HOST: When Eran was 15, his parents bought him an Apple II computer. He and a friend got together and decided to find a way to make the computer play back Beethoven's Ninth Symphony.

ERAN EGOZY: Like today, if you want to enter music into a computer, there's programs that do that. And they're visual. You can either play them on a keyboard, or you can draw them with a mouse, or whatever. Right? So I didn't have anything like that.

HOST: Now, this wasn't just one instrument of the symphony. The pair found the whole symphony score, complete, with all of the different parts for the string instruments, the brass, and the woodwinds. And every day after school, they would translate the music into computer code. Every 10 seconds of the score took three to four hours to code.

EGOZY: And I had to enter it note-by-note, using hexadecimal code. I was just, you know, looking at that note and then just typing-- and I had the whole, my whole coding scheme memorized. But yeah, I was just typing binary data in order to do this. And I did this every day after school. It's kind of nuts.

HOST: As they slowly coded the music, the computer would play back Beethoven.

[BEETHOVEN MUSIC PLAYING]

EGOZY: While that sounds completely trivial today, you know, back in the mid '80s, I think it was-- it was, kind of, a cool thing to do. Sounded kind of cool, though, when I was done.