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## CANADA

NORTH AMERICA

**Well now, you've been quoted as saying that your involvement with recording—with media in general, indeed—represents an involvement with the future.**

*Glen Gould, pianist and electronic innovator, interviewing himself in 1974.*

**We don't play music, we play programming.**

*Marshall McLuhan, media theorist, back in the '60s*

Canada's electronic music history is not only intertwined with the origins of techno and industrial music, but is also intrinsic to a half-century of avant-garde and academic innovations in electro-acoustic music and experiments with sound and radio. From Glen Gould's infamous radio art piece "The Idea of North" to Barry Truax's contributions to granular synthesis, and from Hildegard Westerkamp's "soundwalks" and Janet Cardiff's sound installations to Ken Gregory's MIDI experiments, Canadians have been involved in creative engagements with forms of electronic sound.

Today, while the world attunes their ears to the micro-techno and post-rock sounds of Montréal, chills out to Vancouver's dub house, and sings along to Winnipeg's indie-ambient, a new generation of laptop producers, DJs and sound artists prepare to offer their distinct remix of this musical heritage.

Often overlooked in comparison to its nextdoor neighbour, Canada's contemporary electronic music scene grew up with Detroit techno, industrial and ambient music and UK acid house and jungle. Canadian artists have been an amassing force since the early '80s. Vancouver and Montréal's punk and industrial music heritage served as inspiration for many European and American artists while Toronto's ties to Windsor and Detroit insured a strong artistic exploration of techno music. Meanwhile, rave culture wiggled its way into the dancing bodies of youth culture for what is now a decade and a half. In the world of beat-driven dance music, Canada's sonic history stretches back to Plastikman's minimal techno, Interchill's ambience, Vancouver's industrial scene—and all points in-between.

As the very size of the country presents a multiplicity of cities and scenes geographically larger than that of Europe, it is no surprise that styles, artists, and labels remained isolated until the coming of the Internet. Websites such as [techno.ca](http://techno.ca) and magazines such as Tribe and the infamous VICE served to broaden the conception of Canadian artists as pioneers. Today this energy is encapsulated through a series of international festivals: Montréal's MUTEK [[www.mutek.ca](http://www.mutek.ca)] and Elektra [[www.elektrafestival.ca](http://www.elektrafestival.ca)], Vancouver's New Forms [[www.newformsfestival.com](http://www.newformsfestival.com)] and Open Circuits [[www.opencircuits.org](http://www.opencircuits.org)], Winnipeg's Send and Receive [[www.sendandreceive.org](http://www.sendandreceive.org)], and Victoriaville's Musique Actuelle [[www.fimav.qc.ca](http://www.fimav.qc.ca)]. Countless other festivals dot the landscape, especially in Toronto and the ceaseless "City of Festivals," Montréal.

This guide attempts to detail some of the best of Canada's electronic music scenes. Although it is at best an ongoing and neverending project, it will hopefully inspire your ears to tune in to some of the sounds emanating from the "North" in "North America" and to put on your dancing shoes for a bite of arctic boogie.



# VANCOUVER

BRITISH COLUMBIA (& VICTORIA)

LOCATION: WEST COAST

## MICRO-SCENES

Closer in proximity and spirit to West Coast cities San Francisco, Seattle, Los Angeles, and Portland, Vancouver is a city of contradictions. While typically producing a relaxed and laidback style of electronic music, Vancouver's early history screams the anxieties of industrial and punk—as home to Skinny Puppy and DOA. Vancouver likewise imported acid house in the mid-80s, and its outdoor party scene in BC's magnificent forests is legendary—the city is still home to a thriving dance scene of rave DJs. Today this ocean city is renowned for smooth live funk experiments, polished house, deep dub techno and chilled down-tempo as well as for its darker offshoots from its industrial heydays. On the flipside, Vancouver has a thriving arts community that constantly engages the experimental electronic scene.

## WELCOME TO THE DEEP HOUSE...

House music has been a staple in Vancouver since Tyler **“T-Bone” Stadius** started DJing house, **Czech** hit the bins and **Luke McKeehan** launched **Nordic Trax** records in the early '90s—although this cannot be isolated from the work of **Little T's Leaf Recordings** and **Leanne's** tireless DJing. Today, **Nancy Kyd** and **Kris Palesch** have invigorated the deep house sound with dub influences, both as solid DJs and respective owners of **Twisted Roots** and **Active Pass** labels. **Jay Tripwire** has produced an onslaught of tech-house releases influenced by the UK sound both internationally and on his own imprint, **Northern Lights**, while **Vernon's Deepen** label and clubnight have showcased Vancouver's house scene. Both **Gavin Froome** and **DJ Ali** have risen to international prominence with their house production. Meanwhile, house music continues to provide the backbeat of Vancouver's nightlife at clubs such as **Sonar** and **Shine**. Tech-house DJs such as **Tyler Lewis** and **Domnahl**, and various shades of house from **Dickey Doo**, **Marcello**, **Otaku**, **Todd Omatani**, **Dave Friendly** and **Andy Clockwork** to Victoria's **Rennie Dubnut Foster** and **Michael Bodner** (to name only a few!) keep the funk-lovin' dancefloors packed while **Dana D** and **Gary Paul** dig the dust from rare groove.

## THE TECHNO WEST

For many years techno played catch-up to house music's dominance in Vancouver. **DJ Noah's Homebass** radio show on **CiTR 101.9FM** built a following of the harder edges of techno and rave music since its inception in 1990, along with crossover industrial fusion on **Robert Shea's Map Music** from the likes of **Pilgrims of the Mind** and **Phil Western**. But after the demise of Noah's night at Graceland (now **Palladium**) techno faded into the background. Although underground events flourished throughout the '90s, it wasn't until **technoWest** plugged the SF and Seattle techno scenes into Vancouver around 1999 that connections became fertile. **Ben Nevile** mixed techno with dub-house for releases on Telegraph and Context; **Loscil** released a full-length of atmospheric minimalism on Kranky; **Headgear** let loose a 12" that was picked up by Ricardo Villalobos, and **Daniel Gardner** surprised the city with 12"s on Germany's Background. Meanwhile, **tobias'** cut-up DJ styles were the soundtrack to a series of events at the artist-run **Video-In** centre that showcased international techno, microsound, and glitch talent, while **Brady Cranfield's Open Circuits** festival provided a platform for experimental producers. Soon other festivals followed including the **New Forms Festival** and **Mixtophonia** by the **Vancouver New Music Society** and the **Red Light Funk** electro-techno collective, featuring **Construct** and **Miss X**. Meanwhile, Victoria was exploding with **Spencer's itiswhatitis** label, releasing hypnotic minimal techno tracks from **Mat Jonson** and **Colin the Mole**. Victoria is also home to the inventive live projects of **Cobblestone Jazz**, funk-turntable outfit **Velvet** and DJ **Tyger Dhula**. Although a step removed from its house sound, the techno sound of Vancouver is dub-influenced and deep while retaining a hint of pot-induced paranoia.

## AMBIENT FROM THE ISLANDS AND OTHER MISCELLANY

What beautiful port city wouldn't have a dedicated ambient tradition? **Interchill Records**, located on Saltspring Island, has been a Canadian treasure of chill-out since the early-90s, along with **TeamLounge**, a producer/DJ collective of ambient specialists including the infamous **Hasselhoff** and **Crankenstein**. **Coin gutter**, **Brady Cranfield**, **Secret Mommy**, **Pellucid**, the **A/V Lodge** collective and other experimentalists incorporating glitch, microsound, and noise remix a long Vancouver history of deep-listening music. Many Vancouver producers are also members of **Blackholeclub.com**, a friendly organisation of electronic musicians.

## DRUM 'N' BASS

Vancouver's d 'n' b scene was pioneered by **Andy B**, who now resides in Toronto, and the now-defunct **HQ Communications** collective. Nevertheless, the **Konspiracy Group**, featuring **Kuma** and **Illesha**, and **FirstFloorRadio** on CiTR maintain the broken beats.

## FINDING WAX

In Vancouver, **Bassix**, **Active Pass**, **Boomtown Records**, and **Zion's Gate** specialize in electronic vinyl. **Futuristic Flavour** is for ravers, while **Vinyl**, **Beatsstreet** and **Otis** provide an amazing array of used records and CDs. On the experimental side, **Zulu** and **Scratch** are Canadian landmarks as distributors and indie record stores.

