

THE Sounds OF Los Angeles

The Roxy, the Troubadour, the Wiltern and the El Rey Theatre are among the myriad historic L.A. concert venues still thriving today, but great, lesser-known clubs are all over the city, with new venues opening at a steady clip. This ever-changing music landscape makes L.A. a paradise for performers and music fans alike, with upward of 50 music shows taking place on any given night. What sets one club apart from the others in a metropolis of this size? Where should you check out local and up-and-coming bands this month? Let's take a tour.

By **TEENA APELES**



JASON HAMIDI, OPPOSITE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: COURTESY H.WOOD GROUP; CHRISTY WILKERSON; SABRINA SHARIFI



A recent show at the Peppermint Club. Below, from left: The Bootleg Theater; Bootleg booker Kyle Wilkerson. Opposite: Whale Fall at the Satellite

PEPPERMINT CLUB

8713 Beverly Blvd., West Hollywood, 424.335.0575, peppermintclub.com

Our first stop is on Beverly Boulevard in West Hollywood, where the H.Wood Group has partnered with Interscope Records to create the Peppermint Club. Since its opening in mid-January, the '60s-inspired lounge has welcomed the likes of Usher, blues artist SaRon Crenshaw, songwriter Skylar Grey and the soulful Aloe Blacc to its stage. The place feels more like someone's swank living room than a club, and that's the intention, with a cutting-edge sound system fitting for music royalty, such as recent guest Lady Gaga.

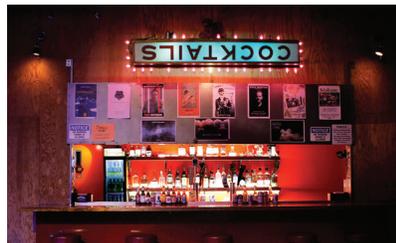
HIGH NOTES: >April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 THE SPAZMATICs Self-described "nerdcore" '80s cover band the Spazmatics continues its Sunday residency at the Peppermint Club, performing the biggest hits of the era from such bands as Queen,

A-Ha, Devo, Billy Idol and Depeche Mode. Singing along is encouraged.

BOOTLEG THEATER

2220 Beverly Blvd., L.A., 213.389.3856, bootlegtheater.org Farther east on Beverly is the Bootleg Theater, which has three performance spaces: a bar stage, large open room and sizable theater with seating. The theater has played host not only to musicians, but also to writers, actors, dancers and comedians. Prince (not long before his death) watched his former guitarist Andy

Allo perform here, and actor John C. Reilly has also visited, attracted by the diverse artists the Bootleg presents, including director and composer John Carpenter and dance-pop songstress Gavin Turek. "I like booking artists who I can continue to work with 10 years down the road," notes booker Kyle Wilkerson. "I like continuing to develop relationships and see artists grow—and to help them with that." Wilkerson presents practically every genre of music at the Bootleg, which he describes as having "a homey vibe, very inviting and warm—not a typical black-box rock club." So come as you are.





HIGH NOTES: >April 2 **ANNA ASH** Raised in northern Michigan listening to Emmylou Harris and Bonnie Raitt, Anna Ash has vocals with the same hypnotic quality and a laid-back sound that certainly has a country flavor. >April 13 **CHOIR! CHOIR! CHOIR!** Join Choir! Choir! Choir!, a Toronto singing group that skillfully leads the audience in songs by such notable artists as David Bowie, Rufus Wainwright and Patti Smith. >April 14 **JULIA JACKLIN** Fans of Cowboy Junkies and Innocence Mission will want to see this talented songwriter from Australia. It's hard not to be seduced by her sultry vocals.

TERAGRAM BALLROOM
1234 W. 7th St., L.A., 213.689.9100,
teragramballroom.com

In the neighboring Westlake area is the 600-capacity Teragram Ballroom, named after owner Michael Swier's late wife, Margaret (spelled backward). Formerly a silent-movie theater, the Teragram has become a favorite venue for high-profile artists such as Spoon and Chris



Martin of Coldplay. "Their sensibilities are keenly attuned to ours," says KCSN 88.5 music director Sky Daniels. "They will, like us, show the up-and-coming new acts that are starting to really break, and they also pay respect to the career artists." As for the vibe: You won't hear "a bunch of clinking at the bar and people talking over the bands," Daniels says. "They're going to listen and absorb the show."

