





MUSIC- MAKING PIANO DROID

HOW LIKELY IS IT THAT you'd be a great pianist if you had 53 fingers? If TeoTronico, the piano-playing robot is any indication, the answer is very likely. The tails-clad humanoid, designed to move its head, mouth, pupils, eyelids, and eyebrows to look lifelike, wowed the audience at a theater in Tianjin, in north China, on 3 June, playing opposite Italian pianist Roberto Prosseda. Since 2012, the man-machine duo has traveled the world giving concerts-cum-lectures on the relationship between musical reproduction and interpretation. TeoTronico can perform two ways: It can strike the keys to reproduce a prerecorded MIDI file or take to the stage in “ghost pianist” mode, acting as a conduit for a human pianist so that it can play with other musicians who are taking direction from a conductor.

THE BIG PICTURE

NEWS