

WHERE DO YOU GO TO HAVE A DRINK?

Local trendsetters share where they go and what they order when they're in the mood for a drink



BRIAN MCWHORTER

Conductor of Eugene's OrchestraNext and a professor of trumpet at the University of Oregon School of Music and Dance

Close call between **Rye** and **Izakaya Meiji** — I like both places because of the dark, mysterious and (relatively) quiet vibe. But Izakaya wins because they're open until 1 am — perfect for people in show business like me. Along with so many other bars in Eugene, Rye closes too damn early.

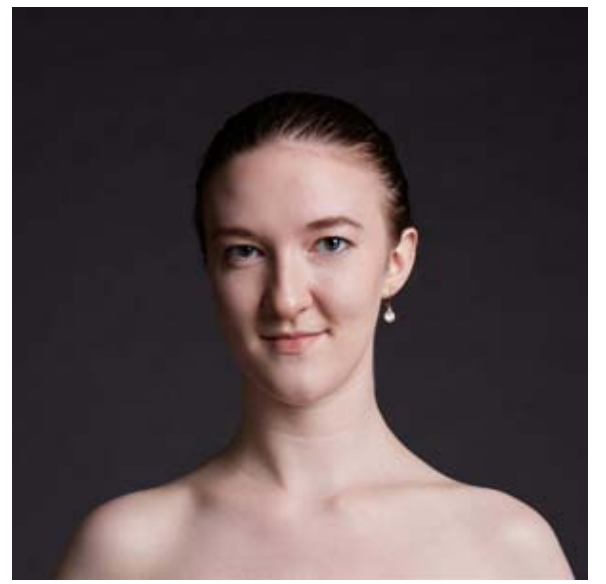
While I like the cocktails at both places, I generally like to settle down with a nice scotch — and both places have plenty of options for me. Just one icecube, please.



KITTY PIERCY

Former Eugene mayor and inveterate arts advocate

We rarely go out for a mixed drink. However, we do enjoy the occasional festive Manhattan at **Belly** or **Le Bar**. We prepare some very nice cocktails for holiday dinners at home with friends. We just returned from Cuba, where the mojito cocktail appeared with every meal.



SARA STOCKWELL

Dancer with Eugene Ballet

Izakaya Meiji is probably my favorite bar in the area. The fact they're open and serve food late enough to go there after evening rehearsals or performances is a huge plus. They also do a remarkable job with both; I'm always impressed by their consistency. The ambience is great, the playlist is varied and not too loud, and the staff is attentive, friendly and efficient.

I like trying new things and have never had a bad drink there, so I don't actually have a go-to drink. The bourbon and ginger (made with house-pressed gingerade) is always a good choice though. And the Lion's Tail (bourbon, pimento dram and citrus) is great.

Of course there are lots of other great places in Lane County, and like my drink order at Meiji, I like to vary where I go!