

# Before the concert begins, please turn on your cellphones



JOHNTLUMACKI/GLOBE STAFF

**NoteStream app developer Eran Egozy and research assistant Nathan Gutierrez.**

**By Zoë Madonna** | GLOBE STAFF FEBRUARY 24, 2017

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CAMBRIDGE — You may not know Eran Egozy's name, but if you either were between the ages of 10 and 24 in the mid-2000s or had children in that ballpark, you may be familiar with one of the wildly successful video games on his resumé. Harmonix Music Systems, the video game development company he founded with fellow Massachusetts Institute of Technology

graduate Alex Rigopulos, brought the “Guitar Hero” and “Rock Band” franchises to living rooms and dorm lounges everywhere, introducing immersive, interactive technology through which non-musicians could play music. Now Egozy is turning his attention from the video game console to the concert hall with the app NoteStream.

The app offers an alternative to the traditional program book, which delivers listeners a static wall of text that may be difficult to take in before the lights go down. NoteStream is designed to run on smartphones, displaying images and insights about a piece in real time as it is performed. “Our purpose is to engage with the audience more,” Egozy said at MIT, where he teaches. “We want people who are listening to music, especially if they’re listening for the first time, to be able to appreciate more of it as they’re listening to it.”

NoteStream’s prototype outing was during an MIT Wind Ensemble performance of Percy Grainger’s English folk tune-inspired “A Lincolnshire Posy” in December. On March 3, it will make a more high-profile debut at the Ambient Orchestra’s premiere of MIT professor Evan Ziporyn’s cello concerto arrangement of David Bowie’s final album, “Blackstar,” featuring soloist Maya Beiser.

As the orchestra plays, the app will run through a slideshow of stills from Bowie’s music videos, facts about his life and art, information about

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