## DOING HOMEWORK

**Discorder** magazine is an alternative monthly from CiTR 101.9FM, while **Terminal City** provides counterpoint. Yuppies love **The Georgia Straight** as the original free weekly, but the hipsters now check the biweekly **Vancouver Courier**. Quarterly publications of **Capital** and **Butter** magazines provide deeper reading, while Seattle's **Minty** music monthly covers Vancouver and Portland. **www.loungex.com** remains a fixture for the online raver.

## Booking Agency

### FUTURETECHARTIST MANAGEMENT

Contact: lori j. ward/tom eells  
info@futuretechartists.com  
www.futuretechartists.com

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### GIRLONWAX PRODUCTIONS

Contact: Dj Leanne  
Tel: +1 6048373981  
bookings@girlonwax.com  
www.girlonwax.com

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### MUSIC2PRODUCTIONS

Contact: Caroline Hoste  
Tel: +1 2503338818  
info@music2productions.com  
www.music2productions.com

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### THE KONSPIRACY GROUP

Contact: James Graham  
Tel: +1 7787721812  
thekonspiracygroup@yahoo.com  
www.thekonspiracygroup.com

## Collective

### BLACK HOLE CLUB

Contact: Thomas Bernard  
tbernard@pacificcoast.net  
www.blackholeclub.com

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### PLUTONIA COLLECTIVE

Contact: ritch  
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hc@plutonia.org  
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### TEAMLounge

Tel: +1 6046462411  
grogers@telus.net  
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### TECHNOWEST

technowest@techno.ca  
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## DJ's / Producers

### ADHAM SHAIKH

Genre: Electro  
Tel: +1 2505378179  
sonicturtle@saltspring.com  
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### AFOURTRACKMIND

Contact: Joel Irons  
Genre: House  
Tel: +1 8676686603  
theironsman@hotmail.com

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### ANDREW

Genre: Downtempo  
andrew@interchill.com  
www.interchill.com

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### ANOMALOUS DISTURBANCES

Contact: Terry O'Brien  
Tel: +1 6046324055  
Fax: +1 6046881142  
terry@anomalousdisturbances.com  
www.anomalousdisturbances.com

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### APHASIA

Genre: Experimental  
Contact: Bailey Wickes  
Tel: +1 6048395469  
contact@aphasiaband.com  
www.newmusic.aphasiaband.com



**BAD FENG SHUI**

Contact: Mike Cantelon  
Genre: Electro  
Tel: +1 6042150721  
mike@resist.ca

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**DANJEL VAN TIJN**

Genre: Microhouse/Minimal techno  
Tel: +1 6047771110  
danjelvantijn@hotmail.com

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**BEN NEVILLE**

Genre: House  
Tel: +1 2504753543  
bbn@saoul.ca  
www.saoul.ca

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**COIN GUTTER**

Contact: Graeme Scott  
Tel: +1 6047086353  
mail@vanityrecords.com  
www.vanityrecords.com

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**DA 1 LIKE DAMAJA**

Genre: Jungle  
Contact: Jesse Cian Fawcett  
Tel: +1 2506420115  
Fax: +1 2506420115  
damaja@dneproductions.com  
www.dneproductions.com

**DJ LION-S**

Genre: Breakbeat  
Contact: Sara Spicer  
Tel: +1 2503527663  
Fax: +1 2113527663  
djlion\_s@hotmail.com  
www.kootenaydjs.com

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**EXPERIENCING DIFFICULTY**

Genre: Experimental  
Contact: ritch / jeremy  
Tel: +1 6049240770  
exp@sinusoidal.com  
www.sinusoidal.com/exp

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**FIDGITAL**

Genre: Breakbeat  
Contact: Keith Gillard  
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fidgital@fidgital.com  
www.fidgital.com

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**GLYN GIBSON**

Genre: Microhouse/Minimal techno  
glyn@interchange.ubc.ca

**G42 PRODUCTIONS**

Genre: Experimental  
Contact: David Abfackel  
Tel: +1 6044510242  
g42@g42.net  
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**GRANNY'ARK**

Genre: Microhouse/Minimal techno  
Contact: Michelle Irving  
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a\_r\_k00@hotmail.com

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**JEFF MORTON (AKA NUTHRE)**

Genre: Experimental  
mortronovision@hotmail.com

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**HAITCHC**

Genre: Experimental  
Contact: ritch  
Tel: +1 6049240770  
hc@sinusoidal.com  
www.sinusoidal.com/hcs

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**HOOLA HOOP**

Genre: 2 Step  
Contact: Sara  
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bookings@kootenaydjs.com  
www.kootenaydjs.com

### **INTELLIGENT DEATH/DJ**

blurrededges  
Genre: Electro  
Contact: Sheahan Snell  
Tel: +1 2502479526  
blurrededges23@hotmail.com  
www.angelfire.com/art/thatemusic

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### **KUMA**

Genre: Drum & Bass  
Contact: James Graham  
Tel: +1 7787721812  
kumiesbear@yahoo.com  
www.theconspiracygroup.com/  
kuma.html

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### **LORI THE HIFI PRINCESS**

Genre: Techno  
Contact: lori j. ward  
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djhifiprincess@yahoo.com  
www.futuretechartists.com

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### **LOSCIL**

Genre: Ambient  
Contact: Scott Morgan  
Tel: +1 6047099505  
loscil@shaw.ca  
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### **MATHEW JONSON**

Genre: Techno  
djdecibel@yahoo.com  
itiswhatitisrecordings.com

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### **MEEK**

Contact: mike baugh  
Genre: Downtempo  
Tel: +1 6046846854  
meekinmontreal@hotmail.com

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### **MISS X**

Genre: Electro  
Tel: +1 6042162836  
fita\_isolante@hotmail.com

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### **PELLUCID**

Genre: Experimental  
Contact: Arliss Renwick  
Tel: +1 6048721184  
pellucid@telus.net  
www.transport01.com/pellucid/

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### **PLEASURE FREQUENCY**

Genre: Techno  
thomas@blackholeclub.com  
www.mp3.com/stations/  
pleasurefrequency\_plus

### **ROB CURTIS**

Genre: House  
Contact: Rob Hesje  
Tel: +1 6045061240  
rhesje@telus.net  
www.mp3.com/robcurtis

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### **TIM GERWING**

Genre: Ambient  
Contact: Tim Gerwing  
Tel: +1 604873979  
info@dreamwindow.net  
www.dreamwindow.net/lascaux21

---

### **TYLER STADIUS**

Genre: House  
Contact: Tyler Stadius  
Tel: +1 6046628359  
tstadius@shaw.ca  
www.djtbone.com

---

### **VERNON DOUGLAS**

Genre: Tech-house  
Contact: Vernon  
Tel: +1 6046698230  
Fax: +1 6046698225  
djvernon@deepen.cc  
www.deepen.cc

## Festivals

### NEW FORMS FESTIVAL

Tel: +1 6046482753  
info@newformsfestival.com  
www.newformsfestival.com

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### NEW MUSIC WEST

Tel: +1 6046849338  
Fax: +1 6046887155  
info@newmusicwest.com  
www.newmusicwest.com

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### NEW WEST ELECTRO-ACOUSTIC MUSIC

Contact: Jill Teasley  
Tel: +1 6047317602  
Fax: +1 6047317682  
jteasley@axion.net  
www.nweamo.org

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### VANCOUVER NEW MUSIC SOCIETY

Tel: +1 6046330861  
Fax: +1 6046330871  
info@newmusic.org  
www.newmusic.org

## Production Companies

### ANDSTILL PRODUCTIONS

Contact: Jay Gevoga and Kevin Bolster  
Tel: +1 6046885211  
info@andstill.net  
www.andstill.net

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### VITAMIN TRIBE IMPORTS

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Tel: +1 2503527663  
djlion\_s@hotmail.com  
www.kootenaydjs.com

## Publishers

### MARIKO MUSIC PUBLISHING

Contact: Andrew Ross Collins  
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Fax: +1 2505371042  
E-mail: andrew@interchill.com  
Web site: www.interchill.com

## Radio / Media / Press

### BUTTER

[www.mmmbutter.com](http://www.mmmbutter.com)

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### CAPITAL

[www.capitalmag.com](http://www.capitalmag.com)

