazz musicians. Catalina books acts like Adam Ben Ezra, Lizz Wright and Gordon Goodwin’s Big Phat Band.

**LISBON THEATRE**
33 E. Canon Perdido St.
Santa Barbara, CA (805) 963-0761
lobero.com
The Lobero Theatre, which is closing in on its 150th birthday, has a rich musical past. In the middle of last century, the venue began showcasing jazz. These days, bookings run the musical gamut. The jazz series includes artists like Charles Lloyd and Arturo Sandoval.

**Upstairs at Vitello’s**
4349 Tujunga Ave.
Studio City, CA (818) 769-0905
vitellosjazz.com
A club above a famed Italian restaurant,
the venue hosts a variety of acts—music, comedy, and everything in between. At Upstairs at Vitello’s, listeners will find a blend of local and regional pop-leaning bands, but jazz musicians also stop by.

**Vibrato Grill Jazz**
2930 N. Beverly Glen Circle
Los Angeles, CA
(310) 474-9400
vibratogrilljazz.com
Conceived by trumpeter Herb Alpert and with a dress code of “L.A. smart casual,” this spot presents jazz, classic rock and pop. Much of the calendar, which is full of music every week, is reserved for local and regional acts.

**COLORADO**

**Dazzle Jazz**
1512 Curtis St.
Denver, CO
(303) 839-5100
dazzlejazz.com
Although Dazzle Jazz moved to its new location in May 2017, the club has been a Denver staple for two decades. With the move, owners recently added a small retail section for jazz record sales. Tuesday nights are reserved for jam sessions, with jazz brunch sessions on the weekends. Upcoming shows include Nate Birkey (Dec. 30), Diane Schuur (Jan. 16–17) and Billy Childs (Jan. 25).

**El Chapultepec**
1962 Market St.
Denver, CO
(303) 295-9126
thepeclodo.com
Visitors to Denver in the mid-1930s would have seen El Chapultepec sitting on the same corner on Market Street. The venue is the oldest jazz and blues club in Denver, and it offers Mexican food. Mondays are reserved for an open jazz jam.

**Nocturne**
1330 27th St.
Denver, CO
(303) 295-3333
nocturnejazz.com
Jazz comes to Nocturne five nights each week. The club books artists for eight-week runs so the musicians can focus “on the exploration of a musical icon, the study of a particular era or genre of jazz, or their own original works.”

**NEW MEXICO**

**Outpost**
210 Yale Blvd. SE
Albuquerque, NM
(505) 288-0044
outpostspace.org
This venue presents more than 100 shows each year. In addition to booking a wide variety of acts, Outpost Productions, which is a nonprofit, hosts educational programs.

**OREGON**

**The Jack London Revue**
529 SW 4th Ave.
Portland, OR
(503) 906-9920
theroyalroomseattle.com
Tula’s books regional and national jazz talent each night of the week. As one of the venues for the annual Earshot Jazz Festival, the dinner spot/listening room has become an integral part of the busy Seattle jazz scene.
Jazz Thrives in Vienna

IN TERMS OF MUSIC HISTORY, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO UNDERSTATE THE IMPORTANCE OF VIENNA. Its storied history includes the groundbreaking work of Haydn in the late 18th century; Beethoven, Mozart and Schubert in the early 19th century; the populist superstars of the Johann Strauss clan (Jr. and Sr.), waltz-royalty in the late 19th century; Mahler in the romantic-cum-modern era; and the revolutionary “Second Viennese” school of 12-tone architect Arnold Schönberg and protégés Alban Berg and Anton Webern in the 20th century.

Lesser known is the city’s vitality as a center of jazz activity and support systems. Within the past half century, two primary jazz clubs—the city’s oldest continuous venue, the more traditionally-oriented Jazzland (founded in 1972) and the world-renowned, programatically adventurous Porgy & Bess (established 1993)—have been significant club hubs, featuring musicians from the States, Europe and elsewhere, while numerous other clubs, such as the Blue Tomato, keep the scene buzzing. Meanwhile, the Vienna Jazz Festival is a draw for artists and fans from around the world.

Jazzland’s founding director, Axel Melhardt, noted that in Vienna, “the jazz audience is better than ever. Besides the Porgy and Jazzland, there are about eight to 10 other venues with jazz and surrounding types of music.”

But the jazz-club pulse here was not always thus. As Melhardt explained, when Jazzland opened its doors in ’72, the jazz club options were limited, with the Storyville Club offering trad jazz and early swing, after the closure of other venues.

