

# Voice of the Century

*by Gary Hardaway*

She chirps your balance,  
the date today,  
each turn you need to take

to find that great Thai restaurant  
your friends have praised,  
and warns of payments due

without a hint of condescension.  
More ears have heard her voice  
than ever will listen to Maria Callas.

Feminine, safe, though disembodied,  
she shapes your life in ways  
your mother never could.

Surely, generous royalties  
direct deposit to her account  
each cheerfully announced day.

