

EASY STREET CDS & TAPES



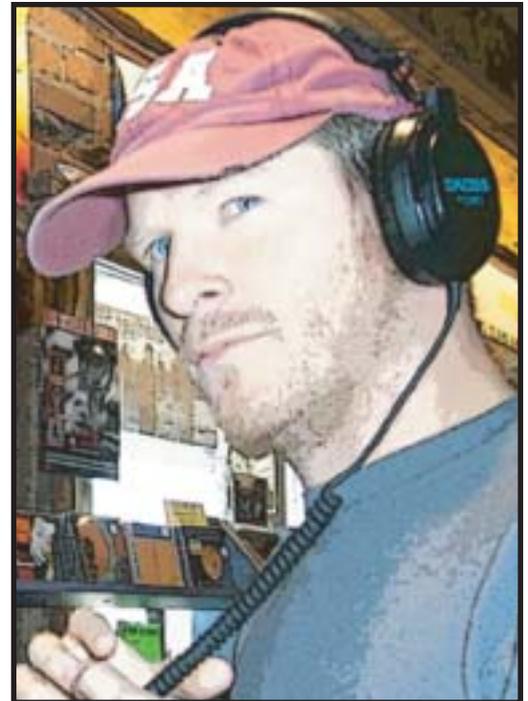
Matt Vaughan

Store Bio:

Easy Street has been in existence since 1987. Matt took over the store from his stepfather in 1988. He dropped out of school, used some of his education funds to buy the inventory and kept the name Easy Street Records. Shortly after taking over the store, Matt moved it to its current location and expanded the floor space. "I was very naive in the beginning. Often clawing at customers as they left the store..! I can special order...please...!" The store has weathered the suburban metal days, the grunge infested black days, the hip hop hooray days and the post alterna days. I would say Easy Street has been known for changing with the times and being progressive enough to not be typecast or pigeon-holed. In 1999, Easy Street opened a cafe in the store. It opens at 7am and the menu includes "Horton Heat Hash," "Ike And Tina Tossed Salad" and "The Johnny Cash Special (steak & eggs)." Easy Street joined the CIMS in June of 1999.

Owner Bio:

33 years old. Native Seattleite. Grew up in music business family. Worked at record stores growing up. Dropped out of Seattle University my freshman year and took over a record store that needed some love. After two years I was getting by and moved it to a bigger location. Did some booking and had a management company for a couple independent label acts. Went on some big tours around the world and worked all aspects of the industry. The scene changed, the hype was over and I rededicated myself to the store and fell in love with it all over again. By 1997, I had leased the space next door. I used it for over a year as a venue for our in-stores, contemplating expansion of some kind. It became clear to me that having a successful record store these days would have to challenge my entrepreneurial spirit. I don't read *Billboard* every week, I don't go to many conventions, I don't collect records any more. I have enjoyed being removed from the industry a bit. I enjoy Sam Shepard stories, '50s movies, baseball, a good cup of coffee and old record on my old turntable.



Favorite Record:

Kris Kristofferson's *Me And Bobby McGee*.

Favorite Artist:

David Bowie

Best In-Store Performance:

Mudhoney, 1998

Most Memorable In-Store (that didn't go as planned):

The one we had yesterday.

Favorite In Store Promotion:

kd lang "Drag"...you get the idea

CIMS Membership Impact:

Once I met the rest of CIMS I realized that I wasn't such a freak after all. ☺



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