Porgy & Bess co-founder Christoph Huber commented that “of course, Vienna is associated with Mozart, Beethoven, Mahler, Schönberg, etc., but we also had a saxophone titan named Hans Koller.”

At the inception of Jazzland, Melhardt said, “I was mainly into traditional jazz but with at least a small inclination toward Charlie Parker, Dizzy, Adderley and early Coltrane—they were the avant-garde in those days. [Musicians] tried to find a new place to perform and they looked for someone who would be able to bring old and new jazz together, and they found me.” Early bookings included Ben Webster and Albert Nicholas.

As Melhardt admitted, “Since my personal taste begins with country blues and ends with Coltrane’s Blue Trane, the program of Jazzland is more ’20s to ’50s than recent styles.” He recognized that, across town, Porgy & Bess is “a very good avant-garde club.”

As a recent example of the avant-garde component of Porgy’s program, last November’s calendar featured John Zorn, whose appearances there included a marathon of his epic “Bagatelles” project in 2016.

As Huber noted, the 400-capacity club is “officially called ‘Jazz & Music,’ [which] means that jazz is in the center, but there are also a lot of concerts in the category ‘& Music,’ which can be electronic, contemporary serious music, singer/songwriter, etc. We program traditional Americans, [such as] Benny Golson, Ron Carter and Houston Person, avant-garde veterans like Cecil Taylor, Archie Shepp or Pharoah Sanders, straightahead players like Joshua Redman and Branford Marsalis or modern players like Steve Lehman and Rudresh Mahanthappa.”

A few layers of Viennese history are entrenched in Porgy & Bess’ history. Its origin story, starting in 1993, goes back to when the famously multi-tasking Swiss-turned-Viennese musician Mathias Rüegg, the mastermind and leader of the venturesome big band known as the Vienna Art Orchestra, launched the venue in what was formerly known as the “Fledermaus Bar,” dating back to Johann Strauss II’s operetta classic. At the time, the notion and gumption of bringing international jazz musicians through Vienna was a unique enterprise, apart from Jazzland’s efforts in that direction. The current location of Porgy & Bess, as of 2000, involves rooms dating back to mid-19th century theater groups.

“Porgy & Bess is my favorite club in Europe,” said reedist Dave Liebman, one notable American musician who has played the venue many times. “The reasons are simple, but not so easily attainable, unless there is a care and concern that things are done correctly. Porgy is run like a business with excellent backline equipment, a great piano and even good food. The Vienna audience is one of the most sophisticated in the world. Do you think it is because Vienna was the center of Western music for years?”

Liebman added that, as a passionate founder and emotionally invested owner, Huber “takes care of business and respects the musicians and the music. You really get a true feeling of interest in what you are playing. The Porgy schedule reflects our present period of musical eclecticism with featured projects from all over the world.”

Liebman has played with many Viennese musicians over the years, including a decades-deep relationship with drummer Wolfgang Reisinger. He said that “the level of musicianship is beyond the norm, and again, with such a rich tradition and concerts all over Vienna, seemingly on a daily level, it couldn’t but be that way in this historical cultural center.”

Porgy & Bess, which celebrates its 25th anniversary in 2018, also gains traction and networking power through working closely with a circuit of other major clubs in Europe, through its connection with the European Jazz Network (EJN). A “member card” system, launched in 1994, enables holders to gain access to other clubs, such as the Jazzhouse in Copenhagen, Denmark; Stadtgarten in Cologne, Germany; Bimhuis in Amsterdam, the Netherlands; Moods in Zurich, Switzerland; and Unterfahrt in Munich, Germany.

One of the city’s most celebrated artists—the late Joe Zawinul (of Weather Report fame)—got into the Vienna jazz club scene late in life with his venue Birdland (2004–2008), named after his famed tune and running until shortly after his death. As Huber said, “For me, it was very important that he play Porgy & Bess before opening Birdland, which he did in 2003—three nights—after nearly 50 years after playing with [Austrian pianist] Friedrich Gulda.

“In the opening week of Birdland, we had Pharoah Sanders scheduled at P&B. After the Sanders concert, we went with him to Birdland, where he joined Joey DeFrancesco. That was our gesture. Vice versa, Zawinul showed up at P&B regularly when he was in town. He was a great musician and a great human being.”

