



HOLIDAY COUNTDOWN

MUSIC LOVERS



◀ **Blank Discs:** For the ultimate personal expression — and for folks who still listen to music on CDs — you could make a compilation of songs in your collection that follows a theme that appeals to the recipient. Of course, you'd better have a decent sounds library of your own to pull this off and you'll need a rack of blank discs to get started. You can find the blank discs at **Best Buy, Office Max, Target, or Walmart.** About \$22 for a 100-pack.



◀ Consider items that are music-related, that you can't find just anywhere. For example, how about old-school **Boogie Records T-shirts?** Culture Clash owner Pat O'Connor used to run Boogie Records and he is celebrating his 40th year in the business by reprinting the old T-shirts. Anyone who came of age in Toledo in the '70s and loves music will have to own one of these. **\$19.95 Culture Clash, on Secor Road near Sylvania Avenue.**

▼ When you're going mobile you need good sound, whether it's **docking a cell phone in your car stereo or playing discs.** If you need an upgrade, Radio Dave's Auto Sound Specialists can fix you up. Dave Balcerzak will come to you and before you know it, have a new system installed on the spot. **Radio Dave's Auto Sound Specialists, 419-265-0020.**



◀ One of the most popular and easy ways to give the gift of music is through **iTunes gift cards**, which come in various denominations. They're perfect stocking stuffers and while they lack the personal touch, the gift cards are always popular with younger listeners who download music. **Widely accessible, including at Kroger. Available in a number of denominations.**

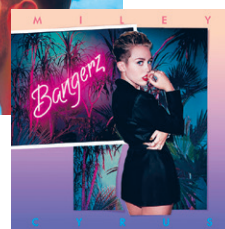


◀ Vinyl is all the rage with some listeners. So outfit your lover of LPs with some cool gear. There are **Pro-Ject turntables for \$299, Music Hall USB turntables** that you can use to record music from your vinyl albums onto your computer for **\$249, the Spin Clean Record Washer for \$69 and even old-school crates for storing your records for \$25.** **Ramalama Records, on West Central Avenue near Secor Road.**



▲ 'Tis the season for **big box sets** by a number of artists that are must-haves, including a 45-year anniversary edition of the Velvet Underground's *White Light/White Heat*, a definitive version of Van Morrison's classic *Moondance* album, a massive 34-CD Herbie Hancock collection, and more from The Ramones, Eric Clapton, The Beatles, The Beach Boys, and Sly and the Family Stone. **Prices vary. Ramalama Records, Finders Records, Culture Clash, Walmart.**

And, of course, there always is the **gift of a CD** and a perusal of the Billboard charts offers these suggestions in a number of genres: Drake, *Nothing Was the Same*; Pearl Jam, *Lightning Bolt*; Luke Bryan, *Crash My Party*; Miley Cyrus, *Bangerz*; Katy Perry, *Prism*, and Bruno Mars, *Unorthodox Jukebox*. Just make sure you know your gift recipient's tastes. Buying a Miley Cyrus disc for a Pearl Jam fan probably won't go over too well. **\$12-\$15. Walmart, Meijer, Best Buy, Ramalama Records, Culture Clash, Finder Records.**



▲ It is difficult to find old-school **CD stores** anymore, but one of the best in this part of the country is **Finders Records in Bowling Green.** The store is packed with CDs and its catalog runs deep, so you're not limited to just one genre or only one release per artist. The place has been there since 1971 and it's wall-to-wall with discs and music. And if you're undecided on what to buy, **gift certificates** are available. **Information: findersrecords.com/.**



▲ **Live music** matters a lot to fans and there are a number of good shows on the horizon. Start with glamorous alternative rockers **Foxy Shazam for \$19.90 at Mainstreet in East Toledo on Dec. 29, the massively popular Lady Antebellum for \$49.85-\$71 Jan. 11 at the Huntington Center, and Hotel California A Salute to the Eagles for \$22-\$32 Jan. 18 at Monroe Community College's La-Z-Boy Center at Meyer Theatre.**

* Prices and availability subject to change



▲ There are ways to support the local music scene while also giving a meaningful gift: **individual memberships to local organizations** such as the **Toledo Symphony League for \$40, the Black Swamp Blues Society for \$20, and the Art Tatum Jazz Society for \$55.** Recipients receive access to discounted tickets for sponsored shows, and the chance to mix and mingle with folks who have similar tastes. **Information: www.bsbs.net for the blues society, www.arttatumsociety.com for the jazz society, and www.toledosymphonyleague.com.**