

DOWNBEAT 2020 INTERNATIONAL JAZZ VENUE GUIDE



106 CLUBS WHERE JAZZ THRIVES

Our Jazz Venue Guide is a passport to awesome music rooms around the globe. On the following pages, the listings are divided by geographic region, and a venue's name in capital letters indicates there is an advertisement for that establishment within this guide.

Cyrille Aimée onstage at Dakota in Minneapolis on April 3, 2019 (Photo: Andrea Canter)

Information for the guide was compiled by Yoshi Kato, Ken Micallef, Sean J. O'Connell, Terry Perkins and the DownBeat staff.

UNITED STATES

Smoke, a jazz club in New York City



EAST

CONNECTICUT

Firehouse 12

New Haven, CT

Firehouse 12 is a bar, a record label, a concert venue and a recording studio. Located in the historic 9th Square district, Firehouse 12's recording studio doubles as an intimate 75-seat auditorium, where its Jazz Series runs for 12 weeks during the spring and fall. Guitarist Lage Lund and clarinetist Aaron Novik are among the artists who have played here.

firehouse12.com

The Side Door Jazz Club

Old Lyme, CT

Located in the historic Old Lyme Inn (midway between Boston and New York), this club was opened in 2013 by jazz impresario George Wein and his Newport All-Star band, ensuring its future for years to come. Operated by jazz-loving couple Ken and Chris Kitchings, the venue will present the Tamir Hendelman Trio in January.

thesidedoorjazz.com

MARYLAND

An Die Musik Live!

Baltimore, MD

Located in a historic townhouse, this intimate 75-seat venue offers an eclectic mix of jazz, classical and other genres. There's a bi-monthly jazz jam plus weekend sets by the likes of Regina Carter and Dennis Chambers.

andiemusiklive.com

MASSACHUSETTS

The Lilypad

Cambridge, MA

The Lilypad features jazz, alt-rock and other styles seven nights a week (aside from holidays). The Joe Hunt group and the Jerry

Bergonzi Quartet frequently perform at this Inman Square venue.

lilypadinman.com

Regattabar

Cambridge, MA

Since 1985, this 225-seat club overlooking Harvard Square from the third floor of the Charles Hotel has been a stop for national acts. Look for upcoming performances by Bill Frisell and the Peter Bernstein/Larry Goldings/Bill Stewart Trio.

regattabarjazz.com

Scullers Jazz Club

Boston, MA

Scullers has been a fixture on the Boston jazz scene since 1989, featuring top names on weekends like Robert Glasper, Etienne Charles and Keyon Harrold, and occasional Thursday sets by area musicians. An appetizer menu is available.

scullersjazz.com

Wally's Café Jazz Club

Boston, MA

Wally's was founded in 1947, and bills itself as "the musician's training ground." The tiny room lives up to that motto by showcasing talented students from Berklee College of Music and other area music schools over the course of three sets every night.

wallysafe.com

NEW JERSEY

Shanghai Jazz

Madison, NJ

Combining a world-class restaurant and jazz venue, Shanghai Jazz has hosted some stellar talent, including saxophonist Harry Allen, vocalist Sarah Partridge and drummer Bernard Purdie. In business since 1995, Shanghai Jazz upholds jazz tradition and offers exquisite dining.

shanghaijazz.com

NEW YORK

55 Bar

New York, NY

This beloved bar has hosted some of the city's most innovative players, from Wayne Krantz and Zach Danziger to Mike Stern and Nate Wood. Jazz is heard here two or three nights a week, with blues and funk rounding out the schedule. This popular Greenwich Village haven fills up fast, so come early.