—Josef Woodard
nights a week. Touring acts from the United States, like Lew Tabackin and Scott Hamilton, play extended residencies when in town.

**ARGENTINA**

**Notorious**
Av. Callao 966
Buenos Aires
54 11 4831 6888
notorious.com.ar

Programming music every night of the week, this venue also offers listeners a record store in the front, and a café in the back.

**Thelonious Club**
Jerónimo Salguero 1884
Buenos Aires
54 11 4829 1562
thelonious.com.ar

Founded in 2000 by two jazz lovers inspired by the feel of New York nightclubs, this venue presents music four nights a week.

**AUSTRALIA**

**Bennetts Lane**
25 Bennetts Lane
Melbourne, Victoria
61 412 063 570
facebook.com/bennettslane

Bennetts Lane continues to adapt to changing circumstances. After a temporary closure in 2015, ownership has changed hands, and the club is primed for a resurgence. The owners are slated to open a new space at the Grand Hyatt complex on Flinders Lane.

**Elixir Tapas Bar**
92 Abbott Street
Cairns, Queensland
61 406 534 996
facebook.com/ElixirBarCairns

This location, which was formerly was Pop & Co, presents music Wednesdays through Sundays. Two Fridays a month are reserved for a local jazz trio, while the Sunday shows spotlight blue artists.

**Foundry616**
616 Harris Street
Ultimo/Sydney
02 9211 9442
foundry616.com.au

Founded in 2013, Foundry616 is a relative newcomer to the scene, but it’s made quite a splash already. Michael Griffin’s Thelonious Monk Octet and the Michael Gordon Bebop Band have played at Foundry616.

**The Sound Lounge**
City Road and Cleveland St.
Chippendale, New South Wales
61 2 9351 7940
sima.org.au

Affiliated with the Sydney Improvised Music Association, this 120-seat lounge books jazz acts on Fridays and Saturdays.

**VENUE 505**
280 Cleveland St.
Surry Hills, New South Wales
04 19 234 755
venue505.com

Started in 2004, Venue 505 (in the Sydney area) is part of a performing arts one-two punch: While Venue 505 is dedicated to promoting jazz and other music six nights a week, its sister venue, the Old 505 Theatre, presents theatre productions. On Jan. 26–27, the venue presents Bandaluzia Flamenco with Paco Lara & Chachy Peñalver.

**AUSTRIA**

**Blue Tomato**
Wurmsergasse 21
Vienna
04 1 985 5960
bluetomato.cc

In 2017, Blue Tomato celebrated its 35th year in business—a lengthy run for a jazz club. It has showcased a jazz, classical and other genres. The duo of Joe McPhee and Paal Nilssen-Love performed there recently.

**Jazzit**
Elisabethstraße 11
Salzburg
43 662 83264
jazzit.at

Jazzit has presented avant-garde jazz in Salzburg for more than four decades. Today the promoters book local, national and international groups like the Benjamin Schmid Jazz Quintet and the Jazzit Trio.

**Jazzland**
Franz Josef’s-Kai 29
Vienna
43 1 533 2575
jazzland.at

As a venue entering its 46th year of operation, Jazzland, which operates out of a 500-year-old cellar, holds the title as the oldest jazz club in Austria. Live music is presented six nights a week. Touring acts from the United States, like Lew Tabackin and Scott Hamilton, play extended residencies when in town.

**PORGY & BESS**
Riemergasse 11
Vienna
43 1 512 88 11
porgy.at

Celebrating its 25th birthday in 2018, Porgy & Bess books international jazz stars touring through Austria. Upcoming shows include Marc Ribot (Jan. 26), Dave Liebman (Jan. 27), David Murray (Feb. 10), Tim Berne (Feb. 12) and Chris Potter (March 1).

**STOCKWERK JAZZ**
Jakominiplatz 18
Graz
43 316 821433
stockwerkjazz.mur.at

An inviting and intimate café serves as the entrance to this upstairs club, which has been presenting jazz for more than two decades. Upcoming shows include The Kandinsky Effect (March 9), JD Allen Trio (March 14) and Canada Day Quartet (March 22).

**Treibhaus**
Angerzellgasse 8
Innsbruck
43 512 572000
treibhaus.at

This club is actually a functioning greenhouse, so the moniker Treibhaus, which is German for greenhouse, is more than just a clever name. The performance features jazz and other genres.

