

# How a Saxophonist Tricked the KGB by Encrypting Secrets in Music

” When we got here, we were instantly pulled aside, and they went through whatever in our travel luggage, to the point of unwrapping Tampax. It was insane,” states Goldberg, who exists about the experience and her musical code at the RSA security conference in San Francisco today. “With my music, they opened it up and there were some genuine tunes in there. If you’re not an artist, you would not understand what’s what. They went page by page through whatever– and after that they handed it back.”

Goldberg states that while the code worked and Soviet authorities didn’t take their music, they did question all 4 tourists about what they prepared to do while in the USSR. “We were brought into a space with a huge burly man who banged on the table and chewed out us,” keeps in mind Goldberg, now a music education teacher at California State University, San Marcos.

Musical note names cover the letters A to G, so they do not supply a complete alphabet of alternatives by themselves. To produce the code, Goldberg appointed letters of the alphabet to notes in the chromatic scale, a 12- tone scale that consists of semi-tones (sharps and flats) to broaden the possibilities. In some examples, Goldberg composed just in one musical variety, called treble clef. In others, she broadened the register to be able to encode more letters and included a bass clef to extend the series of the musical scale. These information and variations likewise included verisimilitude to her encoded music.

For numbers, Goldberg would merely compose them in between the staves, where in some cases you may see chord signs. She likewise included other attributes of structure, like rhythms (half notes, quarter notes, 8th notes, entire notes), essential signatures, pace markings, and expression signs like slurs and ties. The majority of these existed to make the music look more genuine, however some functioned as coded supplements to the letters concealed in the music notes. She even periodically drew small diagrams that might be misinterpreted for charts to advise herself of where a meeting point lay or how to provide something.

While somebody might technically have actually played the code as music, it would have sounded less like a tune and more like a feline strolling throughout piano secrets.

” I selected a note to begin, and after that I developed the alphabet from there. When you understand it, it winds up being quite simple to compose things. I taught my good friends on the journey the code, too,” Goldberg states. “We utilized it in order to take in individuals’s addresses and other info we would require to discover them. And we coded things while we existed so we would have the ability to

get some info about individuals and their efforts to emigrate, in addition to information we hoped might assist other individuals ask to leave.”

The United States artists got their bearings in Moscow prior to heading to Tbilisi, the capital of Georgia. There and on their next drop in Yerevan, the capital of Armenia, they effectively fulfilled members of the Phantom Orchestra, a lot of whom spoke some English, and hung out learning more about each other, playing music together, and even staging little, unscripted performances.

Source: [How a Saxophonist Tricked the KGB by Encrypting Secrets in Music](#)