55bar.com

Birdland

New York, NY

The original Birdland dominated 52nd Street in the '40s, moved to the Upper West Side in the '90s, and today is firmly planted in Manhattan's theater district, not far from Times Square. Then as now, some of the finest jazz players in the world can be heard in this spacious club. Performers in January include Kurt Elling, Stacey Kent and John Pizzarelli with Jessica Molaskey.

birdlandjazz.com

Blue Note

New York, NY

The Blue Note packs them in every night of the week, and avid jazz fans often have the opportunity to speak to the musicians after the set. There is consistently a dazzling lineup at this Greenwich Village hot spot: January brings Christian McBride, Antonio Sánchez and the Dizzy Gillespie All Stars. In February, it's Dee Dee Bridgewater and Bill Frisell.

bluenote.net

Dizzy's Club

New York, NY

Where else can you get a spectacular view of Central Park while hearing some of the greatest names in jazz? The large, beautifully appointed space is a crown jewel in the Jazz At Lincoln Center family, presenting jazz every night and Late Night Sessions for the adventurous. Bookings in January include Jimmy Cobb, Nelson Matta, Gonzalo Rubalcaba, Christian Sands and Benny Green.

jazz.org/dizzys

Fat Cat

New York, NY

Where should you go if your ping-pong, pool and shuffleboard skills are rusty but you're also up for some New York City jazz? Fat Cat is the place to exercise your hands, ears and soul, all in one relaxed Greenwich Village spot. Trio, ensemble and big band jazz performances are presented every night. Recent performers include David Weiss & Point of Departure, Willie Martinez y La Familia and the Ed Cherry Trio.

fatcatmusic.org

The Iridium

New York, NY

A 180-seat room devoted to all styles of music seven nights a week, The Iridium presents jazz from the trio of Wayne Krantz, Keith Carlock and Tim Lefebvre, as well as blues from Ana Popovic and Otis Taylor.

theirdium.com

The Jazz Gallery

New York, NY

Winner of the 2016, 2014 and 2010 CMA/ASCAP Awards for Adventurous Programming, The Jazz Gallery maintains a balance between fostering new jazz talent and booking jazz celebrities. Hear jazz live, three nights per week, 50 weeks per year.

jazzgallery.org

Jazz Standard

New York, NY

Boasting terrific acoustics and equally renowned Southern cuisine, Jazz Standard has for more than a decade brought new talent to prominence while hosting jazz luminaries. One of the few non-tipping establishments in New York City, Jazz Standard presents artists like the Maria Schneider Orchestra, Louis Hayes and Matt Wilson.

jazzstandard.com

(LE) POISSON ROUGE

New York, NY

Located in the same subterranean warren that once housed The Village Gate, LPR is renowned for its genre-bending ambitions, hosting jazz, classical, new music, avant-garde and indie rock. And like the Village Gate of the 1960s, LPR also hosts readings, comedy, film, DJs, theater and burlesque. Cyrille Aimée hits LPR's "Main Space" stage on Feb. 20.

lpr.com

Mezzrow

New York, NY

Tiny, tube-shaped, underground Mezzrow is a bit like revisiting the glory days of speakeasies and prohibition—but with fine acoustics. Residencies by guitarist Pasquale Grasso and various vocalists and pianists make the joint hum, while regular visits by artists like reedist Scott Robinson keep customers glued to their seats. Cozy and intimate, Mezzrow is the sound of old New York, today.

mezzrow.com

Minton's Playhouse

New York, NY

Founded in 1938 by the saxophonist Henry Minton in Harlem, the revived Minton's does its best to live up to its fabled namesake. Spacious yet intimate, Minton's is joined to the Cecil Steakhouse. The Jason Marsalis Big Band plays here frequently.

mintonsharlem.com

Nublu

New York, NY

East Village nightspot Nublu hosts jazz, funk, electronic and "Vinyl Only" nights in a three-level space that offers excellent sightlines and people-watching. The club's recent 10-night jazz festival included the Sun Ra Arkestra, Dave Douglas and Donny McCaslin. The two locations are 151 Avenue C, and Nubu Classic at 62 Avenue C.

nublu.net

Smalls

New York, NY

A tiny place with terrific jazz, Smalls is where established players and upstarts co-mingle, and fire-burning performances are the norm.

