

A JefferSoanian Moment

PREAMBLE (spoken by John Everets)

Good evening Ladies, Gentlemen, and Soaniacs.

For our customary brief entertainment, we celebrate the gentleman architect Jefferson, of the Revolting Colonies, and the English architect and educator Soane, son of a bricklayer. In the program there is a good article by Danielle Willkens, one of our Fellowship winners, comparing and contrasting the two designers.



They never met.

Both were also unaware they shared a friendship with a beautiful woman called Maria Cosway (pronounced Mariah). You can see her above them on the screen.

A talented musician and artist, she married the most fashionable, foppish, and much older portrait miniaturist of the period, Richard Cosway. This miniature of her was painted by him. By coincidence, the miniature had been given to Chippy Irvine [President of our Foundation] many years ago by her father.

If any of you saw the movie *Jefferson in Love*, Maria Cosway was, briefly, Jefferson's lady friend in Paris. Soane's long correspondence with her was unromantic, but it lasted almost until his death.

For our skit, let me first present our pianist Franklin Roosevelt Underwood. And for our totally speculative, gender-bending take on what Jefferson and Soane might have bantered about, had they been introduced, let me present Director Laura Blanco as Jefferson and President Chippy Irvine as Soane.

Take it away kids!

ANYTHING YOU CAN DO A CAN DO BETTER

Jefferson: (*superior manner but quiet, with an American accent*)

Anything you can do I can do better

I can do anything better than you

Soane: (*argumentative, with an English accent*)

No you can't

J: Yes I can

S: No you can't

J: Yes I can,

S: No you can't

J: Yes I can, yes I can!

S: Anything you can build I can build better

Buildings I build, I build better than you

J: No you don't

S: Yes I do

J: No you don't,

S: Yes I do

J: No you don't

S: Yes I do, yes I do!

S: I am full of knowledge

J: I have built a college

S: Education's vital

And I've earned a title

J: 'scuse me, I'm a President

S: And I'm a British resident!

S: Any plan you can draw, I can draw neater

All of my plans are drawn neater than yours

J: Yes it's true,

Yes you do

But I'm older than you

And there's plenty more things that I do!

(couple of bars of piano)

J: Anything you can say I can say quieter
I get my way speaking quieter than you

**S: Yes you do,
You can coo,
You're quiet as a bird**

J: But my every word's
Always HEARD!

J: Anything you can write I can write smarter
I put my heart in the art of the pen

S: No you can't

J: Yes I can

S: No you can't

J: Yes I can

S: No you can't

J: Yes I can, yes I can!

S: I've designed a gallery

J: I don't need a salary
I am so much brighter
And I'm much politer

S: I'm am more pro-fess-ion-al

J: But I prefer
To stay amateur

**S: Anything you design
I design better
I design everything better than you**

J: No you don't

S: Yes I do

J: No you don't

S: Yes I do

J: No you don't, no you don't, no you don't!

(a couple of bars of music)

S: **Anything you arrange I arrange faster**
 I'm a master at getting things done

J: No you're not

S: **Yes I am**

J: No you're not

S: **Yes I am, yes I am, yes I am!** *(stamps his foot)*

J: Everything I decide is diplomatic
 I 'm not dramatic but I get a lot done

S: **So do I**

J: Not as much

S: **But I've got a magic touch...** *(peevishly)*

J: Not as much, not as much NOT AS MUCH!

J: I love architecture

S: **I can give a lecture**

J: I am so much richer

S: **I can hang a picture**

J: I can bring in light and space

S: **I create space in a much smaller place.**

S: **Anything you can fix I can fix better**
 From parlor to gala I'll find me a way

J: No you won't

S: **Yes I will**

J: And I will so too
 So then let's get along

S: **Let us finish this song**

Both: *(points to audience)*

Let's agree that we're always RIGHT
And everyone else is WRONG!
Good evening friends

(All bow and get off)