**BRAZIL**

**Blue Note Rio**
Av. Borges de Medeiros, 1424, Lagoa
Rio de Janeiro
55 21 3577 4477
bluenoterio.com.br

The Blue Note Rio is part of an extended network of Blue Note clubs, which are also located in New York; Napa, California; Honolulu, Hawaii; Milan; Beijing; Tokyo; and Nagoya, Japan. Upcoming shows at the Blue Note Rio include Eliane Elias (Jan. 12–13), Joyne Moreno (Feb. 1) and Eumir Deodato (April 6–7).

**Bourbon Street Music Club**
Rua dos Chanés, 127 – Moema
São Paulo
55 11 5095 6100
bourbonstreet.com.br

The aim of this club is to bring the food, spirit and sounds of New Orleans to Brazil. Besides jazz, the club also books pop and rock acts.

**The Maze**
Rua Tavares Bastos 414/66
Catete
Rio de Janeiro
55 21 2556 5547
jazzrio.com

Where else can music lovers get totally immersed in the music, sleeping and eating...
LISTENERS WHO WANT TO EXPERIENCE

JAZZ IN MONTREAL WOULD BE WELL ADVISED TO CHECK OUT THE TALENT ON TAP AT DIÈSE ONZE. THE INTIMATE VENUE HAS BECOME A KEY PART OF THE MONTREAL JAZZ SCENE. ESTABLISHED IN 2006 AT 4115-A ST. DENIS, THE SEMI-BASMENT VENUE—WHOSE FRENCH NAME TRANSLATES TO “SHARP 11,” A MUSICAL REFERENCE WITH AN ESPECIALLY HIP CONNOTATION—PRESENTS TWO SETS OF HIGH-QUALITY MUSIC EVERY NIGHT.

The club’s proprietor, Gary Tremblay, makes an effort to offer his clientele diverse programming. On Mondays, the club is heated up with Trubuco Habanero, featuring artists from Montreal’s Latin jazz scene. Tuesdays are reserved for a weekly jam session led by bassist Alex Bellegarde, running late into the night. Wednesdays are Soul Therapy Night, hosted by The Brooks collective. Thursdays feature a monthly spotlight. Fridays and Saturdays showcase mostly local, and some international, artists. And Sundays are vocal jazz jam nights, hosted by singer Kim Richardson.

Raised in Montreal, Tremblay grew up listening to Jimmy Smith, Marvin Gaye and Miles Davis. As a young man, he worked as a DJ and a clerk at a record store with a significant jazz section. Later he studied computer-assisted sound design and business management. He went on to manage several establishments, covering booking and sound, until walking into Dièse Onze eight years ago. Impressed with the ambiance but disappointed by the service, he pointed out to the owner that “the manager had no smile,” and was soon hired to take over operations.

When Tremblay took ownership of the club in 2014, it was with the intention of transforming it into a jazz institution. “I was a little hesitant when I took over,” he recalled. “I had already been working 80- to 100-hour weeks, and knew there was a lot of work to be done. But I really dug the vibe. I was involved in the local jazz scene, and believed in it. So I decided to give it a go.”

Seeing the club as a long-term project, he envisioned it as a venue with the highest standards—both musical and culinary. “Every cent of profit since then has been re-invested into the club,” Tremblay continued, noting Dièse Onze’s superior sound system, a new house drum kit, a Kawai piano and a completely re-equipped kitchen serving world-class cuisine.

The club’s weekly jam session has been led by Bellegarde, a mainstay of Montreal’s jazz scene, for the past eight years. The evening traditionally begins with a set by Bellegarde’s trio with an invited guest—on the night of DownBeat’s visit, it was Bulgarian saxophonist Tihomir Krastev. That’s followed by an open jam that draws professional musicians (frequently including out-of-towners), university students and devoted hobbyists with its welcoming vibe. “Gary has done a great job making musicians feel at home,” Bellegarde said.

Mentored by American-born bassist Skip Bey, Bellegarde had been leading jam sessions at various Montreal establishments for well over a decade before taking the gig at Dièse Onze. “The problem had always been finding venues that had a good vibe, which I think is super important for a good jam,” he said. “It was a no-brainer for me to finally get to do it in a proper jazz club.”

“The common thread of our clientele is that they are all real music lovers, whether they’re 18 or 90,” Trembley noted. Starting in January, he will begin a major renovation, moving the stage and raising the banquettes to enhance the audience’s experience.

