



Jazz

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Tonic Closes, Vital Venue of Downtown NYC Music Scene

It is with sadness that I report the closing of Tonic NYC, one of the last outposts of avant-garde and experimental music in Manhattan. A victim of neighborhood gentrification (what Manhattan neighborhoods haven't yet been gentrified?), Tonic was a world-renowned club and I have many fond memories of the somewhat uncomfortable but generally enjoyable space. The best memories were musical, of course, and to finish them off **John Zorn** is scheduled to perform at the club's closing night.

Unfortunately, in the expensive and highly competitive New York City marketplace, artistic integrity lost out this time. As owners Melissa and John explain on the [Tonic Web site](#):

As a business, we take responsibility for mistakes made along the way. If profit had been our chief motivation we could have changed our programming to something more mainstream and financially lucrative. Instead we were more committed to a certain type of music and loyal to the community that supported us.

For more info on the New York jazz scene read my listing of the [best live jazz venues](#) in the Big Apple.