



asheville sound | music news

Modern-day Asheville doesn't identify with just one sound - it's a diverse sonic melting pot, embracing musicians of all genres. From the nation's longest-running folk festival and Moog Music to weekly drum circles and Grammy-winning musicians representing bluegrass to hip hop, music rings through the air in this Blue Ridge Mountain city.

Music Scene News

► **Vinyl Record Plant + Music Café:** Opening in summer, **Citizen Vinyl** will offer an immersive music experience with a record plant, independent record store and music café and bar with food, coffee and craft cocktails. **Hands-on Electronica:** The **Moogseum**, now open in downtown, celebrates the life of Bob Moog, inventor of the Moog Synthesizer that revolutionized almost every genre of music. The Moogseum features bays of synthesizers, theremins and effect pedals that allow people to explore the science behind electronic music. ► **Mega Collab:** The Grammy Award-winning Steep Canyon Rangers reimagine their catalog with the Asheville Symphony and music scene giants. The new album, recorded at Asheville's Echo Mountain Studios, includes arrangements by Jonathan Sacks, who has worked on many Disney films, and orchestra conductor Michael Bearden, who is currently the music director for Lady Gaga and has worked with Michael Jackson and Madonna. The first track off the album, "Be Still Moses," a collaboration between the band, symphony and the music group Boyz II Men, was released in August.



Not Your Average Concert Hall: Unique Venues, Mountain Backdrops & Iconic Stages

► Unique stages appear throughout Asheville, from **Ben's Tune-Up**, a repurposed automotive repair shop; to the **Salvage Station**, a junkyard-turned-shipping-container-themed riverside venue; to **The Odditorium**, an intimate dive bar affectionately known for its collection of oddities and artifacts. Also check out 1940s car dealership-turned-music venue **White Horse Black Mountain** or hear local musicians jam at **Asheville Guitar Bar**, a venue with music-themed art installations. ► Nearly 50 music venues are scattered throughout the region attracting not only local artists but mainstream musicians as well, including the 7,600+ person-capacity **Harrah's Cherokee Center** and renowned former 1960s R&B/soul club **The Orange Peel**, which was named one of the top rock clubs in the country by *Rolling Stone*. For the ultimate concert experience, take in sweeping

mountain views at **Sierra Nevada Brewery's** outdoor amphitheater or catch a show at America's Largest Home during **Biltmore's Summer Concert Series**.

Music in "Beer City USA"

► Most of Asheville's breweries and brewpubs are great locations to hear live local music. **Pisgah Brewing, Highland Brewing, French Broad River Brewery, New Belgium, Oskar Blues, UpCountry Brewing** and **Sierra Nevada** have all built indoor and/or outdoor stages. ► Newer breweries like **Whistle Hop** and **Archetype** are places to catch regular live music. ► Craft beer connoisseurs should also be on the lookout for special locally influenced batches of craft beer. Tasty concoctions like Pisgah Brewing's LEAF Amber Ale, Sierra Nevada's Warren Haynes Christmas Jam Ale and Hi-Wire's BARNAbrew ESB can be found on tap during their namesake events.

Musical Road Trip Essentials

► **Moog Music Factory** carries on the innovative spirit of Bob Moog, creator of the Minimoog Analog Synthesizer and Asheville resident for almost 30 years. **TIP:** After touring the factory, make your own music at the Moog Store - it's the only place in the world where all of Moog's instruments are in one room. ► Just up the street, **Static Age Records and Voltage Records** each offer new and used vinyl album selections. West Asheville's **Harvest Records**, with a boutique record label, offers a small stage for in-house performances. ► **Asheville Salt Cave** specializes in sound-healing sessions, **Skinny Beats Drum Shop** leads lessons for all levels and **LaZoom** offers a unique "Band and Beer" tour pairing Asheville's craft beer scene with a live local band on the bus.

Jam with Locals All Week Long
Asheville's music scene provides **over two dozen collaboration opportunities weekly** for musicians and special guests.

