



SPIN ME RIGHT ROUND

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Society today is coming full circle as vinyl records make their comeback, ending up in the hands of not only experienced vinyl junkies, but also young hipsters with a penchant for anything old-fashioned.

For the vinyl lovers who kept their collections hidden all these years, you can once again break those records out, dust them off and be part of the “in-crowd.”

Dana Labat did just that when he decided to take his collection of 10,000 records and open up his own store, Capital City Records, right here in Baton Rouge.

If owning thousands of records wasn't enough to spark the idea of opening a store, Labat noticed a resurgence of vinyl records and said he figured it would be a fun way to enjoy retirement.

In 2013, he retired from Shell Oil and the idea of opening a business was still up in the air. However, he secured a building and began renovations the very next year and the store opened in November of 2014.

“I always liked music,” Labat said.

Labat bought albums throughout childhood, as he witnessed the changes from eight-tracks to cassettes. Back then, there was no digital form of streaming music. But, of course, there was always vinyl.

Collecting albums was not intentional for Labat. In fact,

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it wasn't until close to retirement when he realized his record collection has reached the thousands. He said that visiting record stores in different towns and attending record shows was enjoyable for him, eventually turning into a hobby.

Record shows were popular in the '80s and '90s when the demand for records decreased and stores began closing down. Functioning much like car or gun shows, record shows enabled record owners to buy, sell and trade from their collection — exactly what Labat offers at Capital City Records.

The store inventory, stemming from Labat's personal collection, is supplemented by garage sales and flea markets. Though, many records come straight to Labat through the store's buy, sell and trade service.

“I'm the central location now, so people come to me,” he said.

Labat grew up in Norco, Louisiana, just 20 minutes away from New Orleans. One would think that opening a store in the Crescent City would be his first move, but that's not the case.

Only one record store existed in Baton Rouge before Labat's, which factored into his decision when choosing a location. Lagniappe Records opened right when Labat's store was set to open, but it's not necessarily other record

**RECORD LOVER
TURNS VAST
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STORE**

stores who are the competition.

Vinyl records can now be found in retail stores such as Barnes & Noble, Urban Outfitters and even, Cracker Barrel.

So, why is it that vinyl records are finding their way back into the 21st century?

Labat said the format has been neglected for so long that children and young adults haven't seen or just aren't accustomed to vinyl records.

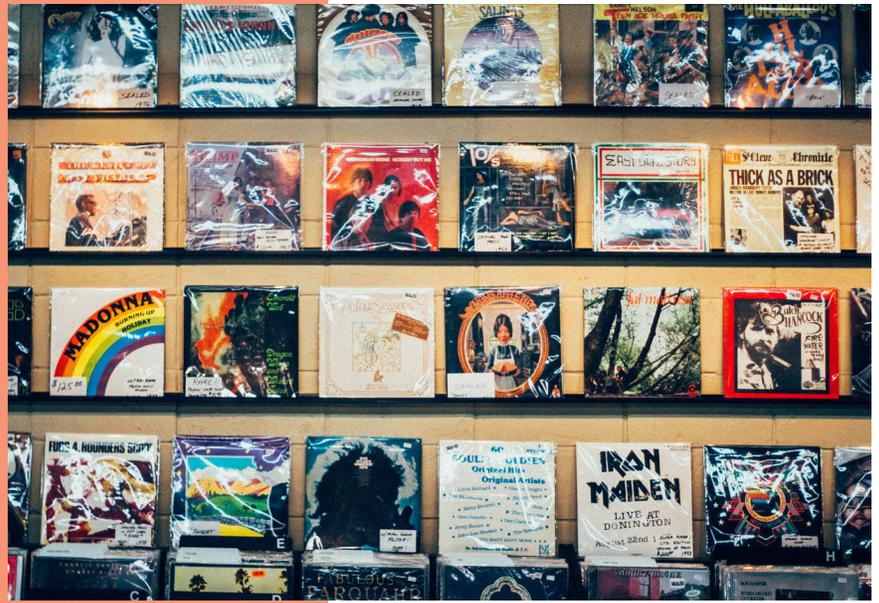
"They're just now discovering the format," he said.

Even so, customers of all ages can find it thrilling to search through Capital City Records' extensive album collection. While older adults search for albums they haven't seen in years, he said teens and children tend to look for classic bands they heard about from their parents.

"It's kind of like food," he said. "Everybody eats. Everybody listens to music."

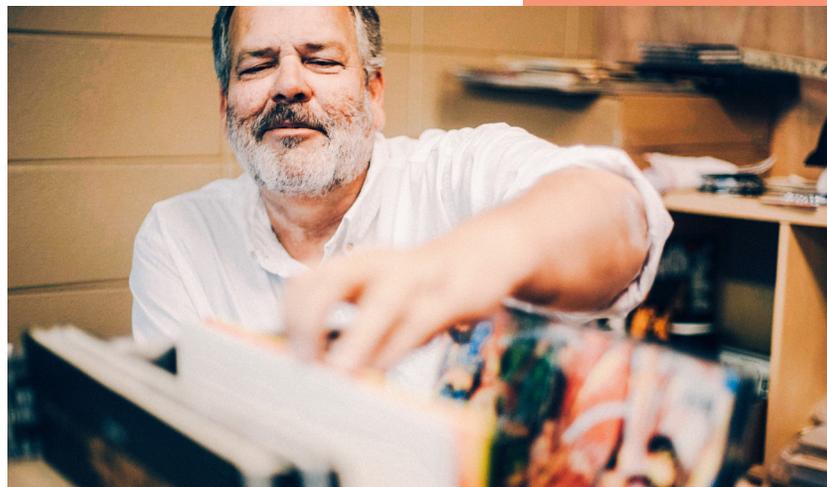
There are tens of kinds of ways to listen to music today, but he said it's the connection to vinyl that he loves most. Rather than it just playing as background noise, he actually listens to the music.

With a wide variety of genres available including rock, blues, jazz, R&B and just about anything else, Capital City Records contains at least 25,000 records. Noting that most customers are eclectic, Labat



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said he tries to have as many genres as possible to ensure people can find what they want.

"It's very rare that a person [who] truly enjoys music is focused on one genre," he said.

Labat also "dips his toes" in different genres depending on his mood. Punk rock is not something he cares to hear first thing in the morning. He puts on something mellow in the mornings, something with a singer-songwriter feel, until he wakes up.

So, don't judge him for his simultaneous love of Lana Del Ray's "Born to Die" album and old classics.

"If it's a good song, it's a good song," Labat said. "If it makes you toe tap, go for it."

Labat's purpose in opening the store was not to support and raise a family, that was already taken care of. Instead, it was a way to keep busy doing something he loves.

With a love for records and a collection large enough to sustain a store, it was a no-brainer. Now, he has the opportunity to meet people who share an interest in records and interact with his collection each and every day.

"It's always a pleasure," he said. "It doesn't seem like work. It's always exciting."