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### CBC RADIO 3

[www.cbcradio3.com](http://www.cbcradio3.com)

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### CITR 101.9FM

[www.citr.ca](http://www.citr.ca)

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### DISCORDER

[www.citr.ca/discorder](http://www.citr.ca/discorder)

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### LOUNGEX

[www.loungex.com](http://www.loungex.com)

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### MINTY

[www.mintymagazine.com](http://www.mintymagazine.com)

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### NEW MUSIC CANADA - CBC

[www.newmusiccanada.com](http://www.newmusiccanada.com)

### PLUTONIAN NIGHTS RADIO SHOW

[www.plutonia.org](http://www.plutonia.org)

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### SPACELINK

[www.chly.fm](http://www.chly.fm)

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### TERMINAL CITY

[www.terminalcity.ca](http://www.terminalcity.ca)

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### THE GEORGIA STRAIGHT

[www.straight.com](http://www.straight.com)

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### VANCOUVER COURIER

[www.vancourier.com](http://www.vancourier.com)

## Record Companies

### ACTIVE PASS RECORDINGS

Genre: House

Contact: Kris Palesch

Tel: +1 6046462411

Fax: +1 6046462406

[kris@activepassrecordings.com](mailto:kris@activepassrecordings.com)

[www.activepassrecordings.com](http://www.activepassrecordings.com)

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### DEEPEN DISCS

Genre: Tech-house

Contact: Vernon/Chani

Tel: +1 6046698230

Fax: +1 6046698225

[djvernon@telus.net](mailto:djvernon@telus.net)

[www.deepen.cc](http://www.deepen.cc)

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### INTERCHILL RECORDS

Genre: Downtempo

Contact: Andrew Ross Collins

Tel: +1 2505378948

Fax: +1 2505371042

[andrew@interchill.com](mailto:andrew@interchill.com)

[www.interchill.com](http://www.interchill.com)

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### ITISWHATITIS RECORDINGS

Genre: Techno

Contact: Spencer Drennan

Tel: +1 6049286433

Fax: +1 6046827876

[info@itiswhatitisrecordings.com](mailto:info@itiswhatitisrecordings.com)

[www.itiswhatitisrecordings.com](http://www.itiswhatitisrecordings.com)

**LEAF RECORDINGS**

Genre: House  
Tel: +1 6048781640  
Fax: +1 6046877445  
contact@leafrecordings.com  
www.leafrecordings.com

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**NORDIC TRAX**

Genre: House  
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Fax: +1 6046882552  
info@nordictrax.com  
www.nordictrax.com

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**NUTONE RECORDS**

Genre: Ambient  
Contact: A&R  
info@nutonemusic.com  
www.nutonemusic.com

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**ONE WORLD GROOVE**

Genre: Chill-Out  
Contact: Nino de la Torre  
Tel: +1 6043311885  
Fax: +1 6043311886  
nino@jics.com  
oneworldgroove.com

**SINUSOIDAL RECORDS**

Genre: Experimental  
Contact: ritch / jeremy / scott  
Tel: +1 6049240770  
info@sinusoidal.com  
www.sinusoidal.com

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**SPARK MUSIC INC**

Genre: Ambient  
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Tel: +1 6046756221  
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info@sparkrecords.com  
www.sparkrecords.com

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**TWISTED ROOTS RECORDINGS**

Genre: Downtempo  
Contact: DJ Nancy  
www.djnancy.com

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**WESTWAVE RECORDINGS**

Contact: dean fesor  
Genre: Tech-house  
Tel: +1 6042162901  
kotis70@hotmail.com  
www.westwaverecordings.com

**WHISPERING WILLOWS  
RECORDS INC.**

Genre: Ambient  
Contact: Paul Gatien  
Tel: +1 2505148419  
Fax: +1 2503839184  
paul@matthewlien.com  
www.matthewlien.com

## Record Producers

### **MATTHEW LIEN**

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paul@matthewlien.com  
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### **THE HIFI PRINCESS**

Contact: lori j. ward  
djhifiprincess@excite.com  
www.mp3.com/hifiprincess

## Records Shops

### **ACTIVE PASS RECORDS**

324 w Hastings, Vancouver  
Tel: +1 604.646.2411  
www.activepassrecordings.com

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### **BASSIX RECORDS**

217 w Hastings, Vancouver  
Tel: +1 604.689.7734  
www.djtbone.com

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### **BEAT STREET RECORDS**

Tel: +1 6046833344  
#3 - 712 Robson Street, Vancouver  
Tel: +1 6047089804  
4326 Main Street, Vancouver

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### **BOOMTOWN**

Tel: +1 6048938696  
102 - 1252 Burrard Street, Vancouver

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### **BOOMTOWN (VICTORIA)**

Tel: +1 2503805090  
105 - 561 Johnson Street, Victoria

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### **BROKEN OCEAN**

Contact: Paul  
paulsfolder@hotmail.com  
www.brokenocean.8m.com

### **FUTURISTIC FLAVOUR**

1020 Granville Street, Vancouver  
Tel: +1 604.681.1766  
www.futuristicflavour.com

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### **SCRATCH RECORDS**

26 Richards Street, Vancouver

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### **SCRATCH RECORDINGS & DISTRIBUTION**

Tel: +1 6046870499  
726 Richards Street, Vancouver

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### **VINYL RECORDS**

Tel: +1 6047374901  
76 West Cordova Street, Vancouver

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### **ZION'S GATE RECORDS**

Tel: +1 6042534283  
1706 East 1st Ave, Vancouver

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### **ZULU RECORDS**

1972 West 4th, Vancouver  
Tel: +1 604.738.3232  
www.zulurecords.com

**Venues****ELEMENT SOUND LOUNGE**

[www.elementmusic.ca](http://www.elementmusic.ca)

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**LOTUS SOUND LOUNGE**

Tel: +1 6046857777

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**PALLADIUM**

Tel: +1 6046882648

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**PURPLE ONION**

Tel: +1 6046029442  
Fax: +1 6046021270  
[info@purpleonion.com](mailto:info@purpleonion.com)  
[www.purpleonion.com](http://www.purpleonion.com)

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**SHINE NIGHT CLUB**

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[nate@shinenightclub.com](mailto:nate@shinenightclub.com)  
[www.shinenightclub.com](http://www.shinenightclub.com)

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**SONAR**

[info@sonar.bc.ca](mailto:info@sonar.bc.ca)  
[www.sonar.bc.ca](http://www.sonar.bc.ca)

**Booking****DANA D.**

Tel: +1 6045126344  
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**Event manager****SHAMBHALA**

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## WINNIPEG

the Prairies (Edmonton, Calgary, Saskatoon, Regina)

**LOCATION: PRAIRIES**

### ISOLATED INSPIRATION

Situated in the middle of Canada's massive expanse of Prairie farmland, Winnipeg is debatedly Canada's most isolated major city. Nevertheless, Winnipeg is the hotbed of Canada's indie scene and a prolific centre of the arts. Since the nearest major city is Minneapolis, Winnipeg ties itself to the US Midwest techno and hardcore scenes as well as the surrounding Canadian prairie cities: Edmonton, Regina, and Calgary. Although Winnipeg lacked a college/ community radio station until 1996, the city continues to benefit as a major stop-over on any cross-Canada tour and through the rising prominence of the Exchange District, the latest bohemian hipster locale of warehouses and lofts which has been designated a World Heritage Site for its turn-of-the-century buildings.

### HOUSE, AUDIO.ART AND 'ARDCORE

Experimentalism and extremism have marked Winnipeg's electronic scene since it grew out of the '80s alternative scene, including the work of **Ryk TheKreator** and **Suture**. Winnipeg's early DJs—**Skid/Morpheus**, **Phil Koch**, and **Alan Conroy**, as well as **Harry Vest** and the **Hive Collective**—brought acid house, rave, and alternative dance music in the early '90s, while **Lil' Phil**, **Brent Phillips** and **Harry Chan** spun house and **DJ Terra** dropped d 'n' b. Meanwhile, **Fishead**, **VapoRub**, **UFO** and **Pulse** brought the underground midwest techno sound to a string of warehouse parties in the city's Exchange District, spearheading a now thriving community of experimental hardcore producers including **Venetian Snares**, **Fanny**, **Not ½** and **TLWT**. On a funkier tip **The Hummers** and **Moses Mayes** introduced turntables to live bands, providing sounds that ranged from downtempo to electrifying house music.



