



LIVE ★ FROM

NEW YORK

FIFTEEN OF THE TOP VENUES, DIVE BARS, CONCERT HALLS,
THEATERS AND CLUBS FOR **WORLD-CLASS LIVE MUSIC** IN NYC.

by **ELIZABETH SILE**



photographs
by
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In ★

SHEER SCALE AND VARIETY, NO CITY TOPS NEW YORK

for live music. On a given night, you can be taking in the New York Philharmonic at Lincoln Center or discovering an indie band at Elsewhere, a sprawling warehouse-turned-music complex in Bushwick. Major bands and artists don't skip the city when they go on tour, either. They can be found playing in the backrooms of tiny bars for 30 people and at one of the five boroughs' stadiums for screaming masses of thousands. † New York has lost several important venues over the years—CBGB, Fillmore East, Roseland Ballroom among them—but music is still a booming business here. More live-performance tickets are sold in New York than in any other city and, according to the Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment, the industry is growing faster than the city's economy overall. Entrepreneurs in recent years have reinvigorated old venues through extensive renovations and opened entirely new ones, with more to come. And in late November—just after creating an official Office of Nightlife to support live performance spaces and clubs in this era of rising rents and gentrification—the city government finally repealed its 1926 Cabaret Law, which forbid venues from allowing dancing without a costly, hard-to-get license. In other words, New Yorkers are celebrating, knowing that their city's music scene is about to get even better.



LINCOLN CENTER MANHATTAN

Spread across more than 16 acres on Manhattan's Upper West Side, Lincoln Center is the city's (if not the world's) most venerated performing arts center. It's home to 11 resident organizations, including the Metropolitan Opera, Jazz at Lincoln Center, the New York City Ballet, the New York Philharmonic and the Julliard School. With 30 event spaces—from the 3,800-seat Metropolitan Opera down to the 140-seat Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola jazz club—Lincoln Center also brings in an outstanding array of musicians, singers and dancers from abroad and across the country. The center also presents important annual festivals, including Mostly Mozart in the summer and American Songbook in the winter. This year, there's a new conductor for the New York Philharmonic, Jaap van Zweden; a staging of Puccini's *Tosca*; Mozart's *Così fan tutte*; and much more. lincolncenter.org

BROOKLYN BOWL

BROOKLYN

This Williamsburg bowling alley-meets-concert venue, in an old ironworks foundry dating back to the 1880s, is the perfect place to spend a whole night. Start with a round of bowling on its 16 lanes, then break for food from the owners of Blue Ribbon Fried Chicken and Blue Ribbon Sushi in Manhattan. Order the fried chicken and ribs and finish them off with a local beer (Brooklyn Bowl's beer list skews local, with Lagunitas, Brooklyn Brewery and Coney Island Brewing Company on tap). Finally, head to Brooklyn Bowl's 600-person live music venue, which features a mix of rock, indie, hip-hop, R & B and funk acts. Kanye West, the Yeah Yeah Yeahs, Guns N' Roses and James Murphy have all played there, along with DJs such as Questlove and the occasional cover band. Over the past eight years, Brooklyn Bowl has also expanded to The Linq in Las Vegas. brooklynbowl.com

