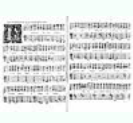
Welcome to Wikipedia,

the free encyclopedia that anyone can edit.
4,900,376 articles in English

- Arts
- Biography
- Geography
- History
- Mathematics
- Science
- Sc
- Te
- **A**
po

From today's featured article



L'Arianna (*Ariadne*) was the second opera by Claudio Monteverdi, composed in 1607–08; all the music is lost apart from the extended recitative known as "Lamento d'Arianna", or "Ariadne's Lament" *(pictured)*. One of the earliest operas, it was first performed on 28 May 1608, as part of the musical festivities for a royal wedding at the court of Duke Vincenzo Gonzaga in Mantua. The libretto was written in eight scenes by Ottavio Rinuccini, who used Ovid's *Heroides* and other classical sources to relate the story of Ariadne's abandonment by Theseus on the island of Naxos and her subsequent elevation as bride to the god Bacchus.The composer later said that the effort of creating the opera almost killed him. The first performance, produced with lavish and innovative special effects, was highly praised, and the work was equally well received in Venice when it was revived under the composer's direction in 1640 as the inaugural work for the Teatro San Moisè. Expressive laments became an integral feature of Italian opera for much of the 17th century. In recent years the "Lamento" has become popular as a concert and recital piece and has been frequently recorded. (**Full article...**)

Recently featured: Great Stink · M-theory · HMS *Nairana* (1917)

Did you know...

- ... that the flowers of both the **tortuous mesquite** *(pictured)* and the **Chilean mesquite** are pollinated by bees?
- ... that openly gay chemistry professor **James Nowick** taught a course called "Queer Science, Queer Scientists"?
- ... that ***The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*** was banned in the Soviet Union for its alleged "occultism"?
- ... that prior to coaching the German national basketball team, **Terry Schofield** won three national titles playing for UCLA under John Wooden?
- ... that ***Pathala Bhairavi*** (1951) was the only South Indian film to be screened at the first International Film Festival of India?
- ... that **Lord Pingyuan** was celebrated for his role in lifting Qin's siege of the Zhao capital, thus saving Zhao from annihilation?
- ... that over 600 Etruscan bronze statuettes were found in the **Lake of the Idols**?
- ... that David Peterson, Premier of Ontario, Canada, from 1985 to 1990, characterized his **1976 convention** address as the "worst speech in modern political history"?

In the news

- **A heat wave** in Pakistan kills more than 700 people.
- In golf, Jordan Spieth *(pictured)* wins the **U.S. Open**.
- Around 22 crewmen are released from **a Malaysian tanker** that was hijacked nine days earlier.
- Pope Francis releases the encyclical ***Laudato si'***, in which he calls for action on environmental degradation and climate change.
- Nine people, including a state senator, are killed in **a mass shooting** at a church in Charleston, South Carolina.
- In basketball, the Golden State Warriors defeat the Cleveland Cavaliers to win the **NBA Finals**.
- In ice hockey, the Chicago Blackhawks defeat the Tampa Bay Lightning to win the **Stanley Cup**.

Ongoing events: FIFA Women's World Cup
Recent deaths: James Horner · Gunther Schuller · Ron Clarke

On this day...

June 24: **Nativity of St. John the Baptist** (Christianity); **National Holiday/Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day** in Quebec, Canada

- 1340 – Hundred Years' War: The English fleet commanded by Edward III almost totally destroyed the French fleet at the **Battle of Sluys**.
- 1622 – Dutch–Portuguese War: An outnumbered Portuguese force repelled a Dutch attack in the **Battle of Macau**, the only major military engagement that was fought between two European powers on the Chinese mainland.
- 1812 – Napoleonic Wars: The French *Grande Armée* under Napoleon crossed the Neman River, marking the start of their **invasion of Russia**.
- 1981 – The **Humber Bridge** opened, connecting the East Riding of Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire in England, at the time the longest single-span suspension bridge.
- 2010 – **Julia Gillard** *(pictured)* assumed office as the first female Prime Minister of Australia.

More anniversaries: June 23 · **June 24** · June 25

Today's featured picture

Moshe Ya'alon (b. 1950) is an Israeli politician and current Defense Minister. Ya'alon was called up as a reserve during the Yom Kippur War in 1973. After the war, he rejoined the army as an officer and rose through the ranks, leading the Sayeret Matkal commando unit, the Paratroopers Brigade, and Military Intelligence. In 2002 he was appointed Chief of Staff of the Israel Defense Forces, resigning in 2005. Since 2013 he has served as the country's Defense Minister.

Photograph: Reuven Kapuscinski

Recently featured: *Eumerus* · The Emperor Napoleon in His Study at the Tuileries · Loughrigg Tarn

Other areas of Wikipedia

- **Community portal** – Bulletin board, projects, resources and activities covering a wide range of Wikipedia areas.
- **Help desk** – Ask questions about using Wikipedia.
- **Local embassy** – For Wikipedia-related communication in languages other than English.
- **Reference desk** – Serving as virtual librarians, Wikipedia volunteers tackle your questions on a wide range of subjects.
- **Site news** – Announcements, updates, articles and press releases on Wikipedia and the Wikimedia Foundation.
- **Village pump** – For discussions about Wikipedia itself, including areas for technical issues and policies.

Wikipedia's sister projects

Wikipedia is hosted by the Wikimedia Foundation, a non-profit organization that also hosts a range of other projects:

Commons (https://commons.wikimedia.org/)
Free media repository

MediaWiki (https://mediawiki.org/)
Wiki software development

Wikibooks (https://en.wikibooks.org/)
Free textbooks and manuals

Wikidata (https://www.wikidata.o
Free knowledge base

Wikiquote (https://en.wikiquote.org/)
Collection of quotations

Wikisource (https://en.wikisource.o
Free-content library

Wikiversity (https://en.wikiversity.org/)
Free learning materials and activities

Wikivoyage (https://en.wikivoyage.c
Free travel guide

Wikipedia languages

This Wikipedia is written in English. Started in 2001, it currently contains 4,900,376 articles. Many other Wikipedias are available; some of the largest are listed below.

- More than 1,000,000 articles: Deutsch · español · français · italiano · Nederlands · polski · русский · svenska
- More than 400,000 articles: català · فارسی日本語 · norsk bokmål · português · Tiếng Việt · українська · 中文
- More than 200,000 articles: العربية Bahasa Indonesia · Bahasa Melayu · čeština · dansk · Esperanto · euskara · 한국어 · magyar · română · slovenčina · српски / srpski · srpskohrvatski / српскохрватски · suomi · Türkçe
- More than 50,000 articles: bosanski · български · eesti · Ελληνικά · English (simple) · galego · עברית · hrvatski · latviešu · lietuvių · norsk nynorsk · slovenščina · ไทย

Complete list of Wikipedias

Retrieved from "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Main_Page&oldid=664887982"

- Text is available under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License; additional terms may apply. By using this site, you agree to the Terms of Use and Privacy Policy. Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the Wikimedia Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization.