

Fishing for a tune? Use the Net. The Netizen could be the audience at your music debut

A tune is a tune is a tune is a tune. Music is every man's language, and the Internet the perfect source for all genres of music, musical instruments and theory.

Get the tempo

Musicnewswire.com performs just like an online news bureau with a collection of



news bits from various Web sites. The 'neatest' part of the site is its uncluttered design which makes for speedy browsing. News stories from nearly 50 online magazines and other music sites, presented in six categories (industry, label, top, direct and general news and music reviews) make the site a great one-stop daily resource for the music aficionado. The creators, Mischief New Media, have favoured ease of navigation and utility of the site above all else. You can also buy music (from the linked CDuniverse.com) or look up a TV channel guide (Rock-onTV.com), or subscribe to their newsletter and get news delivered to your mailbox.

You can submit music-related news for publishing on the site, but forget about

uploading hoaxes—the news items are verified before being published.

Other online magazines you should check out is Billboard-online.com. This has a special section for interesting stories about the convergence of new technologies and the music industry, and of course the Billboard chart-toppers' list.

Key players

Sonicnet.com is a complete online music network. It is also one of the best-designed music sites, and is packed with rich features. Four main categories (News, Guide, Channel, Artists) encompass all areas of music. The Web Guide tab leads to a number of links for the music buff—artists, stores, concerts, newsgroups, labels, e-zines (about 400 of them), radio/streaming audio (about 1,000 links), and other music-dedicated Web sites. You could subscribe to SonicBoom, their weekly e-newsletter, or refer to the searchable news archive, which has news stories dating from 1995.



The Music Guide (search engine) searches by Artist, Genre, Topic and Alphabet, and offers links to music sites and artists Webwide. Artist Guide provides the biography, discography, audio clips, news, artists' Web sites, album reviews and similar links for the searched-for artist.

Those craving for some streaming video and audio can use Sonicnet's Streamland and FlashRadio for full-length music videos. Search a video and Post your opinions and ideas, or Request for the artists and videos you would like to see. About 100 videos are housed in its database, and 10 new ones are added every week.

FlashRadio (also directly accessible from FlashRadio.com) is a visual radio station with various channels dedicated to the different genres of music.

JamTV.com, which claims to be the Web's largest aggregation of multimedia material and artist information, offers live Webcasts (streaming audio and video) through links to major national and commercial radio stations. It also offers music news in live video, a sensational photo gallery, a set of downloadable tools (one of which enables a virtual reality experience in recorded concerts), autographs, and a chat feature through the Rolling Stone network link. Look up a listing of upcoming concerts—searchable by artist, city or venue—for which tickets can be bought online. And if you are looking for merchandise, JamTV is partnering with CDNow! and CDuctive to offer over

connect

Surf

INDIA SITES.IN

indmedica.com



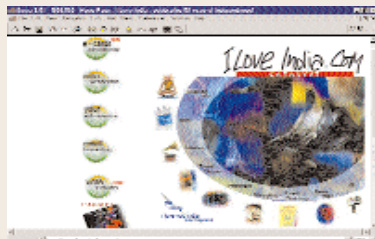
The site offers a collection of links to medical-related sites clustered in neat groups like Ayurveda, acupuncture, hospitals, medical bookstores, etc.

Chat lets you discuss your medical problems with a professional. A medical professional may post an entry (contact information) free of charge but will have to pay to put up his/her Web page. An Info tab tackles some FAQs for contact lens wearers, diabetics and others.

Want to brighten up a sick friend's day? Send an online greeting with a picture and background music selected from the choices provided.

iloveindia.com

The design catches your eye and diverse features make this site your guide to India. You can send e-cards, post your



message on a BBS, play a jukebox (audio on the Net), plan a trip or simply read the news. A picture database houses images of places and people, and provide the surfer a glimpse of India and its rich culture. The Travel Planner provides insightful information for tourists. Important phone numbers for emergencies, museum timings and other tourist-related facts are also listed. An online voting system attempts to gather public opinion on important issues and a user-friendly search engine retrieves Web links fast.



1,40,000 CDs and 70,000 videos, as well as other unique collectors' items.

