Nashville live music clubs

Where music reigns supreme

Bluebird Café
4104 Hillsboro Road • 615.383.1461

Places like the Bluebird Café are the reason that "Music City, USA" can keep its title and dignity. While the average tourist gravitates towards big name shows at the Ryman, locals and industry vets know that the heart of country music is located in intimate clubs like the Bluebird, which feature little known and amateur singer-songwriters performing seven nights a week. Most recognized is the legendary new songwriters showcase every Sunday. Kathy Mattea and Garth Brooks both played the Bluebird before making it big, but the bar stays true to its down-home musical roots, providing a place to dream for the most heartfelt, honest strummers in a town full of city-slickers with demo tapes.

Bourbon Street Blues & Boogie Bar
220 Printers Alley • 615.242.5837

Besides featuring the best blues artists to come through Nashville, the Bourbon Street Blues and Boogie Bar features a seven-piece award winning blues band playing a mixture of Chicago and Delta blues. Appearing Tuesday through Saturday weekly from 9 p.m. until 2 a.m. Mardi Gras decor and atmosphere. Admission price allows entry into sister club Congo Square.

Douglas Corner Café
2106-A 8th Avenue South • 615.298.1688

Established acts, top writers and a wide array of musical styles makes Douglas Corner Cafe a favorite among locals and visitors alike. On many nights, you can drop by after work for an early showcase with an up and coming artist. Many of the early shows have no cover charge. Douglas Corner's Lamplight In The Round shows are a hit with both fans and performers. You never know who may be lured on stage for a song or two!

Exit/In
2208 Elliston Place • 615.321.3340

Since Exit/In was established in 1971, the club has developed its unique reputation through the wonderful bands that have played the stage. Musicians like The Police, R.E.M., Johnny Cash, Emmylou Harris, Willie Nelson, Jimmy Buffet, Steve Martin, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Muddy Waters, The Allman Brothers Band, Kings of Leon, The Cult, WASP, Billy Joel, Guitar Wolf, Jimmy Buffett, Daniel Johnston, Etta James, Ryan Adams, Tom Petty and The Heartbreakers, My Morning Jacket, and Waylon Jennings are just a few of the names that have performed at Exit/In. Despite all the great stories and history, the Exit/In is quite simply one old dark, loud piece of Nashville rock stuck right in the middle of the Music City.

Layla's Bluegrass Inn
418 Broadway • 615.726.2799

Here you can discover what visitors and locals alike have come to know for years—that Layla's Bluegrass Inn is THE place in Nashville for the best in live entertainment, your favorite libation, great eats and plenty of down-home Southern hospitality!

Robert's Western World
416B Broadway • 615.244.9552

As the "Home of Traditional Country Music" you will not find another like Robert's Western World. Merle Haggard, Tom Petty, Tracy Byrd, Kid Rock, Allison Kraus and Rascal Flatts all have one thing in common with the folks that sometimes make the dinner bell at the Nashville Rescue Mission. They have all bellied up to the bar at Robert's Western World, ordered a PBR and a burger and listened to the best traditional country music Nashville has to offer. Robert's Western World draws everyone from the stars to a few homeless fellows who in the glow of the flashing neon guitar and the signature Red Cowboy boot reminisce as the sounds of Hank Williams pierce the night.

Station Inn
402 12th Avenue South • 615.255.3307

The Station Inn is Nashville's (and some say "the world's") most popular bluegrass club. Doors open at 7 p.m. each night with live music starting at 9 p.m. unless otherwise noted. You must be age 21 or be accompanied by a parent or guardian to enter. Admission to all shows at The Station Inn is on a first come first served basis. Reservations are not taken and tickets are not sold in advance. For high profile performances, arrive early!

3rd & Lindsley Bar and Grill
818 3rd Avenue South • 615.259.9891

The 3rd & Lindsley Bar and Grill features more styles of music than almost any other club in Nashville: Progressive, AAA, Blues, R&B, Rock & Roll, Alternative, Americana and Soul.

12th & Porter
114 12th Avenue North • 615.320.3754

Anyone who has seen a show at 12th & Porter will probably tell you it is one of the best sounding rooms in Nashville. What they will also tell you, is that the club is not only Nashville's, but also one of the country's premiere and legendary clubs. The home of legendary live recordings dating back to Townes Van Zandt's Live and Obscure (circa 1985) the stage at 12th and Porter has played host to some of the greatest touring artists and songwriters ever to play throughout its storied history. 12th and Porter proudly continues its leading role in Nashville's musical skyline and was recently recently voted by readers of the *Nashville Scene* as second only to the historic Ryman Auditorium as Nashville's best place to hear live music.

HONOR THY MUSIC.