Dièse Onze partners with L’OFF Festival de Jazz de Montréal, and this past October presented multiple shows during the fest, including alto saxophonist Jason Stillman’s Quartet. The venue also hosts its own series as part of the Montreal Jazz Festival. During the 2016 edition of that massive fest, Dièse Onze drew an international crowd for sets from a quintet co-led by trumpeter Ingrid Jensen and saxophonist Christine Jensen.

“Montreal is a jazz city—always has been,” Tremblay said. “There used to be a late-night set, running till 2 a.m. And I want to bring it back.”

—Sharonne Cohen

Good Vibes at Montreal’s Dièse Onze
at the same location where the music happens? This three-decades-old bed and breakfast is also an art gallery. Plus, the owner hosts a monthly jazz night.

**CANADA**

**DIÈSE ONZE**
4115-A St. Denis
Montreal
(514) 223-3543
dieseonze.com

Dièse Onze, which celebrated its 10th birthday in 2016, presents two shows a night, every day of the week. The schedule highlights the best local jazz musicians mixed with international artists. Past featured artists have included Harold Mabern and Ben Monder. The vocal jam happens on Sundays, and Tuesdays are reserved for an instrumental jam session.

**Frankie's Jazz**
765 Beatty St.
Vancouver, British Columbia
(604) 688-6368
frankiesitaliankitchen.ca

The Coastal Jazz and Blues Society books acts at Frankie’s four nights a week. The Vancouver Legacy Jazz Orchestra has held a Gerry Mulligan tribute night at this club.

**L’Astral**
305 Ste. Catherine St. W.
Montreal, Quebec
(514) 288-8882
sallealastral.com

Presenting more than just jazz, L’Astral has focused on bringing quality live music to Montreal since 2009. Artists who have played L’Astral include the Orchestre National de Jazz, Sass Jordan, the Simon Denizart Trio and Sleigh Bells.

**The Rex Jazz & Blues Bar**
194 Queen St. W.
Toronto, Ontario
(416) 598-2475
therex.ca

This hotel/jazz venue, which has been in operation since 1992, books local, national and international acts on a nightly basis. Jazz ensembles from the University of Toronto frequently take the stage.

**Upstairs Jazz Bar & Grill**
1254 MacKay St.
Montreal, Quebec
(514) 931-6808
upstairsjazz.com

This venue has been a vital part of the Montreal scene for more than two decades. The club showcases McGill University jazz students twice a week, chairs two jam sessions each week, and books local and international talent on the weekends.

**Yardbird Suite**
11 Tommy Banks Way
Edmonton, Alberta
(780) 432-0428
yardbirdsuite.com

Yardbird Suite has been helping shape Edmonton’s jazz scene since 1957, and the venue has been in its current location for three decades. Yardbird Suite, which hosts jam sessions each Tuesday and a Canadian jazz festival in November, is the headquarters of the Edmonton Jazz Society.

**CHINA**

**Fringe Club**
2 Lower Albert Road, Central
Hong Kong
852 2521 7251
hkfringeclub.com

For nearly 35 years, the Fringe Club (a former dairy show) has been presenting a range of jazz and other music, as well as performing arts events, in Hong Kong.

**COSTA RICA**

**Jazz Cafe**
Carretera Interamericana
San Pedro, Montes de Oca Canton
506 2253 8933
jazzcafecostarica.com

This 220-seat club is often filled with tourists, locals and expats. The owners book jazz, pop, rock and comedy shows.

**CZECH REPUBLIC**

**AghaRTA Jazz Centrum**
Zelezna 16
Prague
420 222 211 275
agharta.cz

A smooth-jazz ensemble, a vocal jazz trio, a modern ensemble and a straightahead group are representative of the diversity of bookings at this Old Town club. The venue also hosts Prague Jazz Festival shows.

**The Jazz Dock**
Janackovo Nabrezi 2
Prague
420 774 058 838
jazzdock.cz

The Jazz Dock is an extremely literal place—this club is on the edge of the Vltava River, offering a beautiful backdrop to the music. Julian Lage and forward-leaning European jazz musicians typify the club’s offerings.

**Lucerna Music Bar**
Vodi kova 36
Prague
420 224 224 537
musicbar.cz

The owners’ first inclination isn’t to book jazz, as this venue leans toward more rock and pop acts, but intrepid listeners can find improvised music at the venue.

**DENMARK**

**Copenhagen Jazzhouse**
Niels Hemmingsens Gade 10
Copenhagen
45 3315 4700
jazzhouse.dk

Jazz trio The Necks, who performed at the Jazzhouse recently, epitomize the club’s mission of “a place for experiments.” The venue hosts these jazz experiments a few times each month.

**Jazzhus Montmartre**
St. Regnegade 19A
Copenhagen
45 70 20 20 96
jazzhusmontmartre.dk

Jazzhus has been bringing top-quality jazz to Copenhagen audiences since 1959. The venue served as the European base of operations for Dexter Gordon and Ben
The 606 Club
90Lots Road
London
44 20 7352 5953
606club.co.uk
Opened in 1976 as a basement venue, the 606 Club moved above ground in the late 1980s to a space that has ample room for listeners to catch 10 bands each week. The venue rarely books visiting acts, choosing instead to focus on the London scene.

Cafe OTO
18–22 Ashwin St.
Dalston
London
44 20 7923 1231
cafeoto.co.uk
This venue is a café by day and a club by night. Bookers highlight an array of avant-garde styles, including jazz, rock and experimental music.

PizzaExpress Jazz Club
10 Dean St.
London
44 20 7437 9595
pizzapressjazz.co.uk
At this venue, jazz and pizza are a natural pairing. The actual club is nestled right below PizzaExpress restaurant, and the music lineup is anything but cheesy. The Kenny Werner Trio recently appeared at the club.

Ronnie Scott’s Jazz Club
47 Frith St.
London
44 20 7439 0747
ronniescotts.co.uk
What the venerated Village Vanguard is to New York City, Ronnie Scott’s is to London. Jazz, blues and jazz-leaning rock musicians play every night of the week at this legendary venue, which has been in operation since 1959. Upcoming shows include the Brubeck Brothers (Jan. 11–14), Kurt Rosenwinkel (Jan. 15) and Django Bates (Jan. 30).

The Vortex
11 Gillett Square
London
44 20 7254 4097
vortexjazz.co.uk
This small, not-for-profit club has been a London staple for more than 20 years. The owners book contemporary jazz and hold a jam session each Saturday. The London Jazz Orchestra has a long-running residency here.

Storyville
Muséegatan 8
Helsinki
358 20 7424240
storyville.fi
A century ago, excess mixed with hot jazz was the norm in New Orleans’ Storyville district, and this Helsinki spot aims to recreate some of that festive vibe. Hosting music four nights a week until 4 a.m., the venue books jazz, swing, blues and rock.

Le Caveau de la Huchette
5 Rue de la Huchette
Paris
33 1 4326 6505
caueavdelahuchette.fr
Aiming for a Cotton Club vibe, the Le Caveau de la Huchette features nightly jazz music that is perfect for dancing. Need proof? The venue was featured in the film “La La Land.” Le Caveau sits in a building originally constructed in the 1500s, but the club itself has only been around since 1946.

New Morning
7-9 Rue des Petites Écuries
Paris
33 1 45 23 51 41
newmorning.com
While it has presented jazz since its founding more than 30 years ago, the venue now hosts rock, funk and hip-hop acts. Jazz stars come here for short residencies.

Le Piano Barge
Allée Loïc Caradec, 56000
Vannes
33 2 97 47 76 05
pianobarge.com
Le Piano Barge allows jazz listeners to have a fine dining experience on a permanently docked boat overlooking the Marle River. The venue presents funk acts and improv theater.

Sunset-Sunside
60 Rue des Lombards
Paris
33 0 1 40 26 46 60
sunset-sunside.com
Monday night jam sessions draw musicians to this venue, which has been open for nearly 35 years. During the week, European and French jazz dominates, though international acts are occasionally booked at this famous club. Enrico Rava is booked for Jan. 18–19.

A-Trane
1 Bleibtreustraße St.
Berlin
49 30 3132550
a-trane.de
For more than 25 years, A-Trane has been presenting European and international jazz artists. The venue also serves as one of the main spots for Jazzfest Berlin. Upcoming shows include Lionel Loueke & Céline Rudolph (Jan. 16), the Fly Trio (Jan. 21) and Bernhard Meyer (Jan. 31).

Aufsturz
Oranienburger Straße 67
Berlin
49 30 2804 74 07
aufsturz.de
Aufsturz opened its doors in 2004, hoping to bring a heavy dose of jazz to the community along with a weekly swing dance party, complete with lessons. Aufsturz boasts a 100-selection beer menu. The club also serves as a gallery space and a lecture hall.