January shows include Ari Hoenig, Joe Farnsworth, Mike DiRubbo, Chet Doxas and Simona Premazzi. Jazz is an all-night, every-night affair at Smalls.

smallslive.com

Smoke

New York, NY

Located at the historic junction of 106th Street (aka Duke Ellington Boulevard) and Broadway, Smoke boasts excellent food and its own record label. And though it seats only 50, the club stays open until 3 a.m. Among the artists performing in January are Emmet Cohen, Bill Charlap and Vincent Herring.

smokejazz.com

The Stone at The New School

New York, NY

Now located in The New School, The Stone is New York's number-one night spot for creative improvisation beyond borders. Founded in 2005 by John Zorn, The Stone has played host to such forward-looking artists as Henry Grimes, Dave Burrell, Laurie Anderson, Mary Halvorson, Nels Cline and Gerry Hemingway.

thestonenc.com

Village Vanguard

New York, NY

Founded in 1935, the most revered jazz room in New York is a bucket-list destination for music lovers from around the globe. Upcoming January residencies include the Julian Lage Trio, the Joe Lovano & Dave Douglas Quintet and the Jakob Bro Quartet. The Fred Hersch Trio arrives in early February. The Vanguard Jazz Orchestra occupies the Monday-night slot.

villagevanguard.com

PENNSYLVANIA

Chris' Jazz Café

Philadelphia, PA

Celebrating its 30th year of six-nights-a-week sets, Chris' is the longest continuously running jazz club in Philadelphia. National acts and strong local talent—as well as owner/chef Mark DiNinno's gourmet menu—add up to a winning combination.

chrisjazzcafe.com

MCG Jazz

Pittsburgh, PA

The Manchester Craftsman's Guild has been presenting an outstanding annual concert series in a 350-seat space since 1987, as well as issuing live recordings of the performances. Recent and upcoming bookings include the SFJAZZ Collective, Nicole Mitchell and Cécile McLorin Salvant.

mcgjazz.org

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Blues Alley

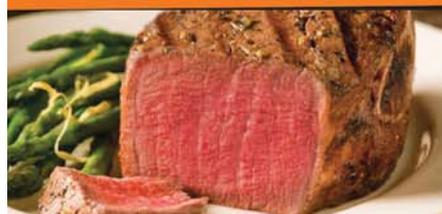
Washington, D.C.

Open every night (except major holidays), Blues Alley showcases a blend of national names and area jazz performers. A full menu features New Orleans dishes. Look for February/March sets by Cyrille Aimée and Kevin Eubanks. But be prepared to arrive early: Seating is general admission.

bluesalley.com

EXPERIENCE

BLU



BLU Plate Grill

bluplateakron.com



Named one of the 100 World's Best Jazz Venues by **DOWNBEAT**

BLU Jazz+ Club

blujazzakron.com



BLU-Tique Hotel

blu-tique.com

AKRON

STUDIO K AT THE KENNEDY CENTER Washington, D.C.

This 160-seat venue (or 250 standing) is booked by Jason Moran, the Kennedy Center's Artistic Director for Jazz, and the calendar reflects his wide-ranging tastes. Upcoming shows include Jazzmeia Horn, Linda May Han Oh, Bilal, and Kassa Overall with Carmen Lundy.

kennedy-center.org

Twins Jazz

Washington, D.C.

This intimate club has been around since 1987, with a move to its current U Street location in 2000. Sets run Wednesday through Saturday with an emphasis on area talent and jazz jams. The international menu has an Ethiopian accent.

twinsjazz.com

SOUTH

GEORGIA

The Velvet Note

Alpharetta, GA

Billed as an "acoustic living room," this venue presents jazz Thursday through Sunday in a space designed for comfort with excellent acoustics. A full restaurant/bar adds to the ambience. Recent bookings include Jeff Coffin and Mary Stallings.

thevelvetnote.com

LOUISIANA

Blue Nile

New Orleans, LA

One of the original clubs on the Frenchmen Street scene presents music every night on a main-level stage, as well as an upstairs space with a balcony. Regular performers include NOLA fave Kermit Ruffins as well as occasional national acts.

bluenilelive.com

Preservation Hall

New Orleans, LA

Several sets happen every night at this famed French Quarter club, with an emphasis on traditional NOLA jazz and a rotating cast of musicians in the Preservation Hall All Stars. Late-night performances during Jazz Fest sell out quickly.

preservationhall.com

Prime Example

New Orleans, LA

This intimate, triangular-shaped club in the 7th Ward at Broad and St. Bernard isn't far from Fairgrounds Park, home of Jazz Fest. You'll find a strong focus on modern jazz and blues Tuesday through Saturday.

primeexamplejazz.com

Snug Harbor Jazz Bistro

New Orleans, LA

Snug Harbor has been presenting jazz continuously ever since it opened in 1983.

