

Minor-Friendly Venues in Portland

Experiencing live music is an integral part of a musician's learning experience – everything from hearing the instruments in person, to watching the musicians as they perform, to studying how the musicians interact with and present themselves to the crowd are things that can only be done live. But, it's not always easy to know where to find that music. Hopefully, this list will make the process a little easier.

This list is not meant to be a list of all the available venues for minors to hear music, but it should serve as a good starting point. The list focuses on jazz and classical, since those are most often the genres being studied. Be sure to contact the venues for specifics on performances, times, prices, and rules about minors.

Listening to live music in general will help any musician grow, but if you need recommendations on finding a place to hear a specific instrument or specific genre, please feel free to contact me at john@johnnastos.com

Jazz

- **Jimmy Mak's** – 221 NW 10th Ave – cover charge except on Mondays
Jimmy Mak's is Portland's largest jazz club. The club hosts music six nights a week and minors are welcome until 9:30. Of note: Dan Balmer plays every Monday with no cover charge. Mel Brown has different bands every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.
- **Tea Room at the Heathman Hotel** – 1001 SW Broadway – food and drink minimum
A great place to catch jazz duos and trios. No cover charge, but there is a food and drink minimum. Usually has music Wednesday-Saturday and minors are always welcome.
- **Brasserie Montmartre** – 626 SW Park Ave – cover and minimum varies by the event
The Brasserie has music on Thursday-Saturday for no cover near the entrance, and minors can hear from the dining area. Once a month, the basement turns into “La Cave” – a jazz venue that hosts some of Portland's best for a small cover.
- **Touché** – 1425 NW Glisan St – food and drink minimum
Minors are welcome in the dining area while duos and trios (often featuring a vocalist) play. Music on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, with a food and drink minimum.
- **Tony Starlight's** – 3728 NE Sandy Blvd – cover charge
Minors are welcome for shows at Tony Starlight's from 6-10 PM on Sunday-Thursday shows. Expect a true “show,” not just a concert. Shows often focus on past eras of music and may include (for example) tributes to Dean Martin or Sinatra.
- **Blue Monk** – 3341 SE Belmont – sliding scale cover charge on Sundays
Check out the Ninkasi Presents Sunday night jazz series at the Blue Monk. A sliding scale cover (\$3-7) brings in some great local music that is the focus of the room – it's not just background music. Minors can attend for the first set.
- **Wilf's** – 800 NW 6th Ave at Union Station – cover charge and food minimum
Part of Union Station by the Broadway bridge, Wilf's is a restaurant and lounge featuring trios and quartets. Check out some of Portland's top names here on Wednesdays through Sundays.
- **Ivories** – 1435 NW Flanders – cover charge
Ivories is Portland's newest jazz club. Minors can only attend shows until 9, meaning they can usually catch an hour of the music. Exceptions are shows on Sundays, which are often earlier, and the solo piano sets that often happen before the main act goes on at

night.

- **Secret Society** – 116 NE Russell – cover charge
Select shows at Secret Society (check their website) are all ages, including the Carlton Jackson/Dave Mills Big Band, which holds forth every third Monday of the month, playing modern big band music. On other nights, expect a variety of genres, including a fair amount of early swing that is prime for dancing.
- **Camellia Lounge** – 510 NW 11th Ave – cover charge
The Camellia Lounge (part of the Tea Zone) allows minors to stay until 9:30. The venue features smaller groups (mostly jazz) playing what tends to be more experimental and new music and not as many jazz standards.

Classical

- **Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall** – 1037 SW Broadway – ticketed events
Home of the Oregon Symphony, as well as a stage for national touring events and some local productions.
- **Keller Auditorium** – SW 3rd between Market and Clay – ticketed events
Home of the Portland Opera (except their chamber operas, which are performed at the Newmark Theatre next to the Schnitzer) and the Oregon Ballet Theater. Also houses touring musicals and other events.
- **The Old Church** – 1422 SW 11th Ave – ticketed events
The Old Church has a variety of events from student recitals to classical concerts and occasionally also breaks out into other genres as well. The venue often holds free events during the day. Check their website for a list of performers and times.

Other

- **Backspace** – 115 NW 5th Ave – cover charge
See wide variety of music, comedy, and art nearly every night at this downtown venue. All the shows are all ages.
- **Hawthorne Theater** – 1507 SE 39th Ave – ticketed events
Expect rock, indie, punk, etc at this Hawthorne Street venue. The main music room is all ages, while the lounge area is 21+, so check their website to see who's playing in what room.
- **Aladdin Theater** – 3017 SE Milwaukie Ave – ticketed events
This venue hosts touring acts of all genres. Many of the shows are all ages, but be sure to check the website or call the venue before buying tickets to make sure.
- **Roseland Theater** – 8 NW 6th Ave – ticketed events
Mostly rock, pop, indie, etc, from touring artists and the occasional local act. Check the website to find out if the show is all ages.
- **Artichoke Music** – 3130 SE Hawthorne Blvd – cover charge
On Thursday-Saturday, Artichoke hosts open mics, showcases, and performances geared towards acoustic music and singer songwriters. The venue is attached to the Artichoke Music store – home to a wide variety of acoustic guitars, mandolins, etc.
- **Music Millennium** – 3158 E Burnside – free
This independent record store hosts many in-store performances each year, all of which are free to attend.