- **Monday | Appalachian Old Time Jam** - UpCountry Brewing
- **Tuesday | Funk Jam** (10 years running) - Asheville Music Hall
- **Wednesday | Acoustic Night** - Pisgah Brewing Company
- **Thursday | Bluegrass Open Jam Session** - Jack of the Wood
- **Friday | Asheville Drum Circle** (Asheville tradition for over 20 years) - Pritchard Park
- **Sunday | Afternoon Potluck and Musician's Jam** - Asheville Guitar Bar

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Let your
spirit
run free



Spontaneous Stage: Street Performers

Nearly every corner in Asheville offers a spontaneous stage for street performers playing instruments from steel pans and the didgeridoo to the saxophone and washtub bass. ► Busking staples include Andrew J. Fletcher (piano), Derek Graziano (dulcimer) and Carolina Catskins (washboard, clarinet, guitar, stand-up bass).

► Some of the most popular spots for buskers include the iconic Flat Iron sculpture on Battery Park Avenue, the street front on Woolworth Walk on Haywood Street, along Biltmore Avenue and around Pack Square.



Icons in the Community

A number of Grammy winners and music legends call the Asheville area home and support the community through philanthropic efforts. ► **Warren Haynes**, founding member of jam band Gov't Mule and longtime guitarist for The Allman Brothers Band, hosts an annual **Christmas Jam**, raising millions for the local Habitat for Humanity. ► Famed Motown legend **Gladys Knight** has launched **RHS Community Foundation**, currently working to build Reynold's Community Center, with a music center, food pantry, computer lab, exercise rooms, counseling services and activities for kids and seniors.

► The **Bob Moog Foundation**, honoring the inventor of the Moog Synthesizer, works to ignite creativity through programs for children and adults.

Music Venues: Places to Eat, Listen & Dance

Many Asheville music halls double as a restaurant, or offer ways to nibble before catching a show. **The Grey Eagle's Taqueria** is open daily for lunch and dishes out tacos on concert nights, **Isis Music Hall** features an intimate dining experience in their upstairs listening room, outdoor-venue **Salvage Station** provides a variety of vegetarian options as well as sandwiches and finger foods, **Pisgah Brewing** partners with Asheville's finest food trucks for a rotation of eats on show nights, **Foggy Mountain** fuels the night owls with their late-night menu and **Ben's Tune-Up** serves up Japanese-American creations in their stageside outdoor courtyard. Downtown, **5 Walnut Wine Bar** offers nightly music and a variety of cheese and meat boards.

Asheville Music Festivals

Amadeus Festival | March: Bi-annual week-long festival featuring the work of Mozart via the sounds of international artists and the Asheville Symphony.

Lake Eden Arts Festival (LEAF) | May & October: Weekend celebration of art and music at the site of the historic Black Mountain College.

Percussion Festival | June: Asheville's vibrant percussion scene joins musicians and dancers from around the world for concerts, workshops, sound meditations and outreach programs.

RiverFest | July: Live music performances by a mix of national and local performers. Activities benefit RiverLink and the French Broad River watershed.

Biltmore Summer Concert Series | August: Experience a live concert on the South Terrace at Biltmore. The performances feature national acts on an outdoor stage set against the backdrop of Blue Ridge Mountain sunsets.

Mountain Dance & Folk Festival | August: The longest-running folk festival in the nation. Pays tribute to the region's rich Scottish, English, Irish, Cherokee and African musical heritage.

LEAF Downtown AVL | Summer: Downtown celebration of dynamic musical talent, immersive cultural arts performances and local handcraft and culinary artists.



Shindig on the Green | Summer: Free Appalachian song and dance gatherings under the stars in downtown Asheville.

Barnaroo | September: Local musician Andrew Scotchie created this event in 2009, when he was just 16 years old. Today the music festival happens on Franny's Farm, allowing for non-stop music over 33 acres.

Brewgrass | September: Since 1996, this festival combines Southern Appalachian music and craft beer.

Goombay | September: Downtown African-Caribbean festival with the sounds of gospel, reggae, funk and soul.

Living Arts Asheville Festival (LAAF) | September: Downtown Labor Day celebration with vibrant artists, performers and bands of all genres.

Warren Haynes Christmas Jam | December: Asheville native and Grammy Award winner Warren Haynes hosts this music marathon, bringing in international stars for three decades.

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Tune in to the Sounds of Asheville

Check out the live music calendar, venue guide, artist profiles and music experiences at [ExploreAsheville.com/music](https://www.exploreasheville.com/music). The sounds and melodies of Asheville's music scene can now be heard online via [Explore Asheville Radio](#).