B-Flat
Dircksenstraße 40
Berlin
49 30 2833 123
b-flat-berlin.de
Modern jazz, soul, R&B—this jazz-leaning club has it all. Touring musicians and local acts take the stage each night of the week, with Wednesdays reserved for jam sessions. Recent performers include the Eden Bareket Trio and the Heiko Fischer Quartett.
Jazz im Prinz Karl
Gradmann Weg 7
Tübingen
07 07 1376 01
jipk.net
Fred Hersch and Chris Potter recently played this venue, which has been presenting top-notch jazz for more than 40 years.

Jazzkeller
Kleine Bockenheimer Str. 18a
Frankfurt
49 69 288537
jazzkeller.com
It’s been more than six decades since trumpeter Carlo Bohländer founded this basement space. Local artists and international acts are presented five nights a week. Ernie Watts performed in December. Upcoming shows include the Uta Dobberthien Quintet (Jan. 20), the Jesse Davis Quartet (Jan. 23) and Juliana Da Silva (Jan. 25).

Quasimodo
Kantstraße 12A
Berlin
49 30 318 045 60
quasimodo.de
Quasimodo may have started out as a jazz-dominant spot five decades ago, but over the years, bookers started promoting a wider range of acts. But Quasimodo remains one of the main Berlin jazz spots.

Stadtgarten
Venloer Straße 40
Köln
49 0221 952994 0
stadtgarten.de
Stadgarten encompasses both a concert hall and a smaller performance area. While the primary focus is jazz, some of the shows branch out into other genres. Among the stars who’ve played Stadtgarten are Jimmy Heath, Bill Frisell and Theo Bleckmann.

Unterfahrt
Einsteinstrasse 42
Munich
49 0 89 448 27 94
unterfahrt.de
Sunday is jam-session day at Unterfahrt, a jazz venue that also serves as an art gallery. Recent performers included the Dusko Goykovich Big Band, the Yosuke Onuma Quartet and Dieter Ilg Trio B-A-C-H.

Greece
Half Note Jazz Club
Trivonianou 17
Athens
30 21 0921 3310
halfnote.gr
Greek jazz musicians always have a home at the Half Note, which presents music nearly every night of the week. In addition to jazz, the owners also book blues and world music.

Hungary
Buda Jazz Club
Hollan Erno Utca 7
Budapest
36 70 413 9837
bjc.hu
This venue aims to support jazz youth. There are jam sessions three nights a week and classical music every Sunday.

Israel
Beit Haamudim
Rambam 14
Tel Aviv
972 3 510 9228
facebook.com/BeitHaamudim
The best Israeli jazz musicians play Betit Haamudim every night of the week. Vegetarian fare is served in this small club.

Shablul Jazz
Airport Hangar 13
Tel Aviv
972 3 546 1891
shabluljazz.com
Blues, reggae, pop, jazz—it’s all presented at the Shablul, which has been active in the community for more than a decade. Jazz is still prominent at the club, and it comes mostly via regional and European acts.

Italy
Alexanderplatz
Via Ostia, 9
Rome
06 39 06 8377 5604
alexanderplatzjazzclub.com
The oldest jazz club in Italy, Alexanderplatz has been presenting jazz to locals and tourists at its home near St. Peter’s Basilica for more than 30 years. Local and regional jazz musicians are frequently featured.

Cantina Bentivoglio
Via Mascarella, 4/B
Bologna
39 051 265416
cantinabentivoglio.it
This small jazz venue presents jazz nearly every night. Barry Harris and the Small’s Club All Stars performed at the club during the Bologna Jazz Festival.

Jazz Club Ferrara
Via 167, Rampari di Belfiore
Ferrara
39 0532 171 6739
jazzclubferrara.com
Programming at this venue is heavy on the jazz. Situated within St. John’s Tower, this club has presented jazz since 1999. Monday nights are reserved for jam sessions.

La Salumeria Della Musica
Via Pasinetti 4
Milan
39 02 5680 7350
lasalumeriadellamusica.com
For about two decades, this venue has been booking emerging jazz artists, established Italian jazz talent and touring international musicians. Pop and rock acts also play here.