A two-level seating area features excellent sightlines for a lineup of the top musicians on the NOLA jazz scene, including regular performances by Ellis Marsalis.

snugjazz.com

Tipitina's

New Orleans, LA

Featuring a lineup that covers the musical spectrum from funk to jazz to rock, Tip's is a legendary NOLA venue with roots that go back to 1977. Now owned by the band Galactic, it has a strong commitment to music education through the Tipitina Foundation.

tipitinas.com

SOUTH CAROLINA

THE JAZZ CORNER

Hilton Head Island, SC

Celebrating its 20th anniversary, this 99-seat venue offers music and gourmet food every night. The Martin Lesch Band plays every Monday in January. International star Tierney Sutton is scheduled for Feb. 8.

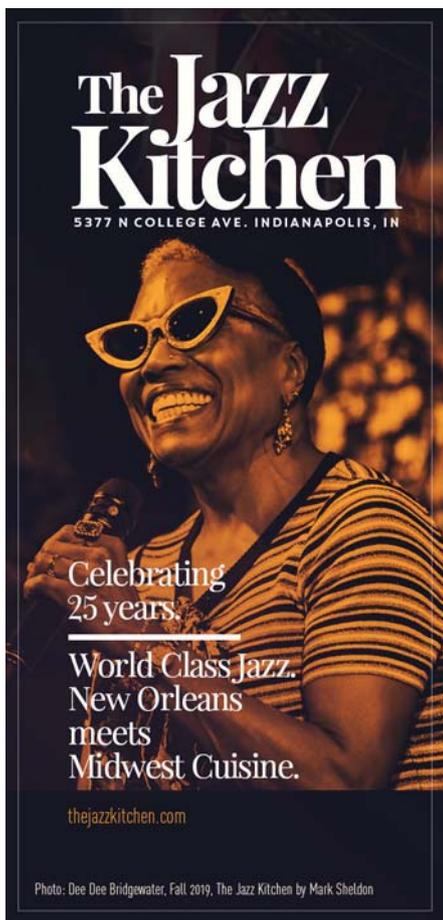
thejazzcorner.com

TENNESSEE

Rudy's Jazz Room

Nashville, TN

A 2017 addition to Nashville's music scene, Rudy's presents jazz every night in an intimate setting, with a strong focus on



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thejazzkitchen.com

Photo: Dee Dee Bridgewater, Fall 2019, The Jazz Kitchen by Mark Sheldon



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regional musicians, as well as the occasional national act. Rudy's offers a New Orleans-based menu and a full bar.

rudysjazzroom.com

TEXAS

SCAT JAZZ LOUNGE

Fort Worth, TX

This basement club has music every night but Monday. There's an emphasis on regional musicians, and the Black Dog Jam, the longest-running jam session in the city, happens every Sunday.

scatjazzlounge.com

MIDWEST

Cornetist Josh Berman performs at Constellation in Chicago.



BRETT SWINNEY

Jazz in Chicago

Downtown Chicago's premier venue for multi-night jazz residencies, the historic **Jazz Showcase** presents top-tier talent from the world of straight-ahead jazz in an elegant, spacious environment (jazzshowcase.com). Uptown, the **Green Mill** consistently draws top-notch local and national jazz artists to its Prohibition-era environs and buzzing late-night scene (greenmilljazz.com). **Andy's Jazz Club**, located in the bustling River North district, is a great place to grab a bite to eat and enjoy an after-work cocktail while listening to some of the area's most popular jazz practitioners (andysjazzclub.com). Sporting a pair of concert spaces, **Constellation**, located on the city's northwest side, offers a variety of disciplines: jazz, contemporary classical, dance and the occasional film screening (constellation-chicago.com). A spiritual home for Chicago's avant-garde for more than a decade, the **Hungry Brain's** scruffy ambience belies the exploratory nature of its bookings. Appearing alongside local players are international bandleaders tugging at the edges of jazz (hungrybrainchicago.com). Interspersed with soul, r&b and hip-hop shows, **Promontory** in Hyde Park hosts road-tested jazz players, as well as younger talent expanding the genre (promontorychicago.com).