**Steve Bates' Send and Receive Festival** introduced both the art and electronic scenes to the experimental "audioart" side of sound performance and installation, quickly becoming one of two such major festivals in Canada (the other being **Victoriaville's Musique Actuelle** in Québec). **Ken Gregory** remains Winnipeg's most well-known experimental audio practitioner, while the **Plug-In Gallery** and **Video Pool** artist centre organise experimental events. Today Winnipeg enjoys prominence as several of its experimental composers have released microsound and minimal soundscape-driven recordings combining voice and ambient motifs, including **S. Arden Hill** aka **duul\_drv**, **3x3is9**, **vitaminsforyou** and **blunderspublik** (the latter runs **Sfeericle** records). Many of these artists were featured in the **Pop Ambience** series of events. Downtempo also factors large in Winnipeg's scene as home to **Balance** records and to the beats of **Sinewave**, while **Blue T-Shirt** pumps out the electro-pop.

#### RECORD HUNTING

**Into The Music** has long been the source for local DJs along with **Wax Museum**. **Nyce Records** and **Music Trader** stock new vinyl in Osborne Village.

#### ON THE PLAINS

Edmonton is now home to former Vancouver techno-house producer **Steb Sly**, while Saskatoon was home for a long time to techno-trance DJs **Deko-ze**, who now resides in Toronto, and **Lunatech**, who now spins in Vancouver. Saskatoon also boasts the **Digidome electronic music** festival [www.digidome.ca], which has hosted artists from across the country as well as Saskatoon natives **Carrie Gates**, **Jon Vaughn** and **machyderm**. Other operatives in the city include **Jake Hardy**.

## DJ's / Producers

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# TORONTO

ONTARIO (& surroundings: Guelph, Kitchener, London, Windsor)

**LOCATION:** Central Canada, Great Lakes Region

## CENTRAL CONNECTIONS

Toronto's music history mimics the size and growth of the city as a massive and sprawling influential entity in Canada. Toronto is the one guaranteed stop most DJs and producers will make when they visit the North, so the local scene has benefited from a never-ending stream of outside influences. Toronto's early involvement in the international electronic music circuit has invigorated the birth of an international vanguard of techno, house, and drum n' bass producers and over two dozen widely recognized labels. While this status and the city's massive potential fan base contributed to the growth and nation-wide influence of the Toronto scene, its size also made it vulnerable to excess. The rave scene commercialized quickly, leaving many local producers—especially in the techno genres—unable to find local gigs. Although many of Toronto's techno scene have since fled to Montréal, the jungle, house and rave-music scenes continue to flourish in the nation's unofficial capital.

## TECHNO TRAPEZE

A little known kid from Windsor, Ontario often crossed the border into the sister city of Detroit in the late '80s—this was **Richie Hawtin**, aka **Plastikman**, and since then Canada has never quite been the same. Toronto's **Algorithm**, **Adam Marshall**, **Mario J**, **Dave Cooper** and **Murat** stormed the city with Detroit-influenced techno along with a series of techno events by **Ian Guthrie** and **Bev May** as **Transcendance** and the **Speed** and **Blue** parties. In the mid-90s, various DJs turned to techno, including ex-house DJ **Kenny Glasgow**, and a second wave of techno DJs and producers entered the fray with a distinctly Toronto sound of minimal techno, including **Mike Shannon**, **Daniel Lui** aka **Rainfield**, **Blotto**, **Lotus**, **Greg Gow**, **Greg Smith**, the **Thibideau** brothers, ex-Montréal **Neil Wiernik (naw)** and the **techno.ca** project, which included **Tim Patrick**, **Jeff Haynes** and **Alex Bender**. A proliferation of labels followed, most of which were under **Dave Cooper's Roundtable** distribution: **Chair**, **Woodwork**, **Blue**, **Public Transit**, **Polaris**, **a/s systems**, **Pornohouse**, **Steel City**, **Switch**, **Revolver**, **Dumb Unit**, **Killer**, **Noise Factory** and **Cynsure** all launched with a bang. As the late-90s drew to a close, so did the height of the techno scene, with producers dispersing primarily to

**Montréal** and on to international success, including **Tomas Jirku**, **Jeremy P. Caulfield**, **Jacob Fairley**, **Robin Judge**, **Pan/Tone** and **dub gnostic**. Techno still remains a staple of Toronto's nightlife, and club nights by and by newer crews that mix techno with other genres such as the **Wabi** collective, **Saturn**, **alien influx**, **OM**, **Matrix's** nameless night and **Ghetto SoundSystems**. **naw's Clonk**, however, has now left for Montréal. On the flipside, the rise of Toronto's electro scene continues to grow, with **Lowfish** and **Solvent's Suction** records at the forefront of the electro rebound and **Kenny Glasgow** dropping the broken beats.

#### JUNGLE GYM

Toronto has long had a large and culturally active Jamaican and Caribbean population. Each year, the Caribana festival draws thousands of visitors and residents onto the streets to celebrate, and this long-standing tradition helps explain why jungle and early drum and bass resonated so loudly through the metropolis. Transmitted from the UK and aided by the existence of reggae sound systems, jungle's ragga lyrics, raw energy and live MCs quickly gained ground and inspired countless local DJs and producers who have since gone on to launch nights, labels, and international followings. **Mark Oliver**, **Marcus**, **Freaky Flow**, **Sniper**, **Capital J**, **Mystical Influence**, **Everfresh**, **Malik X**, **DJ Freedom**, **Marcus Sills**, **Dave Whalen**, **Tommy Illingas** and the **Eastern Bloc** crew (to name only a few!) continue to play a strong role on the floor while **torontojungle.com** connects the scene. The **Nice+Smooth** label anchors down a phalanx of producers with the **Metro Breaks** series (with sublabel **Oscillate**). Trainspotter's note: ex-Brit **Andy B**, who records for UK imprint Hardleaders, spent 8 years in Vancouver as the primary mover of the West Coast d'n'b scene.

#### LET'S PLAY HOUSE

As to be expected from a city in proximity to New York and Chicago, house music was an early part of the scene since the halcyon days of disco. Labels such as **Stickmen** and **Aquarius** cemented the city's panoply of talented house DJs. The city has seen many DJs grace the decks, and several have gone into retirement (the **Dukes**, **Ones and Twos**—to mention a few). Nevertheless, **Nick Holder's Garage 416** collective, **Richard Brooks**, **Ali Black**, **Amtrak** and **Bryan Falling** all hold down the house on a regular basis in the city.

#### CHILL-OUT IN THE CITY

Toronto's ambient tradition goes back to the days of the Soundsphere collective playing chill-out rooms at raves. Today, **Greg Clow** has gone on to found **feedbackmonitor.com** and the **Piehead** IDM and ambient label, which has released two albums by IDM duo **hellothisisalex**. London, Ontario is also the home of **Manitoba**, and **theambientping.com** is the central location of all things ambient in Toronto.

#### GRABBING THE GOODS: RECORDS!

Finding music in the electronic genres in Toronto comes down to hitting **Penguin** for new and used CDs, whereas DJs looking for wax should shuffle through **Play da Record**, **Metropolis** and **Rotate This**, all of which carry new and used vinyl as well as CDs. Ravers should check out **The Pit**.

#### WRITING AND READING

Alternative weeklies include **Eye** and **Now**, while the **Tribe** and **Klublife** monthlies feed the ravers and **Wavelength** the hipsters.

