

# Connection, Please

for

Two Speaking Voices and Computer-processed Piano

John Holland

- Piano (Voice 1: pick up phone receiver)
- 6** Many people are allergic to cats.
- 12** The elements that make up life – oxygen, nitrogen, and carbon – are indestructible.
- 4** They are continually recycled.
- 11** A gun maker says Dell refused to sell him a computer.
- 8** The oceans cover two-thirds of the Earth.
- 22** The formation of clouds over such a vast expanse of water plays a major role in the global regulation of climate.
- 6** Cat and mouse. Predator and prey.
- 13** What is it about the cat and mouse cartoons that so fascinates us?
- 19** The International Finance Company, the IFC, is beginning to help entrepreneurs in segments traditionally excluded from the formal economy,

piano

- 8 including women from underdeveloped countries and indigenous groups.
- 8 The first computer bug was an actual insect.
- 20 In 1945, computer pioneer Grace Hopper discovered a 2-inch moth inside the Mark I computer at Harvard.
- 16 This led to calling anything that goes wrong with a computer, a hardware or software bug.
- 11 Due to natural cycles of the air, oceans, and land masses,  
7 including periodic extinctions of many life forms,  
7 the Earth has always maintained biological equilibrium.
- 9 We are constantly breathing the air of past generations.
- 15 Boolean logic. If you lock the cat in the bathroom, then it can't get out.
- 7 Machines reproduce, and change, as avidly as viruses.
- 20 John D. Rockefeller Jr., who inherited a vast oil fortune from his father, was a philanthropist, and collector of antiquities.
- 11 His wife was a devoted collector of 20th century modern art.

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- 10 In order to keep her off the phone at night,  
19 Junior, as he was called, told his wife that if she would stop all phone  
calls after 5:00 pm,  
11 he would finance a new space for her modern art collection.  
2 She agreed.  
17 He built a new home for them, and gave her their old mansion to  
house her collection,  
13 which is now known as the Museum of Modern Art in New York.  
15 Integral circuits and feedback loops form a self-regulating pattern of  
the Earth's energy systems.  
24 In recent centuries, people, nations have begun to confederate under a  
sovereign will based on interactive principles of shared community,  
combined with individual freedoms.  
27 Within a few generations, the USA, the European Union, the African  
Union, the Arab League have all begun to take the shape of  
distributed environments.  
22 Imagine unions in South America, Mexico, the Middle-east, and Asia  
sharing resources through a unified distribution of smaller states or  
countries.

(hang up phone)

piano (phone rings)

1 V1: Hello.

10 V2: Hi, this is Margaret calling. (Frank, if a male is calling)  
Do you have a cat?

13 V1: I used to have a cat. Well, it was actually a virtual cat.

4 V2: What happened to it?

8 V1: I forgot to water it, and it died.

4 V2: Where is it now?

1 V1: (pause) Memory.

15 T.S. Elliott wrote a book about cats. Andrew Lloyd Webber  
composed a musical, Cats.

11 Edward Gory made line drawings of cats, in their catty situations.

16 Then there is Schrodinger's cat, which is a main actor in the story of  
quantum mechanics.

6 What is this charm with cats?

28 The World Health Organization reports that 4%of the burden of  
disease, and 3.2% of all deaths globally, are attributed to alcohol,

20 and that alcohol is the foremost risk to health in low-mortality  
developing countries and the third in developed countries.

piano

11 After several billion years, life itself has proved to be immortal.

15 With its incredible diversity, the living world persists in the face of entropy and change.

12 Is that statement true? Fool the computer and win a free beer!

7 'I locked the cat in the bathroom' she said.

9 (pause) He opens a beer and hands it to her.

11 Blue-green algae in oceans seed cloud formation in the atmosphere,

10 creating global currents that regulate patterns of life on Earth.

16 The mechanism for this flight is bubble-bursting, wind turbulence, uplifting, and the creation of thermals.

22 The implication of the theory is that biogenic cloud seeding is a potential mechanism for balancing the planetary ecosystem, known as Gaia.

15 Later, when they arrive home, he opens the bathroom door and lets the cat out.

27 There is a discussion among some members of the United Nations who would like to see the Internet come under the control of a U. N. Panel.

(hang up phone)

piano (phone rings)

1 V1: Hello.

31 V2: Hi, I'm calling from Baskin Robbins Ice Cream, and if you can name 31 ice cream flavors in the next 31 seconds, we will pay you 31 dollars.

4 Are you ready ...go!

9 (wait several seconds) Oh I am sorry, you are out of time!

(hang up phone)

17 A computer novice was trying to fix a broken machine by turning the power off and on.

11 On seeing what the student was doing, the teacher spoke sternly:

19 'You can not fix a machine by just power-cycling it with no understanding of what is going wrong.'

9 The teacher then turned the machine off and on.

3 The machine worked.

19 Apples, oranges, and other fruit found on trees were once eaten by large animals who have since become extinct.

13 By allowing themselves to become domesticated, the fruit has insured their own reproduction.

10 The first telephones in America were installed in farm houses.

piano

20 The idea was to allow farmers to keep in touch with other farmers who were often separated by great distances.

12 But it was the wives who used the phone, not the farmers!

17 The Earth's atmosphere is thoroughly mixed and constantly recycled through the complementary processes of breathing and photosynthesis.

12 Everyday we breathe the air, inhaling microcosmic particles from distant oceans and lands.

10 We eat foods containing minerals deposited from around the world.

11 We drink the water lifted up from other nations and civilizations.

20 A five year-old girl recently told me that she was going to be a veterinarian. She has two cats.

(Hang up phone. Let dial-tone sound for several seconds.)