INDIANA

THE JAZZ KITCHEN

Indianapolis, IN

This 140-seat room showcases jazz or blues acts every night, with a full menu and bar. Recent bookings include Gerald Albright, John Pizzarelli, Regina Carter and Kneebody. There's a jazz jam every Monday.

thejazzkitchen.com

MICHIGAN

Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe

Gross Pointe Farms, MI

The 65-seat suburban Detroit club offers music and food Tuesday through Saturday. Guitarist Ron English holds down the Tuesday slot, and a mix of regional musicians and national names like Freddie Cole and Tia Fuller perform here.

dirtydogjazz.com

MINNESOTA

Crooners Lounge & Supper Club

Minneapolis, MN

Crooners offers three unique concert stages for dinner-shows, with an emphasis on regional artists. The Jerry Bergonzi Quartet comes to town on Jan. 6 for two sets.

croonerslounge.com

Dakota Jazz Club

Minneapolis, MN

Open every night on the first floor of the Target Plaza building, the Dakota features an eclectic mix of jazz, rock, blues and folk. Upcoming shows include the Rebirth Brass Band (Jan. 25), Lil' Ed & The Blues Imperials (Jan. 31), Manhattan Transfer (Feb. 10-11) and Stacey Kent (Feb. 23).

dakotacooks.com

MISSOURI

Ferring Jazz Bistro

The Harold & Dorothy Steward Center for Jazz

St. Louis, MO

The Center has a strong focus on jazz education and community outreach, and the 200-seat Ferring Jazz Bistro hosts jazz performances year round, featuring national acts every other week, as well as area musicians. Upcoming performances feature The Bad Plus and Tim Warfield.

jazzstl.org

Murry's

Columbia, MO

Great food and jazz are a winning combination at Murry's. Local acts are presented Monday through Saturday. And the "We Always Swing" concert series brings big names to the intimate club for Sunday sets September through May.

murrysrestaurant.net

OHIO

BLU JAZZ+

Akron, OH

This general-admission club, open five nights a week, mixes it up with a Tuesday blues jam, a Wednesday solo piano series, and area musicians and occasional national acts. The venue's Masterclass Foundation promotes jazz education and mentorship.

blujazzakron.com

Nighttown

Cleveland, OH

Founded in 1965, Nighttown has expanded to six dining rooms and three bars. But for music fans, the center of attention is the small stage that features jazz up to seven nights a week. The focus is on area talent, but big names also hit the stage.

nighttowncleveland.com

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Pianist Lynne Arriale, vocalist Charnée Wade and saxophonist Grace Kelly perform at Bach Dancing & Dynamite Society in Half Moon Bay, California.

BACH DANCING & DYNAMITE SOCIETY

has boasted one of the best jazz clubs in the world. Miguel Zenón and the Preservation Hall Jazz Band can show up on the same week, rivaling some of the finest concert hall bookings the West Coast has to offer.
kuumbwajazz.org

YOSHI'S
Oakland, CA

The pre-eminent East Bay music room hosts jazz artists such as The Cookers and hip-hop artists like Talib Kweli. Victor Wooten comes to town Jan. 20–21. This revered room has been offering sushi and swing since the early 1970s.
yoshis.com

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

The Baked Potato
Studio City, CA

Fusion bands and other electric groups call this funky bar home. With music six nights a week, this is a great spot to find top-shelf session musicians playing for an appreciative yet low-key crowd.
thebakedpotato.com

Blue Whale
Los Angeles, CA

Open since 2009, this third-floor Little Tokyo nightclub has established a sterling reputation with its combination of live jazz, a visual art space and a bar. Listeners can balance food and drink while seated on small blue cubes for acts both local and international. Live music six nights a week.
bluewhalemusic.com

WEST

ARIZONA

The Nash
Phoenix, AZ

Named after drummer Lewis Nash, a Phoenix native, this club presents concerts, as well as an extensive offering of classes during the day. From big bands to touring small groups led by the likes of Jimmy Cobb and Katie Thiroux, no room swings harder in Arizona.
thenash.org

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

BACH DANCING & DYNAMITE SOCIETY
Half Moon Bay, CA

Established in 1964, this jazz salon presents artists a few times a month, with Sunday concerts starting at 4:30 p.m. Upcoming shows include Kenny Garrett, The Cookers and Terence Blanchard.
bachddsoc.org

KUUMBWA JAZZ
Santa Cruz, CA

Since 1975, this surf-friendly college town

[le] poisson rouge

2/2 – Ghost train Orchestra with Joan Wasser, Karen Mantler, JG Thirwell, and Theo Bleckmann

2/7 – CEG Presents: Brass Against

3/26 – The Necks (2 Shows!)