HIGH NOTES: >April 2 **RED BARAAT FESTIVAL OF COLORS** Whether it's at NPR's Tiny Desk or the spacious Teragram, Red Baraat delivers an incredible celebration of percussion and horns that will have you on your feet. >April 11 **OF MONTREAL** With a loyal fan base in Los Angeles, always-entertaining Of Montreal and frontman Kevin Barnes are bound to pack the ballroom. >April 15 **ANDERS OSBORNE** Affective guitar riffs and haunting melodies define the poignant music of Anders Osborne.

THE SATELLITE

1717 Silver Lake Blvd., L.A.,
323.661.4380, thesatellitela.com

Next, we head to Silver Lake's Satellite, in the former Dreams space made famous by Spaceland, the mecca for independent local artists in the day. J-Matt Greenberg of instrumental "post-rock" band Whale Fall likes its "large stage, top-notch sound system, friendly and helpful staff and, most importantly, attentive and appreciative au-

diences," he says. "The Satellite's taste and selectivity means you can take a chance on a show and expect to like what you hear."

HIGH NOTES: >April 4, 18 **REGGIE WATTS** Celebrated comedian and musician Reggie Watts, currently the bandleader on *The Late Late Show With James Corden*, takes over the Satellite for a mix of humor and beatboxing. >April 7 **THE WERKS** Ohio jam band the Werks stops in L.A. to support the release of its fifth album, *Magic*.

THE ECHO AND ECHOPLEX

1822 Sunset Blvd. and 1154 Glendale Blvd., L.A., 213.413.8200, theecho.com

In adjacent Echo Park is the two-club venue the Echo and Echoplex, from the team behind Spaceland (which also books the Regent Theater and First Fridays at Natural History Museum). The heart of the L.A. music scene "begins and ends" with the venue, says KCSN's Daniels. "That place is a bastion of career development; so many people go there"—even the Rolling Stones, LCD Soundsystem and Beck. Part of the appeal is the venue's mix of acts, as well as its intimate size—especially the smaller Echo upstairs, where the performances listed below take place.

HIGH NOTES: >April 5 **ENTRANCE** Entrance's (Guy Blakeslee) latest album, *Book of Changes*, is mesmerizing, poetic and orchestral; expect a show just as memorable. >April 13 **DAVE B** Groove to



DAWN performing at a First Fridays at Natural History Museum; below, Exploding Flowers (at the Echo)

APRIL 7

**TONSTARTSSBANDHT /
SUNFLOWER BEAN**

Natural History Museum (p. 66)
During the April installment of the museum's popular First Fridays series, wander the exhibits while listening to tunes from two rising New York bands and sets from KCRW 89.9 deejay Anne Litt and Dublab deejay Heidi Lawden.



APRIL 8

NANCY AND BETH

Largo at the Coronet, 366 N. La Cienega Blvd., L.A., 310.855.0350, largo-la.com
Largo, in Beverly Grove, welcomes a helping of comedy and eclectic music with actresses Megan Mullally (*Will & Grace*) and Stephanie Hunt (*Californication*)—aka Nancy and Beth.

APRIL 14

**KALEIDOSCOPE
CHAMBER ORCHESTRA /
JORGE SANCHEZ-CHIONG**

M.A.R.S. Festival (p. 58)
The L.A.-based, conductorless Kaleidoscope Chamber Orchestra teams up with composer and turntable artist Jorge Sanchez-Chiong at Angel City Brewery to launch the inaugural Music & Arts ReSound (M.A.R.S) Festival in downtown's Arts District.

APRIL 21

**GORDON GOODWIN'S
BIG PHAT BAND**

Los Angeles County Museum of Art (p. 66)
Grammy Award-winning composer and arranger Gordon Goodwin kicks off a new season of the beloved (and free!) Jazz at LACMA series, which draws crowds of picnickers to the museum's BP Lawn Friday nights through November.

APRIL 23

**EXPLODING FLOWERS
Festival of Books (p. 58)**

The lushly layered, feel-good sound of indie pop band Exploding Flowers takes over one of the outdoor stages during the city's biggest celebration of literature, on USC's campus. Bring sunscreen. ☀