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### INDEPENDENT ELECTRONIC

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**DEXTROSPINOZA**

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**DREAMSTATE**

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## **EAST COAST DISASTER COMPLEX**

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### BOOMTANG RECORDS

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### DO RIGHT! MUSIC

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x@m-nus.com  
www.m-nus.com

---

### NEUPHORIA RECORDINGS

Genre: House  
Contact: Kirby Andersen  
Tel: +1 4165048286  
info@nu4ya.com  
www.nu4ya.com

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### NICE+SMOOTH

Genre: House  
Contact: Chris Drost  
Tel: +1 4162539979  
Fax: +1 4162530299  
chris@nicessmooth.com  
www.nicessmooth.com

---

### NOISE FACTORY RECORDS

Genre: Experimental  
Contact: Joe English  
Tel: +1 4167873330  
Fax: +1 4167873326  
joe@noisefactoryrecords.com  
www.noisefactoryrecords.com

**PIEHEAD RECORDS**

Genre: Experimental  
Contact: Greg Clow  
hello@pieheadrecords.com  
www.pieheadrecords.com

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**PLAY RECORDS**

Genre: House  
Contact: Peter Jarvis/Melleny Melody  
Tel: +1 4165314606  
Fax: +1 4165881157  
info@playrecords.net  
www.playrecords.net

---

**PLUS8 RECORDS LTD**

Genre: Techno  
Tel: +1 5192581331  
Fax: +1 5192586248  
x@plus8.com  
www.plus8.com

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**POLARIS RECORDS**

Genre: Techno  
Contact: Caspian Rabone  
Tel: +1 4164064766  
info@polarisrecords.com  
www.polarisrecords.com

**POST CONTEMPORARY**

Genre: Downtempo  
Contact: Rew MacCrimmon  
Tel: +1 4165300013  
pcon@postcontemporary.net  
www.postcontemporary.net

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**PUBLIC TRANSIT RECORDINGS**

Genre: House  
Contact: Mano Narayanan  
Tel: +1 4164103475  
info@ptrmusic.com  
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**RESTRUCTURED RECORDINGS, INC.**

Genre: Techno  
Tel: +1 4165968822  
Fax: +1 4165968809  
info@restructured.net  
www.restructured.net

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**SPOT RECORDS CANADA**

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info@spotrecords.ca  
www.spotrecords.net

**STICKMAN RECORDS INC.**

Genre: House  
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greg@stickmanrecords.com  
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**SUCTION RECORDS**

Genre: Electro  
info@suctionrecords.com  
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**TAO RECORDINGS**

Genre: House  
Contact: Martin Villeneuve  
Tel: +1 6132773049  
www.taorecordings.com

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**ULTRA SOUND RECORDINGS**

Genre: Techno  
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Tel: +1 4165766660  
Fax: +1 4164835223  
chad@ultrasoundrecordings.com  
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## Records Shops

### **2 THE BEAT**

161 Spadina Ave., Toronto  
Tel: +1 416.598.8120  
www.2thebeat.com

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### **PLAY DE RECORD**

357A Yonge Street, Toronto  
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www.playderecord.com

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### **ROTATE THIS**

620 Queen St. West, Toronto  
www.rotatethis.com

## Venues

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### **MAD BAR**

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### **MONEY**

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### **NASA DANCE PUB**

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### **NIAGARA ARTISTS' COMPANY**

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### **THE AMBIENT PING**

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**TURBO NIGHT CLUB**

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# MONTREAL

QUEBEC

LOCATION: St. Lawrence River

ALTHOUGH MONTRÉAL HAS RECENTLY GAINED WIDESPREAD INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION through its minimal and experimental artists and the MUTEK and ELEKTRA festivals, the city's cheap rent and French-English cultural diversity has driven generations of poets, musicians and artists to brave the city's brutal winters in the forging of the "Paris of North America." From Leonard Cohen to Montréal's infamous "City of Sin" reputation, the limelight shines on this Northern bohemia. The electronic scene grew out of similar beginnings to Toronto with illegal parties throughout the early '90s. As the city spawned its own genres and scenes, events often remained musically integrated as well as maintaining links with the city's industrial and experimental music past. Along with Barcelona, San Francisco, Detroit and Berlin, Montréal today is regarded as one of the best cities for experimental electronic music, from minimalism and microhouse to electro-acoustic and laptronics. However, the crossover projects of practically every DJ and producer in the city makes differentiating the genres much more difficult! We bring you a whirlwind tour of the potpourri of innovative musical styles.

## TECHNO TO LAPTOP LAND...AND EVERYTHING IN-BETWEEN

Known today as an electroclash DJ/producer, **Tiga** threw some of the first raves as well as launching **Sona** nightclub, the now-defunct DNA record store, and **Turbo** recordings. It was also in the early '90s that **Akufen** and **Mateo Murphy** started dabbling in production, **Alain Mongeau** became interested in creating events—first through the FCMM's Media Lounge and then going on to found **MUTEK**—and the artists started flooding Montréal in a surge that continues to this day: **Tim Hecker** aka Jetone, **Noah Pred** and **Colin the Mole** moved in from Vancouver, **Deadbeat**, **Mike Shannon**, **Algorithm**, **Steve Beaupré** and **Mitchell Akiyama** from Toronto. Record labels shortly followed: Akiyama's **intr version**, the **MUTEK** label, **Akufen's Risquée**, **Eric Mattson's Oral** (home of Akufen's first album) and Noah Pred and **Nivoc's Consigned** imprints were all founded in Montréal, while Algorithm's **Revolver** and Mike Shannon's **Cynosure** labels moved over from Toronto. The highly influential German label, **Force Inc./Mille Plateaux**, iced the cake by relocating their North American headquarters to Montréal, which was already home to **Ninja Tune** and hip-hop

legends **DJ Ram** and **Kid Koala**. Recent arrivals include **vitaminsforyou** and **Fishead** from Winnipeg, **tobias** and **Daniel Gardner** from Vancouver and **Neil Wiernik** and his **Clonk** project from Toronto.

But Montréal is not just a cluster of imported Canadians! **EpsilonLab**, including **Pheek**, **Eloi Brunelle** and a crew of producers and DJs, as well as the **mix\_sessions VJ** collective, and the entire crew behind the **Société des Arts Technologiques (SAT)**, a multipurpose venue and arts/music organisation, have long been building up Montréal's scene alongside various projects by the **NoType**, **Level 4** and **Oral** collectives—which is not to forget the efforts of **Champion**, **EGG**, **Gnat**, **Orazio Fantini**, **David Kristian** and **MightyKat**. The harder edges of techno is represented by **Default**, **Districk**, **Infiltration** and **Yaz's Edit** recordings, as well as DJs and producers **Mateo Murphy**, **Kal**, **DJ Maus** and **Mistress Barbara** and her **Relentless** label. The small but inventive d 'n' b scene is represented with **Wikkid**, **Nude** and **440** records and the stylings of **Double A**, **Jordan Dare**, **Switch** and **Twist**, while on the ambient tip Vancouver's **Interchill** records remains connected alongside **Mossman's** dub-oriented **Dispensation** records.

#### SPIN THAT POST-ROCK AND EXPERIMENTAL EXCURSIONS

Montréal's **Godspeed You Black Emperor!** and the associated **Constellation Records** has cemented an ever-widening experimental rock scene that has recently cross-fertilized into electronic territories. **Tim Hecker** and **Mitchell Akiyama** have both begun exploring the in-between of these new music pastures, while **Sam Shalabi**, **David Kristian**, and **Martin Tétreault** reinvent styles daily utilising improvisational techniques and avant-garde instrumentation. At the same time, experimental artists such as **Alexander St. Onge**, the **Ælab** collective and **[The User]** move between art and electronic worlds while **David Turgeon** and **Aimé Dontigny's NoType** label plunders the noisier and genre defying aspects of audio and **Alien8**, **Disques Hushush**, **Ambiances Magnétiques** and **Natasha** explore post-rock electronic and listening atmospherics. Along with his involvement in **Mutek**, **Eric Mattson** runs **Oral** records and his **VoltAA** events electrify the city's creative undercurrents. Montréal also enjoys a long academic music history as a centre of North American electro-acoustic music.

#### HOUSE TO HOME

The rise of Montréal house is intricately knotted with the production and reputation of **Fred Everything**, **Luc Raymond**, **Krista**, **Mark Anthony** and **Miguel Graça**. **Patrick Dream** and **Nav Bhinder** moved from Toronto to Montréal in the mid-90s and founded **Bombay** records, releasing records from local producers as well as Vancouver's **Sean Dimitry**. **Martin Dumais' HauteC** has catered to a techno-house crossover while **Haute Couture** has released **Les Jardiniers**, **Akufen**, and **DJ Maus**. But like every other genre in Montréal, house mixes with a variety of influences, such as the new techno-house imprint **Trigger** recordings.

#### MOVING MUSIC: RECORD SHOPPING

**Atom Heart** and **CD Esoterik** import primarily experimental electronic CDs, while **DNA**, **Hub**, **Tabou** and **Inbeat** supply the DJs. Check out **Cheap Thrills** and **Beatnick** for used treats, while **Primitive**, **L'Oblique**, **Disquivel** and **Le Pick-Up** will satisfy your indie and alternative desires.

