

# COM 340 Semester Photo Essay

## The Effect of Covid Regulations on Local Music

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The exterior of the Record Archive in Rochester, NY.



A very elaborate social distancing guidelines sign hung above the store entrance.



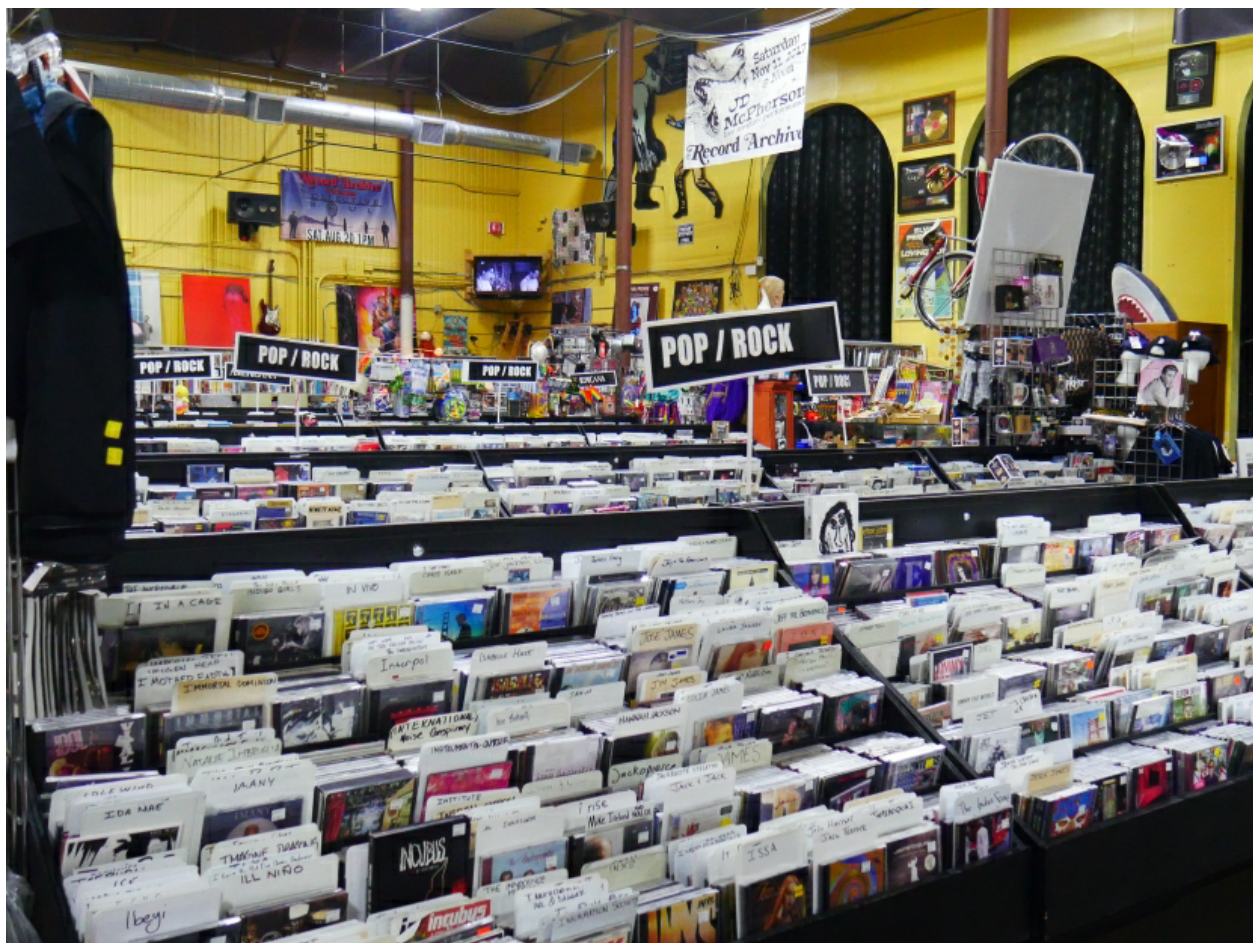


Further signage posted on the door glass for anyone who missed the huge sign above.



Vinyl records, painstakingly organized for customer perusal.





My favorite section... the CDs. I do wonder if these racks are regularly sanitized. (More on that later.)





A store worker and a male customer, both with facial coverings, rummaging through the vast collection offered at the store. Note the plastic curtain surrounding the work station of the employee.



Next stop: the House of Guitars in Rochester, NY (Irondequoit).





More Covid signage posted on the main entrance from Titus Ave.





A "home remedy" sort of setup inside the store with a vaporizer and table fan to spread sanitary air throughout the store confines.



Wouldn't be the House of Guitars without the guitars.





Entering the basement, yet another reminder for facial coverings.





CDs, cassette tapes, vinyl, you name it, they've got it.



A store worker obeying NYS Covid guidelines.





Yet another plastic wrap drapery with hand sanitizer near the cashier counter for safe transactions.





Signage at the back of the store at the entrance to the music media portion of the store.



A message of appreciation for the customer base. It was after visiting both of these stores in the same day that I developed a sickness the weekend following my adventure. Hence, I do wonder how much these stores sanitize all of the media touched by customers on a daily basis. Digging through that stuff is the whole point of going!





Pre-concert photos of a socially distanced performance by the Buffalo State Jazz Ensemble in Rockwell Hall (featuring yours truly on the drums).



The ensembles guitar player, Curtis, cycling through some chords and fingerings prior to getting up on stage.





There would be no crowd in attendance this night, but rather the performance would be broadcast over a YouTube livestream as part of New Covid guidelines by the school.



Frizb's CD Exchange on Elmwood in Kenmore, only about ten minutes from campus (in typical Elmwood traffic). Yet again, a homemade Covid sign jumps out at us.





A portion of the CD display inside the store. Following my prior encounters at the first two stores, I was much more careful to use hand sanitizer frequently on this trip.



The very colorful vinyl collection section.





Store owner Jeff cashing out a customer, both wearing facial coverings as part of regulations, and mutual respect.



Hi-Fi Hits on Main St in Williamsville, owned and operated by former Record Theatre store owner at Main and Lafayette, Joe Igielinski.





Covid signage has become a common sight at this point.



The bar inside the store, closed due to NYS Covid regulations, stating that consumption of food and beverage inside a building in Erie County is currently prohibited.





The indoor performance stage area, now blocked off by Record Store Day promotional racks, since live performances have been under scrutiny for months. Humorously, a cardboard stand-up poster of Elvis has been decorated with a mask.



Covid guidelines summarized quite nicely and concisely on one simple table sign.





A view of the rest of the store with the only other customer inside (thankfully wearing a mask as well). What I found across my visits was a reduction in number of customers simultaneously inside any given store at any time. It is unreasonable to believe that shutting down small businesses like these during another state-wide shutdown would be beneficial given the already limited traffic in-store.



The listening station, featuring local artists including my own band, The Impurity.





One final photo of the store, with a more solid state plastic divider hanging down from the ceiling. The main desk at the front was adorned with several of these along the whole counter perimeter.

Ultimately, it seems that physical music stores have suffered even more since Covid came into existence. While these stores were already on a decline in visitor count, Covid has only affected these numbers with further detrimental impacts. It's a shame to see the local areas suffer, but nevertheless they remain open during difficult times, and gives hope for a brighter future in the new year to come.