

14 Canons

for 4 more-or-less equal voices

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Dec. 2025

Equation

Text by Leigh Mercer

A dozen, a gross and a score, plus three times the square root of four, divided by seven plus five times eleven is nine squared and not a bit more!

Answer to Pope's Epitaph for Sir Isaac Newton

Text by Alexander Pope and John Collings Squire

Nature and nature's laws lay hid in night; God said "Let Newton be!" and all was light! It did not last, the Devil shouting "Ho! Let Einstein be!" restored the status quo.

Inexperto Crede

Text by John Collings Squire

You may be accurate when you say that habitual honesty does not pay, but there's still one point which leaves room for doubt, which is: How the Devil did you find out?

Brevity is the Soul of Wit

Text by William Shakespeare

Brevity is the soul of wit.

The Termite

Text by Ogden Nash

Some pri - mal ter - mite knocked on wood, and tas - ted it, and found it good. And
that is why your Cou - sin May fell through the par - lor floor to - day!

Forgive, O Lord

Text by Robert Frost

For - - give, O Lord, my lit - tle jokes on Thee,
and I'll for - - give the great big one on me!

The Pelican

Text by Dixon Lanier Merritt

(fine) 2 (fine) 3
A won-der-ful bird is the pe-li-can! His beak can hold more than his bel-ly can! He can
hold in his beak e-nough food for a week, but I'll be darned if I know how the hell he can!

Ending: three voices finish together on fine. The remaining voice has a slightly embarrassing solo until the last fine.

The Flea and the Fly

Text by Ogden Nash

2 3
A flea and a fly in a flue were im - pri-soned so what could they do? Said the
fly, "let us flee!" "Let us fly!" said the flea, so they flew through a flaw in the flue.

The Ant

Text by Ogden Nash

The ant has made him-self il-lus-trious, through constant industry in-dus-trious!
So what? Would you becalm and pla-cid, if you were full of for-mic a-cid?

Ending: One voice finishes with the final phrase, on the words "formic acid", then the other three voices finish at the next fermata or fine.

The Dilemma

Text by John Collings Squire

God heard the em-bat-tled na-tions sing and shout: "Gott
stra-fe Eng-land!" and "God save the King!" God this, God that, and God, the
o-ther thing, "Good God!" thought God, "I've got my work cut out!"

God's Plan

Text by Oliver Wendell Holmes, Senior

God's Plan made a hope-ful be-gin-ning. But man spoiled his chan-ces by sin-ning. We
trust that the sto-ry will end in God's glo-ry, but at pre-sent the o-ther side's win-ning.

There was a Young Lady from Niger

Text by Edward Lear

There was a young la-dy from Ni-ger who smiled as she rode on a ti-ger; They re-
-turned from the ride with the la-dy in-side and the smile on the face of the ti-ger!

Resumé

Text by Dorothy Parker

1
Ra - zors pain you; Ri - vers are damp; A -
2
A -
3
cids stain you and drugs cause cramp. Guns aren't law - ful;
4
Noo - ses give; Gas smells aw - ful; You might as well live.
5
(fine)
You might as well live.

Ending: One voice ends on the text "Razors pain you", then all other voices end at the next fermata or fine. The held notes should end abruptly together with the last voice's "You might as well live".

There's Something About a Martini

Text by Ogden Nash

1
There is some-thing a - bout a mar - ti - ni, a tin - gle re - mark-ab - ly
2
plea-sant; A yel - low, a mel - low mar - ti - ni, I do wish I
3
had one at pre-sent! There's some - thing a - bout a mar - ti - ni, (fine)
4
Ere the di - ning and dan - cing be - gin! And to tell you the truth, (fine)
5
it is not the ver - mouth, I think, per - haps, it's the gin!
6
I do wish I had one at present! (fine)

Ending: One voice finishes with the fifth line ("There's something about a martini"), then all other voices finish at the next fine. One voice will have a short solo at the end ("I do wish I had one at present!").