#### READING UP

Check out the English weeklies **The Mirror** and **Hour**, and in French **Voir** and **ICI**. The bilingual **Nightlife** concentrates on the clubs, while **www.memf.net** is the online meeting ground.

## Collective

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 Fax: +1 5145264487  
 info@electrocd.com  
 www.electrocd.com

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**F>A>B DISTRIBUTION**

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**LOCAL DISTRIBUTION**

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**NICE MUSIC**

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 www.nicemusic.ca

**STATIK DISTRIBUTION**

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 Fax: +1 4185298175  
 info@statikdistribution.com  
 www.statikdistribution.com

**DJ's / Producers**

**273 BLOCKS OVER**

Genre: Chill-Out  
 Contact: revsoul  
 Tel: +1 5148082955  
 revsoul@videotron.ca  
 www.revsoul.com

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**8B**

Genre: Techno  
 Contact: comm@8bmuzik.com  
 comm@8bmuzik.com  
 www.8bmuzik.com

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**AKUFEN**

Genre: Microhouse/Minimal techno  
 Contact: Jon Berry  
 jon@force-inc.com

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**ALEXANDRE ST-ONGE**

Genre: Electro-acoustic  
 info@actuellecd.com  
 www.actuellecd.com/bio.e/stonge\_al.html

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**ALICE & THE SERIAL NUMBERS**

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### **ANTONIN MAROIS**

Genre: Electro  
Tel: +1 5148379300  
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### **B'UGO**

Genre: House  
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Tel: +1 5142588464  
Fax: +1 5148759911  
info@bugodahlin.com  
www.bugo.dj

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### **CAL CRAWFORD**

Genre: Experimental  
Tel: +1 5149376903  
lostmiles@yahoo.com

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### **CHAMPION**

Genre: Techno  
Contact: Maxime Morin  
maxime.morin@sympatico.ca  
www.djchampion.net

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### **CHAONAUT**

Contact: Robin Davies  
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robin@music.mcgill.ca

### **CHRISTIAN PRONOVOST**

Genre: Garage  
Tel: +1 5144992063  
Fax: +1 5145772063  
cpronovost@lost-heroes.com  
www.inbeatmusic.com

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### **DAV**

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dav@phonotonik.com  
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### **DAVID KRISTIAN**

Genre: Electro  
webmaster@ davidkristian.com  
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---

### **DEADBEAT**

Genre: Microhouse/Minimal techno  
Contact: Scott Monteith  
deadbeat@techno.ca  
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### **DJ MINI**

Genre: Electro  
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### **DJFIELD**

Genre: Chill-Out  
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Tel: +1 5148433738  
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### **ELECTROPAP**

Genre: Experimental  
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electropap@hotmail.com  
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### **FRED EVERYTHING**

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### **GABRIEL ASSOULINE**

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fluidflow1@hotmail.com

**GHISLAIN POIRIER**

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 ghisghis@hotmail.com  
 www.intr-version.com

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 BLACK EMPEROR!**

www.brainwashed.com/godspeed

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**I8U**

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**JAMES DUHAMEL**

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**KOBE**

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 mattkober@yahoo.com  
 thekobe.monkeyhouse.ca

**LES JARDINIERS**

Genre: Tech-house  
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**MARTIN TÊTREULT**

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 tintinto@hotmail.com  
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**MATEO MURPHY**

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**MITCHELL AKIYAMA**

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**MONTAG**

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**MOODSAVER**

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 Contact: Eric Monte  
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**MOSSA**

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**MOSSMAN**

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 naw.htm

### **NOAH PRED**

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### **RÉSEAUX / RIEN À VOIR**

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Tel: +1 5145274735  
Fax: +1 5145264487  
admin@rien.qc.ca  
www.rien.qc.ca

**Promoters**

**2HQD**  
 INFO@2HQD.NET  
 www.2hqd.net

**Radio / Media / Press**

**CISM 89,3 FM**  
 www.cismfm.qc.ca

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**CONVERGENCE MAGAZINE**  
 www.lienmultimedia.com/convergence

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**HOURL**  
 www.hour.ca

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**MONTREAL MIRROR**  
 www.montrealmirror.com

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**NETMUSIK.COM**  
 www.netmusik.com

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**NIGHTLIFE MAGAZINE**  
 www.nightlifemontreal.com

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**TOBIAS C. VAN VEEN**  
 www.quadrantcrossing.org

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**VOIR**  
 www.voir.ca

**Record Companies**

**ALICE MUSIK**  
 Genre: Techno  
 Contact: Alice Bernier  
 Tel: +1 5145266862  
 info@alicemusik.com  
 www.alicemusik.com

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**ALIEN8 RECORDINGS**  
 Genre: Experimental  
 Fax: +1 5142843605  
 alien8@alien8recordings.com  
 www.alien8recordings.com

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**ASCEND RECORDINGS**  
 Genre: Techno  
 Contact: Jean-Michel Cauvin  
 Tel: +1 5142866120  
 Fax: +1 5142866616  
 info@ascendrecordings.com  
 www.ascendrecordings.com

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**BEHAVIOR MUSIC INC.**  
 Genre: Electro-acoustic  
 Contact: Michael A. McCann  
 Tel: +1 5148458324  
 info@behaviormusic.com  
 www.behaviormusic.com

### **BOMBAY RECORDS**

Genre: House  
Contact: Patrick Masih  
Tel: +1 2861882441  
Fax: +1 5142861004  
patrick@bombayrecords.com  
www.bombayrecords.com

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### **CHUG RECORDS**

Genre: Tech-house  
Contact: Nabih  
Tel: +1 5142861591  
Fax: +1 5149984677  
info@lsmproductions.com  
www.lsmproductions.com

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### **COMPLIT RECORDS**

Genre: Tech-house  
Contact: Jeremy Petrus  
Tel: +1 5142843296  
mossa@complot.ca  
www.complot.ca

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### **CONSIGNED RECORDINGS**

Genre: Tech-house  
Contact: Jean-Michel Cauvin  
Tel: +1 5142866120  
Fax: +1 5142866616  
info@ascendrecordings.com  
www.ascendrecordings.com

### **CONSTELLATION**

Genre: Experimental  
Tel: +1 5142799705  
constellation@cstrecords.com  
www.cstrecords.com

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### **CYNOSURE**

Genre: Techno  
Contact: Mike Shannon  
cynosure@techno.ca  
www.techno.ca/cynosure

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### **DEFAULT RECORDINGS**

Genre: Techno  
Contact: Jean-Michel Cauvin  
Tel: +1 5142866120  
Fax: +1 5142866616  
jean-michel@defaultrecordings.com  
www.defaultrecordings.com

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### **DISKTRICK RECORDS**

Genre: Techno  
Contact: Jeff  
Tel: +1 4509642268  
Fax: +1 4509646748  
jeff@disktrick.com  
www.disktrick.com

### **DISPENSATION RECORDS**

Contact: Moss Raxlen  
Genre: Downtempo  
mossraxlen@hotmail.com  
www.dublounge.net

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### **DISQUES HUSHUSH INC.**

Genre: Glitch/Microsound  
Contact: Dimitri della Faille  
Tel: +1 5142767049  
Fax: +1 5142767472  
foe@hushush.com  
www.hushush.com/

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### **EDIT RECORDINGS**

Tel: +1 5148448519  
info@editrecordings.com  
www.editrecordings.com

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### **EMPREINTES DIGITALES**

Genre: Electro-acoustic  
Contact: Denis, Jean-François  
Tel: +1 5145264096  
Fax: +1 5145264487  
info@electrocd.com  
www.electrocd.com

**GESKA RECORDS**

Genre: Electro  
 Contact: Marc Desforges  
 Tel: +1 5149281513  
 Fax: +1 4506351600  
 md@geska-records.com  
 www.geska-records.com

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**HAUTE COUTURE**

Genre: Tech-house  
 Contact: Martin Dumais  
 Tel: +1 5148493999  
 Fax: +1 5148498298  
 mdumais@guycloutier.com  
 www.lesjardiniers.net

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**INTR\_VERSION RECORDS**

Genre: Glitch/Microsound  
 Contact: mitchell akiyama  
 Tel: +1 5142767209  
 info@intr-version.com  
 www.intr-version.com