Debut here

Launch.com has a unique concept of 'neighbours' for its online community and sustains more than one million registered users. Ratings are given for an artist or album, and unlike real life where your interests in music may not be easily tolerated by your neighbours, the neighbours you acquire through Launch are those who prefer your kind of music. The site nurtures a close-knit community, thanks to chat, instant messaging and an optional e-newsletter, and at any time you can find 150-400 people logged on simultaneously.

The site allows you to create your own page. You can upload an image from your PC, submit a Web link to an image any-



where on the Net, select or create a colour scheme for your page (for title, links etc), and submit URLs of your favourite Web sites.

All features are categorised under

Music, Community, Search and Purchase. There is an archive of related articles, artist discography and biography, album and concert reviews, community ratings, chats and interviews with chart-topping artists and music videos. Registering at the site is a breeze.

The Webcasters

Vtuner.com is tuned into about 1600 radio stations broadcasting on the WWW—from Antarctica to Yugoslavia. All stations are categorised according to ratings given for download speed, sound quality and Web site. It also features downloadable soft-



ware—the vTuner—that makes it easy to find and listen to radio broadcasts from around the world. vTuner organises the stations into a comprehensive searchable list, and does away with browsing the

Web. It is free and acts as the channel radio on your desktop. You can create your own favourite groups for quick access to your favourite stations.

Discjockey.com is where you will find high quality streaming media music spanning over 80 years beginning from the 1920s.

Broadcast.com is a well-known streaming media Webcaster. Hundreds of live audio and video programs are streamed in categories of news, music, sport, entertainment, spirituality, technology and others.

Liveconcerts.com is for live recordings of concerts, each about an-hour-and-a-half long. The site has aggregated an impressive database of concerts, which is searchable on the genre of music or the concert title.

Store a song

CDuctive.com seduces those who want to custom-make CDs with their own favourite music tracks. The online store also has a catalogue you can browse through. You can listen to streaming audio, create a custom CD, and complete your purchase. Usually, some tracks in each genre are available free of charge, and you pay only for the disk.

MusicBlvd.com (Music Boulevard): If you are not content with streaming audio, and have little time to go to real stores to custom-make a CD, do it here. The Music Gear category comprises many music-related trappings, from CD players and ear-phones to CD cases and sleeves to cables, and Zippo lighters!

The site is in English by default, but is also offered in French, German, Japanese, Spanish and Portuguese translations.



Customise the site to show the music news relevant to you. Its Gift Centre lets you select a genre of music and returns a number of gift options related to the chosen style.

CDnow.com is another popular store, and is collaborating with Music Boulevard. It has some appealing features, including Fast Forward Rewards—the buyer accumulates points for every purchase, and these can be redeemed against another purchase. It has a special category for Children's music, and a listing of the Billboard toppers. The site can also be accessed in several languages apart from English.



Also check out w3cd.com; Towerrecords.com and Tunes.com.

Musicfile.com claims to be the biggest marketplace for music and, with three million items for sale every day, it could well be. The Seller Information and Seller Policies features give details about the seller, his past sales record, and his selling policy. Every member gets a personal page and has access to a history of his Music-

File purchases, the auction bids made by him, Want Ads, Feedback, and Preferences (for customisation).

Source Resource

Musicsearch.com is a comprehensive music-only search site, with links to software, references, white papers about music stars, radio stations, and online stores.

A meta-search enables you to compare the price of an item at different stores—the results are displayed in four different frames on the Web page. The Reference section is categorised to give a host of links to Music technology, Universities and others. MusicSearch is good if you don't want the hassle of registration, but then you sacrifice personalised content. Try the SiteMap



INDIA SITES.IN

virtualbangalore.com



Do not ignore this site, if you are planning a trip to Bangalore. A neat Photo Album familiarises you with the sights of the city. Although the City Map feature was 'Under Construction' (as was almost half the site), the operational sections do offer a heap of information on almost everything in the city—airline offices, hotels, libraries, theatres (addresses, contact numbers) and a lot more. With Bangalore being known as 'The Silicon Valley of India', the Web site about this city must leave a definite mark on the Indian Web scenario. And it does.

awaaz.net



Mumbai finally finds its voice on the Net. Awaaz, the city's first e-zine comprises interesting features on Mumbai's sights and sounds. It is inviting as well as informative. With a database of restaurants searchable by Kind of Food, Price and Location of the restaurant, you will rarely be at a loss for where to eat. Special discount coupons can be printed off the site. With such a range of articles and information on music, art and theatre, health, fashion, restaurants and nightlife, sports, books and movies in Mumbai, is there anything left unsaid?

