

# BOISE

BY LIZA DARWIN

"Most people don't know where Idaho is, let alone Boise," says Matt Dalley, co-founder of the local music label Barn Owl Records. "If they do, they just assume it's a podunk town in the middle of nowhere." Most people are clearly missing out, then, because Idaho's capital is brimming with bands. "Lately there's been a larger, more exciting buzz around the music scene here," explains Stephanie Coyle of Go Listen Boise, a website devoted to promoting local artists. "I think that we've known the [caliber of] talent that's here, but bands were having a hard time getting off the ground," she says. "We're trying to foster a healthy music scene." It seems to be working, because everyone is getting involved in one way or another. Whether it's Boise native Doug Martsch from Built to Spill hosting a show on the newly established Radio Boise ("Until it was created in April, we were the largest U.S. city without a community station," remarks Coyle), Barn Owl Records choosing to give away songs from local bands on their website, or just spreading the word about the city's Next Big Thing, we've found more than enough reasons to put Boise on the music map.



## FOR THE RECORD

**the record exchange** Since 1977, *The Record Exchange*—the largest indie music store in Idaho—has been the go-to place to buy and hear music (and get your caffeine fix). According to Chad Dryden, the store's marketing and promotion's director, it's because they've been instrumental in supporting the local music atmosphere. "Several current and former staff members are musicians themselves," says Dryden, "and many musicians come into the store on a daily or weekly basis to grab an espresso, shop for records, or simply talk music." 1185 W. Idaho St.



## PLUGGED IN

**DOUG MARTSCH**  
SHARES HIS  
FAVORITE MUSIC  
SPOTS IN BOISE

**THE VISUAL ARTS COLLECTIVE** This art gallery and concert venue is one of my hands-down favorite places to see music when I'm in town. 3638 Osage St.

**THE NEUROLUX** It's been around forever, and the owner is such a supporter of the arts. I actually was a bartender here when it first opened, and it's a place that's stuck around the longest as an alternative music scene. 113 N. 11th St.

## youth lagoon

With his humble, easygoing attitude and a tattoo of Idaho on his arm, Trevor Powers is Boise's newest poster boy. This fall, the 22-year-old classically trained pianist took his particular brand of dreamy, reverberating bedroom pop outside state lines with his stunning debut album, *The Year of Hibernation*. "I started taking piano lessons when I was six, and since then, playing music has always been my dream," he says. "But it was always one of those things that you don't know if it's just going to be a dream." The onetime Boise State English major (he completed his associate's degree, but quit once his music career began) wrote and recorded most of his songs last year, while in college. "It was kind of my project, doing an album," Powers explains. "At Boise State there is a practice room for music majors, and even though I wasn't one, I was in there all the time. I would skip class, and I'd go in and shut the door and play." Although Powers find himself out of Boise a lot at the moment—he is on a national tour throughout November—he appreciates the fact that his hometown is rooting for him. "Just knowing you have that support from the community, it's so great."

photographed by [aaron richter](#).