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**MUSIQUE RISQUÉE**

Contact: Vincent Lemieux  
 Genre: Microhouse/Minimal techno  
 Tel: +1 5145221028  
 musiquerisque@yahoo.ca

**NATACHA RECORDINGS**

Genre: Ambient  
 info.natacha@neverprint.com  
 www.neverprint.com/natacha

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**NERDS RECORDS**

Genre: House  
 Contact: Stephane Bergeron  
 Tel: +1 5148661619  
 Fax: +1 5148613398  
 stephane@nerds.com  
 www.nerdsrecords.com

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**NO TYPE**

Genre: Experimental  
 Contact: Turgeon, David  
 Tel: +1 5145264096  
 Fax: +1 5145264487  
 dt@electrocd.com  
 www.electrocd.com/notype/

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**OPEK MUSIC**

Genre: Breakbeat  
 Contact: Nabih  
 Tel: +1 5142861591  
 Fax: +1 5149984677  
 info@lsmproductions.com  
 www.lsmproductions.com

**ORAL**

Contact: Eric Mattson  
 Tel: +1 5145988605  
 oral@oral.qc.ca  
 www.oral.qc.ca

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**RELENTLESS MUSIC**

Genre: Techno  
 Contact: Misstress Barbara  
 Tel: +1 5142716371  
 Fax: +1 5142771450  
 info@relentlessmusic.com  
 www.relentlessmusic.com

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**REVOLVER CANADA**

Genre: Techno  
 Contact: Jeff Milligan  
 revolver@techno.ca  
 www.techno.ca/revolver

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**SABOTEUR RECORDS**

Genre: Tech-house  
 Contact: Leo Cruz  
 Tel: +1 5145017981  
 saboteur\_records@email.com  
 www.saboteurmusique.com

## Record Producers

### SQUIRREL GIRL / ROYK

Genre: Ambient  
Contact: jen morris  
Tel: +1 5749547366  
sic@squirrelgirl.com  
www.squirrelgirl.com

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### TRIGGER RECORDING

Genre: House  
Contact: Pfreud  
pfreud@triggerrecording.com  
www.triggerrecording.com

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### TURBO RECORDINGS INC.

Genre: Tech-house  
Contact: Rego and/or Mark  
Tel: +1 5148454522  
Fax: +1 5148459637  
info@turborecordings.com  
www.turborecordings.com

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### WIKKID

Genre: Drum & Bass  
Contact: Chris Spelay  
Tel: +1 5144959030  
Fax: +1 5144959647  
chris@wikkidrecords.com  
www.wikkidrecords.com

### BEHAVIOR MUSIC

Contact: Michael McCann  
Tel: +1 5148458324  
E-mail: mikem@behaviormusic.com  
Web site: www.behaviormusic.com

## Records Shops

### ATOM HEART RECORDS

364-B Sherbrooke St. East, Montreal  
Tel: +1 514.843.8484

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### CENTER RECORDS

5129 St-Laurent , Montreal  
Tel: +1 514.985.2780  
www.centerrec.com

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### CD ESOTERIK

Tel: +1 5149375192  
1841C Ste. Catherine, Montreal

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### DISQUIVEL

1587 St Laurent Blvd, Montreal  
Tel: +1 514.842.1607

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### HUB\_MUSIQUES

4040 boul. St-Laurent Appt. #8b,  
Montreal  
Tel: +1 514.845.8884  
www.hubmusiques.ca

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### INBEATMUSIC

3814 Blvd. St.-Laurent, Montreal  
Tel: +1 514.499.2063  
www.inbeatmusic.com

Venues

**ARIA**

info@aria-nightclub.com  
www.aria-nightclub.com

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**BILY KUN**

Tel: +1 5148415392  
Fax: +1 5148416558  
info@bilykun.com  
www.bilykun.com

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**CABARET MUSIC HALL**

Tel: +1 5148459006  
Fax: +1 5148452532  
info@lecabaret.ca  
www.lecabaret.ca

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**CLUB SODA**

Tel: +1 5142861010  
information@clubsoda.ca  
www.clubsoda.ca

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**CUBE AFTERHOURS**

Tel: +1 4189901161  
beaumontluc@hotmail.com  
www.cubequebec.com

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**LAÏKA**

Tel: +1 5148428088

**LIVING**

Contact: Alain Caron  
Tel: +1 5142869986  
Fax: +1 5142869911  
info@livingnightclub.com  
www.livingnightclub.com

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**O PATRO VYS**

Tel: +1 5148413855  
info@opatrovys.com  
www.opatrovys.com

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**SAT**

Tel: +1 5148442033  
Fax: +1 5149826093  
sat@sat.qc.ca  
www.sat.qc.ca

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**SONA**

www.clubsona.com

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**STEREO AFTERHOURS**

Tel: +1 5142860325  
info@clubstereo.com  
www.clubstereo.com



# HALIFAX

NOVA-SCOTIA

LOCATION: HALIFAX, HARBOR, NOVA SCOTIA

The capital of Nova Scotia, Halifax is situated on Halifax Harbor, the world's second largest natural harbor after Sydney, Australia. Today Halifax is an industrial city, with container ports accepting goods from around the world and sending them deeper into Canada. Halifax is also home to NSCAD (the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design) and a host of galleries, which makes it an artistically vibrant city.

## NO COD? GO CLUBBING!

Halifax's pioneering club was 5680, playing disco and taking its name from its location—5680 Spring Garden Road. The club was later renamed Cabbagetown by owner **John Ford**, with **DJ Tim O'Neil** playing new wave, alternative, and dance music until it closed in 1988. Operating from the mid-80s until 1987 was **Keith Tufts** and **Greg Clark's Club Flamingo**, which focused on the live aspect of electronic music and brought in acts such as Vancouver's **Skinny Puppy**, The Legendary Pink Dots (which includes ex-Vancouver bassist **Ryan Moore**, aka **Twilight Circus Dub Soundsystem**, Tear Garden, Wolfgang Press, The Residents with Snakefinger, and others. The city's next big club, operated by Danny Joseph, was The Studio on Barrington Street. **Dave "DJ Wall Of Sound" Koch** manned the turntables and brought to Halifax the early sounds of rave and techno music until its closure in 1991. **Reflections** (Sackville Street) opened in the mid-90s and is still operating today as primarily a commercial dance music club. Other clubs opened and closed during the nineties, notably Murray Trider's Playhouse (1988-1999). **Condon MacLeod's** all-ages club Café Olé operated in the mid-90s on Barrington and brought electronic music and all-night events to a younger crowd, as did the many warehouses in the area which promoters booked for their parties. MacLeod is now operating an all-ages club (but with more rock-oriented fare) called **The Pavillon** (on Bell Road). Halifax's current best electronic music night is held down by **Michel Deveau** playing house (with occasional local and out of town guests) at **The Velvet Olive** on Argyle, with various venues across town hosting the occasional electronic music-oriented night.



### FISHING FOR ARTISTS

Halifax is best known for its hip hop (**Buck 65**, **Six Toonow** based in Montréal—and others) and rock acts (Sloannow in Toronto, and **Sarah McLachlannow** in Vancouver). Notable Halifax electronic music artists in the 80s were **Tanz Function** (later known as Stanja Tanz), **Sebastapol**, and **Phollop Willing PA**. The former two are no longer recording, though Willing still is. **Andrew Duke** moved to Halifax in 1987 and started recording as well as operating the **Digitalis** and **Incognito Musique** imprints until 1990, when he started **Cognition Audioworks**. The label's most recent release, the Waveforms compilation, featured material from Halifax's electronic artists. Industrial band **Phycus** started in Halifax in the late '80s and played here until moving to Montréal (and now Toronto). Andrew Duke continues to be the local electronic music scene's most active artist, with **A/V (Philip Clark**, who operates the **Swordfight** label), **Andrew Weeks**, **Justin Buckley**, **Steve Blacker**, and others starting to make names for themselves.

