CHARLOTTE MUSIC FACTS

Before the rise of Nashville, Charlotte ranked as one of the key radio and recording centers for the new genre of country music.

Reflection Sound Studio was the first commercial recording studio in the Southeast that churned out tunes for more than 50 years before closing in 2014.

In February 1965, James Brown recorded “Papa’s Got A Brand New Bag” in Charlotte at Reflection.

Famed rock band REM recorded their first two albums, “Murmur” in 1983 and “Reckoning” in 1984, in Charlotte at Reflection.

The historic Bojangles’ Coliseum, formerly known as “Charlotte Coliseum,” hosted many legendary acts including Jimi Hendrix, Led Zeppelin, Elvis, Ray Charles and more.

The Milestone Club opened in 1969 and hosted top acts including Nirvana and 10,000 Maniacs.

CHARLOTTE MUSIC FESTIVALS

SPRING

TUCK FEST - APRIL 25-28, 2019
Tuck Fest is a multiday festival that celebrates the outdoor lifestyle through competitions, exhibitions, demos and live music at the U.S. National Whitewater Center.

BOOM CHARLOTTE - APRIL 26-28, 2019
BOOM is Charlotte’s annual showcase of contemporary and experimental art created on the fringes of popular culture happening in arts neighborhood Plaza Midwood.

CHARLOTTE SHOUT - MAY 5-12, 2019
A citywide music, art, food and innovation festival, relaunched as part of Charlotte’s CLT250 250th anniversary celebration this year.

EPICENTER FESTIVAL - MAY 10-12, 2019
Festival producer Danny Wimmer Presents (former producers of Carolina Rebellion) have announced the launch of the Epicenter Festival, a three-day music event, taking place at the newly created Rockingham Festival Grounds in Richmond County, North Carolina.

NORTH CAROLINA BREWERS AND MUSIC FESTIVAL - MAY 11-12, 2019
A celebration of great music, North Carolina and its craft brewing traditions, NCBMF will feature 11 bands over two days along with free tastings from North Carolina brewers at Historic Rural Hill, a nonprofit historic site and farm located 20 minutes from uptown Charlotte in Huntersville, North Carolina.

WE’VE GOT THE JAZZ FESTIVAL - JUNE 3, 2019
This family-friendly event at the Bechtler Museum of Modern Art is inspired by jazz, a truly American style of music. The event runs from 12-6 p.m. and will feature live performances from several local bands across two stages, art activities, local vendors, food trucks and more.

FABFEST CHARLOTTE’S BEATLES FESTIVAL - JUNE 14-16, 2019
FabFest is a new festival presented by Tosco Music. It includes two evenings of Beatles music being performed by diverse musical artists at Knight Theater as well as a two-day Beatles festival with daytime activities at the Fairfield Inn & Suites Marriott Charlotte Uptown.

CAROLINA WOODSTOCK FESTIVAL - AUG. 16-18, 2019
Tribute bands from the Woodstock era, such as The Who, Creedence Clearwater Revival, Jimi Hendrix, Jefferson Airplane and more will perform in Salisbury, North Carolina.

BREAKAWAY CHARLOTTE MUSIC FESTIVAL - OCTOBER 4 - 5, 2019
This two-day music festival features artists of all genres, with an emphasis in hip-hop and EDM. Past lineups have included Migos, Odesza, Kaskade, Wiz Khalifa, Khalid, Travis Scott and Zedd. New to Breakaway is a local craft beer garden showcasing places like Lenny Boy Brewing Co, Hoppin’, and NoDa Brewing Company.

BLACK ALTERNATIVE MUSIC FESTIVAL - OCTOBER 2019 (EXACT DATES TBD)
This festival is a free alternative music arts festival centering around the work of black artists. Established in October of 2017 in Charlotte, North Carolina, the BLA/ALT Festival has placed an importance on celebrating black musicians and their contributions to alternative and indie genres.
DAY 1

MORNING
Grab coffee from Parliament Coffee Roasters, owned by indie guitarist Paul Wagonner of Between the Buried and Me.

AFTERNOON
Visit Camp North End. Once used to produce Model Ts and Army missiles, this 76-acre historic industrial site now serves as a hub for creativity and innovation in the heart of Charlotte’s North End Smart District. It is regularly a host to live music every Friday in the summer through October with its “Fridays at Camp North End.”

EVENING
On a summer evening, head to the South Park neighborhood for the “Summer Pops” series. Charlotte orchestra is one of the oldest symphony orchestras in the South to remain in constant operation since the 1930s.

For an arts meets music experience, check out the Jazz at the Bechtler series, which happens on the first Friday of every month. This event, hosted at the Bechtler Museum of Modern Art, is known for selling out, so you’ll want to get your tickets in advance. Jazz concerts are performed by the Ziad Jazz Quartet.

Chow down on some Southern comfort food while listening to live music at Comet Grill.

Head to Jeff’s Bucket Shop, a quirky downstairs bar with nightly karaoke.

DAY 2

MORNING
Grab a breakfast sandwich and coffee at The Common Market in Plaza Midwood before starting the day. This special space that doubles as bar, coffee shop and music venue.

AFTERNOON
Stop by Lunchbox Records and peruse the shop’s extensive new and used vinyl, cds and dvds collection and get recommendations from its knowledgeable staff. Lunchbox specializes in vinyl, so expect to find rare gems.

Gearheads and novices alike should visit Midwood Guitar Studio, a beautiful boutique guitar studio with a wide selection of guitars, amplifiers, pedals and more.

EVENING
Enjoy dinner at Cajun Queen. This restaurant is a favorite among Charlotte locals where you can dine on some delicious Cajun fare while listening to live jazz music offered seven nights a week.

Pop into Petra’s, Snug Harbor or The Rabbit Hole, just a few of the intimate bars / venues in Plaza Midwood where you can regularly find local acts performing.

Stop by The Imperial, a classic cocktail lounge meets jazz bar, for a nightcap.

MORE MUSIC VENUES

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For more information about Charlotte or to plan your trip go to charlottesgotalot.com.