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On Governors Island for the Parisian Ball Dance-Music Festival

Celebrating Bastille Day and Opening of Fête Paradiso

By DAVID SHAPIRO JR.

"House music is like modern art," mused Orazio Rispo, a 26-year-old DJ and Columbia University political science student, while setting up his equipment inside a gazebo on Governors Island on Saturday afternoon. "House is about the idea that you can play an eight-minute track that puts the listener into a trance rather than a three-minute pop song that's constantly trying to get their attention. It's like being in a sensory deprivation chamber! You feel or hear every little change in the sound."

Slideshow: A Governors Island Fête >



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Mr. Rispo had come to Governors Island for the Parisian Ball, a dance-music festival that celebrated both Bastille Day and the opening of Fête Paradiso, a festival featuring restored 19th-century carnival equipment (roughly \$10 million worth, according to the organizers) that runs all summer in Nolan Park on Governors Island. The gazebo inside which Mr. Rispo was setting up his equipment once housed carnival bumper

cars, and behind him his girlfriend, Brazilian supermodel Raica Oliveira, rode a carousel. "I love the fast motion," she said. Earlier, a guest, consoling her young son, had to explain why someone might not love the fast motion: "That's not a ride that Daddy could go on. He has to be very careful about his neck."

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