WHERE TO BUY JAZZ 2005
DOWNBEAT'S GUIDE TO THE MUSIC MARKETPLACE

Jazz has a way of getting under your skin, and once it takes hold, it infects the listener with an urge to buy ... and buy some more. A jazz collection can never be complete, even when there isn't an inch of space remaining to hold another LP or CD on your shelves. The heyday of the brick-and-mortar music store is over. But luckily for jazz fans, when the itch to add to the collection emerges, there are plenty of stores that can provide the cure. Besides the vast resources of the Internet and select major chains, there are still many independent stores—large and small—across the country with knowledgeable staffs, where aficionados and casual listeners, musicians and fans alike, can congregate to peruse the bins to search for listening treasure.

NEW YORK CITY

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

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

J&R Music World
23 Park
212-236-9000 | jandr.com

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

ROCHESTER, N.Y.

Bop Shop
274 N. Goodman St.
585-271-3334 | bopshop.com

Record collector Tom Kohn has built quite a store in Western New York, which offers top new releases but specializes in the hard-to-find and independent, new and classic treasures from jazz, blues and other American roots music. It has a huge collection of LPs, and more than 10,000 of these are sold through its web site. The store holds numerous in-store concerts, and hosts the largest record show in the region twice a year. —J.K.

CHICAGO

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

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

ST. LOUIS

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

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

AUSTIN, TEXAS

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

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