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This Weekend, Experience NYC's First Ever Silent Music Festival

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Ask any visiting non-New Yorker and you'll hear the same three complaints: it's smelly, expensive, and way too noisy. No wonder this city never sleeps—it's way too loud for a restful night's shut-eye. But this weekend, **Quiet Events** is hosting their first-ever **Quiet Music Festival**, an all-night nine-DJ extravaganza at Coney Art Walls.

A quiet party may sound anti-social, but Quiet Events founder and CEO Will Petz—who has been hosting weekly quiet events for over more than years—assures me it's anything but. "In a normal club, if you want to talk to someone you just met, you have to scream over the music," he explains. "But here, you just take your headphones off."

The wireless headphones worn by each guest feature LED light displays that change color as you flip between the three DJ channels: Top 40, 80s/90s throwback, and Reggae/Soca. Partiers can flip between channels, find people dancing to the same tunes, and easily adjust the volume or take their headphones off when they need a break from the music.



Petz points out that this system of putting power in the hands of the listener reflects the way music culture has changed in the digital age. "Nowadays, people don't listen to the radio; they listen to playlists. We're used to being able to quickly switch between songs and genres."

The headphones give partiers power in another way, too: "The DJ can look into the crowd and see how many people are tuning in at any time, so if the blue DJ looks up and sees that only a couple of headphones are blue, he's going to switch it up to get more people back on his channel!" That competitive edge means you're way less likely to be stuck at the bar sitting out song after song that you don't like.



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Of course, at Quiet Events parties, it's rare to find people sitting at the bar. "There's something about having the headphones that makes people feel less self-conscious," Petz explains. "I've been hosting parties for a long time, and I see people dancing and hanging out here more than anywhere else. When your throat isn't killing you from screaming, your head isn't pounding from the music, and you're not worried about being part of the in-crowd, you can really open up and actually enjoy the party." That unique vibe might be what brings thousands of people to Petz's events every week.

It could also be the killer venues. Because Quiet Events doesn't have huge speakers and excessive noise to accommodate, they can party in places New Yorkers usually can't, from rooftops and beer gardens to right under the Brooklyn Bridge. "Our next big goal is to throw a party on the Intrepid," Petz says. "Throwing great parties in crazy locations is kind of our thing."



This weekend's festival will take place at [Coney Art Walls](#), an outdoor, beach-side street art gallery in Coney Island. In addition to the nine DJs, partiers will enjoy music festival classics like face painting, LED hula dancers, and food trucks from Dinosaur BBQ, Calesco, and more. While the festival is 21+, Quiet Events offers family-friendly quiet parties every other Sunday. For more details, including tickets, check out the [Quiet Events app](#).

(Photos courtesy of Quiet Events)

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