

For those hard-to-find CDs, try shopping on the Internet

Some good buys and rare finds are available at online music stores

By Michael Hines
Editor in Chief

Finding the right music in Eugene is easy, you say?

What about that limited edition 1975 David Bowie single you've given up hope searching for?

Although the local music stores aren't stingy with selection, they aren't the best for getting the hard-to-find pieces of musical history. For that kind of thing, you have to go online.

This shouldn't be a problem for students at the University, one of the most technology-enhanced schools in the world. And this guide should have you well on your way to musical ecstasy.

amazon.com
Amazon sells a variety of books and music. The selection is decent and the prices are average to spendy. The site is easy to navigate. It includes reviews of the music and music samples.

cdnow.com
This is one of the most generic music sites on the Internet. CD Now often features the most popular musical titles, such as the "Titanic" soundtrack or the new Leann Rimes record.

On the up-side, the company does have decent selection, and it often has big sales. If you're interested in buying the new Spice Girls album, CD Now will surely have it — and probably cheap. The shipping time is only two to three days, and the CDs

come with neat CD Now stickers.

secretsounds.com
This Connecticut-based music store has a simple-looking Web site, but what it lacks in dazzle, it makes up for in selection, price and speed of delivery.

Was it David Bowie you were looking for? Secret Sounds has 25 of his releases on vinyl, CD and cassette.

sirencd.com
Siren CD prices are fair, but not great. The selection is decent, but also is not great. This company features Japanese imports, and it also includes a decent bargain bin.

mts.net/~toonorth/
This Canadian mail order music outlet is wonderful. It features, but is not exclusive to, punk and heavy metal music. Too North is a great place to look for hard-to-find vinyl and CDs. The prices are all listed in Canadian dollars, but the company accepts American dollars in money orders.

Too North lists its products under the different sizes of vinyl, CDs and other "stuff." A big difference between Too North and other online music shops is that customers must send an e-mail to Too North requesting an item. The company then replies, saying whether the item is available or on reserve for someone else. If the item is available, Too North will put it on hold for two weeks while waiting for payment.

ab-cd.com
AB-CD touts itself as the source for hard-to-find music. It isn't quite the best source, but it can hold its own. AB-CD also sells used CDs and gives out freebies. The prices at this company are decent.

southlandcd.com

This is a real music lover's site. Southland CD specializes in music that is hard to find, and it does a much better job than AB-CD. Southland has fully 56 David Bowie releases. No more explanation is needed on this one.

vinyltap.co.uk
As the name would indicate, Vinyl Tap specializes in vinyl. The English company has also expanded its repertoire into CDs. Vinyl Tap is a great place to find well-priced United Kingdom releases. The shipping cost is a little high because of the overseas mail, but it is worth the expense.

Vinyl Tap has a great selection of British artists at excellent prices. The page even provides a currency converter so Americans can figure out how much they are paying.

action-records.co.uk
Quite possibly the king of import online music shopping, Action Records has a huge variety of music to choose from. The site includes everything from blues to drum and bass.

Action Records may not be cheap, but that is for good reason. The company updates its Web site every Monday with the newest, coolest, hard-to-find music in the United Kingdom. This page also has a currency converter for its international friends.

For most of these sites, using a credit card is the optimum avenue for payment. It gets the merchandise to the customer's door faster, and it is relatively safe to use.

So good luck and happy hunting for that Bowie classic.



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28 Reasons why thousands of students shop at Eugene's best stocked student Dept. Store:

- | | |
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| 2. army camo | 16. pipes - 100's |
| 3. backpacks | 17. posters- 14 racks
1,000's of titles |
| 4. blacklights | 18. scales \$6 to \$250 |
| 5. body jewelry - 3 racks | 19. skateboards - over 160 |
| 6. boots - snowboard | 20. snowboards - over 200 |
| 7. caps/hats - 1,000's | 21. skate shoes |
| 8. cards - 1,000's | 22. stickers - 1,000's |
| 9. earrings - 1,000's | 23. studded belts |
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| 11. Grateful Dead | 25. wallets |
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