Tramjazz
Departs from the Porta Maggiore plaza
Rome
3 39 6 334 700
tramjazz.com
A cable car serves as the evening’s venue, as patrons are served a meal, given a tour of Rome and offered a jazz concert.
Alfie Jazz House
6-2-35 Roppongi
Hama Roppongi Bldg. 5F
Tokyo
81 3 3479 2037
facebook.com/pages/Alfie/147192971988741

Body And Soul
6-13-9 Minamiaoyama
Tokyo
81 3 5466 3348
bodyandsoul.co.jp

Downbeat
Miyamoto Bldg, 2F 1-43
Yokahama
045 241 6167
yokohama-downbeat.com/index.html

Jz Brat
26-1 Sakuragaokach
Shibuya
Tokyo
81 03 5728 0168
jzbrat.com

Shinjuku Pit Inn
2-12-4 Accord Bldg. B1
Shinjuku shinjuku-ku
Tokyo
81 3 3354 2024
pit-inn.com

La Casa del Mendrugo
Calle 4 Sur 304, Centro Histórico
Puebla de Zaragoza, Puebla
52 222 232 5148
casadelmendrugo.com

Jzinco Jazz Club
Calle Motolinía 20, Centro
Mexico City
52 55 5512 3369
zincocafe.com

BIMHUIS
Piet Heinkade 3
Amsterdam
31 20 788 2150
bimhuis.com

The Jazz Bar
1A Chambers Street
Edinburgh
44 0 131 220 4298
thejazzbar.co.uk

Creative Jazz Club Aotearoa
1885 Britomart
27 Galway St.
Auckland
0212 389 747
creativejazzclub.co.nz

Louise Phelan Quintet performs at La Casa del Mendrugo in Puebla, Mexico.
This welcoming, regional jazz spot presents music nearly every night of the week.

**SPAIN**

**Bogui Jazz**  
Calle Barquillo 29  
Madrid  
34 915 21 15 68  
bogui.es  
Bogui features stars from the Spanish and European jazz scenes as well as Americans such as Greg Osby.

**Cafe Central**  
Plaza del Angel 10  
Madrid  
34 913 69 41 43  
cafecentralmadrid.com  
Founded more than 35 years ago, this club, an Art Deco wonderland, offers jazz, gospel, blues and other genres. The venue has presented Wallace Roney and Ernie Watts.

**Harlem Jazz Club**  
Carrer de Contessa de Sobradiel 8  
Barcelona  
34 933 10 07 55  
harlemjazzclub.es  
Now in its 31st year, this Club has become a touchstone of the jazz world in Barcelona. The programing also includes blues, funk and soul. There’s a blues jam every Monday.

**Jimmy Glass Jazz Bar**  
Calle Baja 28  
Valencia  
34 656 89 01 43  
jjimmyglassjazz.net  
This club, which is 25 years old, presents Spanish jazz artists and international stars.

**Jamboree Jazz Club**  
Plaça Reial 17  
Barcelona  
34 933 19 17 89  
masimask.com  
Founded in 1960, this club hosts the best jazz musicians in Catalonia, as well as international stars such as Harold Mabern.

**SWEDEN**

**Fasching**  
Kungsgatan 63  
Stockholm  
46 8 20 00 66  
fasching.se  
In 1977, Fasching opened its doors to showcase Scandinavian artists. Today, patrons flock to the club to hear stars like Chris Potter rub elbows with Stockholm Jazz Underground and other regional artists. The club also offers reggae, indie pop and soul.

**Glenn Miller Café**  
Brunns gatan 21  
Stockholm  
46 76 882 45 49  
glennmillerprogram.se  
This small venue showcases jazz on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

**Marian’s Jazz Room**  
Engestrasse 54  
Bern  
41 31 3096 111  
mariansjazzroom.ch  
This venue, which is located in the Innere Enge Hotel, has presented world-class jazz for more than 25 years. Closed during the summer months, bookers program jazz artists five days a week from September to May.

**SWITZERLAND**

**Saxophone Pub**  
3/8 Phayathai Rd. Victory Monument  
Bangkok  
+66 022 465 472  
saxophonepub.com  
For more than three decades, Thailand’s jazz musicians have performed at Saxophone Pub. Music happens seven nights a week. The booking leans heavily toward jazz, but other genres are occasionally presented.

**TURKEY**

**Nardis Jazz Club**  
Kuledibi Sok. No:8  
Istanbul  
90 212 244 6327  
nardisjazz.com  
Turkish jazz musicians share space with artists from a range of genres at this 120-seat venue. Shows happen every night of the week. The venue has recently hosted a Django Reinhardt-style jazz group, a Latin music ensemble and numerous straightahead musicians.
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