### MELTING DOWN THE WAX...

Peter Keefe operated Trax (the city's seminal electronic music vinyl purveyor), initially on Argyle Street and later on Blowers Street, from the early '80s to 1990. The Record Corner (1988-1989) was operated by Bill McCrae on Blowers Street. John MacMaster operated Groove in the Green Lantern building on Barrington Street from 1990-1992 and was the source for bringing music in to satisfy those lusting for rave and techno music. Sara Spicer and Harry Mathers and friends operated Vitamin Tribe Imports on Hollis Street from 1988-1999 at around the same time Tony (DJ Zoo) Hage and Robyn Kaszor were running Massive Music on Blowers Street. The city's current electronic music emporium is **Revolution Records** (vinyl, CDs, and gear) on Prince Street which was opened in October 1997 and is operated by Nick Oliver, aka **DJ Nick Nonsense**. **No Records** on Barrington Street in the Khyber Building has some electronic music (vinyl and CD), as does **CDplus.com** (CDs only) on Barrington.

### RADIO WAVES

**CKDU 97.5 FM** has numerous electronic music oriented programs including Andrew Duke's In The Mix, Nick Oliver's Mixed Messages, John MacMaster and J Peters' The In Sound From Way Out, Alex (R-Lex The Robot) Kennedy's Fear Of A Robot Planet, Steven Slater's Come Over Hear, and DJ Heartattackman's Hardcore Nightmares On Wax. Check for the current schedule at [ckdu.dal.ca](http://ckdu.dal.ca) to find out when you can hear a host of electronic and otherwise underground sounds.

## Collective

### RAVE HALIFAX

events@ravehalifax.com  
www.ravehalifax.com

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### SUBVERTMEDIA

Contact: Troy Chenier  
Tel: +1 5068473263  
troy@subvertmedia.org  
www.subvertmedia.org

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### SONUS PRODUCTIONS

Contact: Patrick McMaster  
Tel: +1 9023673113  
sonus@blackandgreen.com  
www.blackandgreen.com/americas/  
sonus

## Distributors

### NO DISTRIBUTION LTD

Contact: Wayne Mason  
Tel: +1 9024231755  
Fax: +1 9024290606  
wayne@nodistribution.com  
www.nodistribution.com

## DJ's / Producers

### 1984

Genre: Experimental  
Contact: Patrick McMaster  
Tel: +1 9023673113  
1984@blackandgreen.com  
www.blackandgreen.com/africa/1984

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### ANDREW DUKE

Genre: Experimental  
Contact: andrewduke@canada.com  
Tel: +1 9024293169  
andrewduke@canada.com  
techno.ca/cognition

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### ANSOMATICA

Genre: Experimental  
Contact: Patrick McMaster  
Tel: +1 9023673113  
ansomatica@blackandgreen.com  
www.blackandgreen.com/africa/  
ansomatica

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### DANIEL O'NEILL

Genre: Downtempo  
kerian\_54@hotmail.com

**DRY HEEVES**

Genre: Experimental  
Contact: VVVU Music  
heeves@nb.sympatico.ca  
www3.nb.sympatico.ca/cyrilm/  
dryheeves/

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**ERFINDER ROTWANG**

Genre: Experimental  
Contact: Patrick McMaster  
Tel: +1 9023673113  
rotwang@blackandgreen.com  
www.blackandgreen.com/africa/  
rotwang

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**PATRICK MCMASTER**

Genre: Electro-acoustic  
Contact: Patrick McMaster  
Tel: +1 9023673113  
pat@blackandgreen.com  
www.blackandgreen.com/africa/pm

**Management****RED LIQUORICE**

Contact: Tara Foster  
Tel: +1 9024294069  
Fax: +1 9028326668  
info@redliquorice.com  
www.redliquorice.com

**Promoters****M2R**

E-mail: info@m2r.biz  
Web site: www.m2r.biz

## Radio / Media / Press

### ANDREW DUKE'S IN THE MIX

[techno.ca/cognition](http://techno.ca/cognition)

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### CHSR 97.9 FM

[www.unb.ca/chsr](http://www.unb.ca/chsr)

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### CITR 101.9 FM

[www.citr.ca](http://www.citr.ca)

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### THE COAST

[www.thecoast.ns.ca](http://www.thecoast.ns.ca)

## Record Companies

### COGNITION AUDIOWORKS

Genre: Experimental  
Contact: Andrew Duke  
Tel: +1 9024293169  
[cognition@techno.ca](mailto:cognition@techno.ca)  
[techno.ca/cognition](http://techno.ca/cognition)

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### TAR MEDIA

Genre: Experimental  
Contact: c/o Adrian  
[tarmedia@tarmedia.com](mailto:tarmedia@tarmedia.com)  
[www.tarmedia.com](http://www.tarmedia.com)

## Records Shops

### REVOLUTION RECORDS

5189 Prince Street, Halifax  
Tel: +1 902.492.3930

## Venues

### **KHYBER ARTS**

Contact: Chris Lloyd  
Tel: +1 9024229668  
clloyd@khyberarts.ns.ca  
www.khyberarts.ns.ca

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### **THE MARQUEE CLUB**

marqueeclub@themarqueeclub.ca  
www.themarqueeclub.ca

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### **VELVET OLIVE**

Tel: +1 9024922233  
mark@velvetolive.com  
www.velvetolive.com

1984	<b>52</b>	Behavior Music Inc.	<b>48</b>	David Kristian	<b>40</b>
2 The Beat	<b>34</b>	Ben Nevile	<b>11</b>	David Stone	<b>20</b>
273 Blocks Over	<b>39</b>	Bily Kun	<b>49</b>	Deadbeat	<b>40</b>
2HQD	<b>45</b>	Black Hole Club	<b>10</b>	december fifth productions	<b>22</b>
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Active Pass Recordings	<b>14</b>	Boomtown Records	<b>16</b>	Dextrospinoza	<b>27</b>
Active Pass Records	<b>16</b>	BPM - CJSR FM 88.5	<b>23</b>	Digital Love	<b>26</b>
Adam Marshall	<b>27</b>	Broken Ocean	<b>16</b>	Disktrick Records	<b>46</b>
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aidan baker	<b>27</b>	CBC Radio 3	<b>13</b>	DJ Machine	<b>27</b>
Akufen	<b>39</b>	Center Records	<b>48</b>	DJ Mini	<b>40</b>
Alexandre St-Onge	<b>39</b>	Chair Recordings	<b>32</b>	djField	<b>40</b>
algae	<b>27</b>	Champion	<b>40</b>	Do Right! Music	<b>32</b>
Alice & the serial numbers	<b>39</b>	chaonaut	<b>40</b>	dreamSTATE	<b>27</b>
Alice Musik	<b>45</b>	Christian Pronovost	<b>40</b>	Dry Heeves	<b>53</b>
Alien8 Recordings	<b>45</b>	CHSR 97.9 FM	<b>54</b>	Dub Gnostic	<b>27</b>
alleged iguana music	<b>32</b>	Chug Records	<b>46</b>	Dumb-Unit	<b>32</b>
Amir Sharar	<b>20</b>	CISM 89,3 FM	<b>45</b>	duul_drv	<b>20</b>
Andrew	<b>10</b>	CITR 101.9 FM	<b>54</b>	East Coast Disaster Complex	<b>28</b>
Andrew Duke	<b>52</b>	Clonk	<b>38</b>	Edit Recordings	<b>46</b>
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Canada is home to over three generations of talented electronic music producers, artists, festivals and labels that have skillfully created and sculpted a place in electronic music history and secured international interest in Canada's vibrant electronic music scene. In an effort to develop a supportive international infrastructure, aemusic is publishing the first directory of Canadian electronic music professionals. We have done our best to include all the important players as well as underground artists involved in the development of Canada's scene. However, Canada is a geographically massive country with many pockets of innovative artists developing and operating their own scenes. This guide is the first step in creating a network of Canadian electronic artists, and should not be considered a conclusive directory. Please check out the ongoing development of this print edition which can be found online and downloaded at the [www.aemusic.com](http://www.aemusic.com) website. We'd like to thank everyone who contributed toward the publication!

## **AEMUSIC**

aemusic (Association for Electronic Music) is a non-profit organization representing some of Canada's finest electronic music professionals. Over the next few months aemusic will launch a number of national and international initiatives and develop business tools to strengthen the Canadian electronic music scene.

## **CREDITS**

### **Text**

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### **ASSOCIATION FOR ELECTRONIC MUSIC**

Aemusic is a dynamic, rapidly expanding network of like-minded people dedicated to promoting electronic music in Canada and linking it to the international underground.

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