4/3 – Julian Lage & Chris Eldridge

LPR.com

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Santa Cruz, CA | 831.427.2227
 photos by r.r. jones

Catalina Bar & Grill

Los Angeles, CA

This sprawling performance space is one of the last places in Hollywood to host multi-night headliners like Chick Corea, Poncho Sanchez and Arturo Sandoval's big band. Live music is featured six nights a week.

catalinajazzclub.com

Sam First

Los Angeles, CA

This intimate, modern cocktail bar is within walking distance of baggage claim at LAX. Up-and-coming artists from the nearby Herbie Hancock Institute of Jazz fill in the week, while big names like Billy Childs perform on weekends.

samfirstbar.com

COLORADO

Dazzle Jazz

Denver, CO

Located in the nearly 150-year-old Baur Building, this venue takes pride in its menu and eclectic music fare. From gamelan to soul, this room places jazz in a global context with upcoming visits from Etienne Charles and Javon Jackson among the diverse options.

dazzlejazz.com

OREGON

The 1905

Portland, OR

This venue is straightforward about your



Drummer Tommy Igoe and his band perform at Yoshi's in Oakland, California.

YOSHI'S

evening and brunch plans: "Food. Booze. Jazz." The jazz portion features both local and touring bands, with a lot of straightahead acts playing tableside in the dining room.

the1905.org

WASHINGTON

Dimitriou's Jazz Alley

Seattle, WA

For more than 30 years, this magnet for big-name touring jazz acts has served Seattle with a capacity of 350-plus and balcony

seating. Upcoming shows include Chris Botti (Jan. 14–19), Harriet Tubman (Jan. 21–22), David Sanborn (Feb. 20–23) and Cécile McLorin Salvant (March 31–April 1).

jazzalley.com

The Royal Room

Seattle, WA

Located in the Columbia City neighborhood, this nearly 10-year-old venue was the brainchild of musician Wayne Horvitz. The warm space hosts educational programs and evening sets by local jazz artists.

theroyalroomseattle.com

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Moscow, Russia

INTERNATIONAL



Stockwerk Jazz in Graz, Austria

AUSTRALIA

Foundry616

Sydney

Located near Sydney's Darling Harbour, this club features the best of the Australian scene, as well as international guests.

foundry616.com.au

Venue 505

Sydney

Jazz jams, groove-oriented bands and straightahead explorations are presented six nights a week on this 16-year-old bandstand.

venue505.com

AUSTRIA

Blue Tomato

Vienna

From Thursday through Saturday, traditional and modern jazz is presented in this comfortable spot. Sun of Goldfinger and Ballister are among recent headliners.

bluetomato.cc

Jazzland

Vienna

The 48-year-old cellar-level club presents concerts Monday through Saturday. There's an exciting Rising Star series, as well as shows by the likes of pianist/vocalist Dena DeRose and trumpeter Valery Ponomarev.

jazzland.at

PORGY & BESS

Vienna

A favorite of musicians, this nonprofit space champions European jazz, as well as presenting bands from around the world. The Austrian Jazzcomposers Orchestra and Portuguese vocalist Carmen Souza headlined in late 2019.

porgy.at

Stockwerk Jazz

Graz

Taking its adult beverages as seriously as it does its jazz, this club presents everything from solo shows to big bands. International artists stop by amid a schedule of regional talent.

stockwerkjazz.mur.at

BRAZIL

Blue Note Rio

Rio de Janeiro

Part of the famous Blue Note chain of clubs, this venue is temporarily closed, but is scheduled to reopen in a new location in Rio during the first quarter of 2020.

bluenoterio.com.br

CANADA

Dièse Onze

Montreal

This cozy, 14-year-old club is a favorite spot for dedicated jazz fans. Anchored by the Kim Richardson Trio's vocal jam sessions on Sundays, the club also offers flamenco on Mondays, as well as local and touring musicians. A superb kitchen offers tapas, salads, entrées and desserts.

dieseonze.com

FRANKIE'S JAZZ CLUB

Vancouver

Italian cuisine, West Coast musicians and touring talent (including organist Larry Goldings) all can be enjoyed here Wednesday through Sunday nights.

