The Mathematical Intelligencer encourages comments about the material in this issue. Letters to the editor should be sent to the editor-in-chief, Chandler Davis.

One-Way Link

Leonard Gillman, in his review of *Emblems of Mind*, alludes to what I always think of as the one-way correlation between mathematics and music—that while mathematicians often have an affinity for music, musicians are much less apt to have one for mathematics. He says this is “presumably because although a person with no understanding of music can nevertheless enjoy a musical performance, it is unlikely that anyone can curl up with a mathematics book and enjoy it without understanding it.”

My own explanation is quite different. It is simply that if one has an aptitude for both music and mathematics, the practical consideration of having to make a living will often dictate the direction one takes.

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Math Class Limericks

Marion Cohen

We are algebra-shy nincompoops.
We can't get a grip on our groups.
We ask in a frenzy,
Is it $\mathbf{Z}_n$ or $n\mathbf{Z}$?
We guess wrong, so we grin and go Oooops.

(God to Kronecker)
For seven long days labored I
making integers, low and then high.
But now 'tis day eight.
It is time to create
the fractions and square roots and π .

(God's last word to Kronecker)
I couldn't see stopping at 10.
Then I couldn't see stopping at n .
Then $\mathbf{Z}$ and then $\mathbf{Q}$
and the square root of 2,
but I'm stopping with $\mathbf{C}$. Amen.

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