LOOSE NOTES

1 Lyrics.ch, supposedly the most extensive database on lyrics was undergoing expansion at the time of writing this article.

1 Geocities.com/SunsetStrip/Studio/9893/index.htm by Analyne had about three million visitors to his Geocities page. Various people have contributed the lyrics, whose neat alphabetic arrangement is impressive.

1 Get your lyrics reviewed at the Lyricsreview.com site; and if you are having trouble looking for a rhyme, use the rhyming dictionary provided.

1 RollingStone.com has a gallery of all the Rolling Stone magazine covers since 1967.

1 For guitar tablatures, you must search the personal pages of fellow Netizens, some sites like Guitartabs.com were involved in controversies regarding copyrighting of such material.

1 Try MTV.com if you have spare time and extra bandwidth, the site is slow to download but a pleasure otherwise.

1 For learning music, try www.theoria.com. Take a guided tour of the site, books (on interval, scales, chords), software, music theory and Web links. Visitors from 99 countries have found this site useful in their exams or otherwise. The browsing

to discover all of MusicSearch's features at a glance.

UBL.com claims that about 70,000 users log into their site daily. UBL or The Ultimate Band List is a good site for downloading legal MP3 music. It offers a huge stock of merchandise for fans of different music groups, and welcomes feedback from users. The site has earned the respect of other worthy sites such as Rollingstone.com. MP3.com is perhaps the most talked-about and visited site (more than 200,000 downloads daily). It offers tens of thousands of high-quality 'legitimate' songs in 243 genres, for free. You will also find some relevant articles like

detailed instructions about how to 'rip' a CD, encode MP3 files and to record (burn) music on a CD by converting MP3 files to WAV files. You can even e-mail the link of a song to a friend directly. The software section has hundreds of downloadable MP3 players, rippers, encoders and utilities, for all kinds of operating systems. It has contacts and dealer information for MP3 hardware—portable MP3 players like the Diamond Rio and Samsung Yepp, car players etc. The



Messageboard is a good discussion forum to meet people, ask questions, debate and share ideas, while a separate forum for Beginners enables you to ask for help from experienced users or discuss MP3 hardware technology.

If you are looking for fame, money, get your band recognised at MP3.com. Each artist gets free space and an Artist Web page. Upload your songs, band logo, album graphics, band history, lyrics, favourite music, links to your fan club etc. An "MP3.com Song of the Day" is said to increase downloads of the featured song by 500 percent. And if you are having trouble coming up with a name for your band/group, try the Band Name Generator. Just be prepared for some strange suggestions like White Vomit, Poor Nipple Anarchists or White Lunatic Carpet.

Indian ragas

Allindiaradio.com offers (live) All India Radio broadcasts at its site. So, if you don't have a radio or TV at work, you can still catch the day's news from allindiaradio.com's Live Radio. The site has a selection of high



quality music to choose from in categories that range from Film to Classical Music, in real audio. You can opt for music in Hindi, Bengali, Malayalam, and other languages. What's more, dial in a number and enter the song code for the Radio-on-Demand feature to stream in a song of your choice.

Carnaticmusic.com is aesthetically designed and would appeal to Carnatic music lovers. This site even has a special section for Bathroom singers who can post their singing on this site for anyone to play and appreciate, but few have come out in the open with their voice. Chat with other enthusiasts and explore the Audio Gallery. The Market Place is a section where people have



messages for music training, or trade music-related items. For those who are still new to Carnatic music, an interesting and comprehensive introduction is available at the site. Carnaticmusic.com, from Satyam Online, may just convert casual surfers to Carnatic music lovers.

NAINTARA JAIN