The Rex Jazz & Blues Bar

Toronto

For 18 concerts weekly, this musicians' congregating point is the place to catch local artists and touring musicians. Affordability is one of its hallmarks, and craft beer connoisseurs will rejoice.

therex.ca

Upstairs Jazz Bar & Grill

Montreal

From midweek student jams to weekend showcase headliners like pianist Jean-Michel Pilc, concerts at this 25-year-old gem embody a communal spirit.

upstairsjazz.com

CZECH REPUBLIC

AghaRTA Jazz Centrum

Prague

Launched the day after Miles Davis died (in 1991) and named after his 1975 album, this

venue/bar/Arta Records label shop hosts local jazz artists nightly and international, touring musicians such as drummer/vocalist Jamison Ross.

aghartacz

The Jazz Dock

Prague

Creative architecture, high-end meals, appealing drinks, a view of the Vltava River and concerts by top-shelf artists make this a bucket-list destination.

jazzdock.cz

DENMARK

Jazzhus Montmartre

Copenhagen

Born in 1959 and reborn in 2010, this nonprofit space hosts Scandinavian and other touring jazz artists most nights. Trumpeter Jeremy Pelt and guitarist Jakob Bro are recent headliners.

jazzhusmontmartre.dk

ENGLAND

Cafe OTO

London

Commissions, residencies and concert recordings are part of the programming at this venue, which presents music nightly.

cafeoto.co.uk

Jazz Cafe

London

Pairing gourmet food with nightly concerts, Jazz Cafe has seated views upstairs and a downstairs dance floor. Funk and soul bookings share the marquee with the likes of iconic jazz drummer Billy Cobham.

thejazzcafelondon.com

Ronnie Scott's

London

Since 1959, Ronnie Scott's has been presenting and celebrating the biggest names in jazz and blues in the heart of London's Soho district. The legendary club has a reputation among world-renown artists for its great sound, excellent sight lines, storied history and highly supportive patrons. Many memorable albums have been recorded here.

ronniescotts.co.uk

The Vortex

London

This intimate nonprofit establishment features straightahead jazz, modern styles and free-improv. British saxophone titan Evan Parker has a monthly residency.

vortexjazz.co.uk

ESTONIA

Philly Joe's Jazz Club

Tallinn

Founded in 2014, the club has partnered with local organizations to present concerts, workshops, master classes and films.

phillyjoes.com

FINLAND

Storyville

Helsinki

Storyville's cuisine is as much a signature as its namesake neighborhood's musical heritage. This two-story venue has a piano bar above and a supper club below for four lively musical nights each week.

storyville.fi

FRANCE

Duc Des Lombards

Paris

Between jam sessions and concert tributes to greats such as McCoy Tyner, the 35-year-old hot spot alternates between presenting touring talent (vocalist/pianist Patricia Barber) and local artists (violinist Aurore Voilqué).

ducdeslombards.fr

Le Caveau de la Huchette

Paris

Whether one looks back to its start as a jazz club in 1946 or vibraphonist Dany Doritz's 49 years of guidance, this "temple of swing" is home to music seven nights a week.

caveaudelahuchette.fr

New Morning

Paris

Blues, klezmer, funk and disco nights mix with straightahead and fusion styles at this 38-year-old musical and social hot spot.

newmorning.com

Sunset-Sunside

Paris

Offering music nightly, this club has hosted stars such as pianist Jacky Terrasson and guitarist Kurt Rosenwinkel.

sunset-sunside.com

GERMANY

A-Trane

Berlin

Bassist/vocalist Katie Thiroux and tenor saxophonist Melissa Aldana are among the touring artists to play this 27-year-old spot, which serves German and international cuisine.

a-trane.de

BIX Jazzclub

Stuttgart

Mouth-watering food options and live music Tuesday through Saturday make this 13-year-old space pop. It has hosted local artists such as pianist Olivia Trummer and touring talent such as Raul Midón.

