

## Headquarters Music: The Miami Valley's Best Kept Secret

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New Carlisle is home to one of the Miami Valley's best kept secrets. That secret is Headquarters Music. Located in downtown New Carlisle on State Route 235, Headquarters Music is home to a plethora of obscure and cool music. Headquarters Music leans toward the heavy side of the music spectrum, but also stocks a diverse selection of music not typically found in a chain store. The bottom line is: Headquarters Music is the type of store where you go to find music that can't be found elsewhere. Headquarters Music is for the type of music fan that doesn't accept what Top 40 radio and bloated mega-record companies prefer to spoon feed the public.

National chain stores cater, almost slavishly, to the pop tart appeal of Top 40 radio, consequently short-changing the potential buyer of music that is not heard on commercial radio stations. For that fan, there are only two options available: The stand alone, mom 'n' pop record store or the internet. For those that wish to pay for their music (obligatory, back-handed, jibe at web thieves: you know who you are) and who appreciate the tactile experience of wandering through a store's selection just to see what comes up will rejoice at the discoveries that can be found at Headquarters Music. Headquarters Music makes it's own rules and lives by its own creed.

Headquarters Music has been around since 1975 and I, personally, have been haunting the premises since 1987. And let me tell you, I have spent no small amount of coin on rare and hard to find music in this store over the years and I am still amazed and surprised at what I continue to find there. Aside from recorded music, Headquarters Music has a lot of other music related swag to offer, as well, such as: Shirts, hats, miscellaneous metal/punk gear, giant posters and tapestries. Back to the music, Headquarters Music offers an excellent selection of vintage and new vinyl, obscure box sets, vintage cassettes, picture discs and music related DVD's.

Headquarters Music mystifies me in that none of my fellow travelers in the realm of musique obscure seems to have heard of it. Given the fact that, with cell phones and the internet available, maybe no one even considers looking in a phone book to find new record stores to explore, which is what I did back in the 80's before the age of instant information. Located somewhere else, perhaps a more urban environment, Headquarters Music would probably be more well known. However, tucked away in quiet New Carlisle, Headquarters Music maintains its secretive status.

Frankly, a visit to this establishment is worth the drive, especially if you are not interested in what the chain stores have to offer. Also, if you're lucky, you might get to see Headquarters Music owner's, all white cat and legless lizard. That's right, I said "legless lizard." It's not a snake but a type of lizard that has no legs due to it's genetic disposition.