bix-stuttgart.de

Jazz im Prinz Karl

Tübingen

The 42-year-old membership-driven institution recently has presented bands led by trumpeter Wallace Roney, saxophonist Nubya Garcia and bassist Ben Williams.

jipk.net

Jazzkeller

Frankfurt

Featuring a jam session on Wednesdays, this cellar spot is one of the oldest jazz venues in Europe. It presents a variety of ensembles, from piano trios to big bands.

jazzkeller.com

ISRAEL

Beit Haamudim

Tel Aviv

From classic guitar and saxophone trios to quartets, quintets and jam sessions, Beit Haamudim hosts the best of Israeli's jazz scene seven days a week.

facebook.com/BeitHaamudim

ITALY

Alexanderplatz

Rome

Celebrating its 35th anniversary in 2020 after a brief closure, Italy's premier jazz club continues to emphasize trio and quartet concerts in classic and modern styles.

alexanderplatzjazz.com

JAPAN

Body & Soul

Tokyo

Since 1974, this venue (which seats about 50) has presented mostly domestic talent.

bodyandsoul.co.jp

Shinjuku Pit Inn

Tokyo

Known for showcasing domestic artists and serving snacks and drinks, this 53-year-old venue (27 years in its current location) is a serious and revered listening room.

pit-inn.com

MEXICO

Zinco Jazz Club

Mexico City

With an enviable menu and a simple decor, this club has earned a reputation for hipness. On-stage shows have included a tribute to Billie Holiday, a big band and a Gypsy jazz unit.

zincojazz.com

THE NETHERLANDS

Bimhuis

Amsterdam

Located near Amsterdam's Central Station, this internationally acclaimed concert hall boasts a 45-year history and more than 300 concerts annually by the likes of Transylvanian pianist Lucian Ban and American vocalist Becca Stevens.

bimhuis.com

NORWAY

Victoria Nasjonal Jazz Scene

Oslo

Housed in a stylish setting, Victoria Nasjonal Jazz Scene can accommodate 300 people. Norway's vibrant jazz scene is represented here, as are touring musicians like vocalist Kurt Elling.

nasjonaljazzscene.no/en

PORTUGAL

Hot Clube de Portugal

Lisbon

This 70-year-old club has hosted the likes of Sidney Bechet and Count Basie. It presents a Tuesday-night jam session, and touring artists and tribute shows Wednesday through Saturday.

hcp.pt

RUSSIA

IGOR BUTMAN JAZZ CLUB

Moscow

Famed saxophonist Igor Butman often leads his own big band at his namesake club, which also presents other Russian instrumentalists, as well as vocalists and international touring jazz musicians.

butmanclub.ru

SENEGAL

La Cave du Djoloff

Dakar

Since 2017, the Djoloff Boutique Hotel's subterranean venue has hosted local and international artists like vocalist Lisa Simone, drummer Tony Allen and national treasure Orchestra Baobab.

hoteldjoloff.fr

SOUTH AFRICA

The Crypt

Cape Town

Located in St. George's Cathedral, this unique venue recently reopened. It has a Monday night jam session, concerts through Saturday night, a restaurant and a bar.

cryptjazz.co.za

SPAIN

Harlem Jazz Club

Barcelona

Like its namesake, this venue is rooted in jazz but now includes genres such as salsa, flamenco and soul.

harlemjazzclub.es

Jamboree

Barcelona

From Duke Ellington and Ornette Coleman to Barcelona native son Jorge Rossy, Jamboree has hosted jazz greats since 1960.

jamboreejazz.com

SWEDEN

Fasching

Stockholm

Founded in 1977, Fasching is a hybrid concert venue/restaurant/bar/nightclub. Jazz, dance and folk artists are all presented, including trumpeter Jeremy Pelt, German pianist Florian Weber and the Brooklyn Funk Essentials.

fasching.se

SWITZERLAND

Marian's Jazz Room

Bern

This 130-capacity, 27-year-old room is open from September through May. It offers two sets a night Tuesday through Saturday.

mariansjazzroom.ch

TURKEY

Nardis Jazz Club

Istanbul

Housed in a historic building and seating 120 people, Nardis presents mostly local musicians, two sets a night, Monday through Saturday.

nardisjazz.com