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the [free encyclopedia](#) that [anyone can edit](#).
6,565,631 articles in [English](#)

From today's featured article



First page of the autograph score

Ich will den Kreuzstab gerne tragen (lit.[ⓘ] 'I will gladly carry the cross-staff'), BWV 56, is a solo [cantata](#) for a [bass](#) singer by [Johann Sebastian Bach](#). First performed in [Leipzig](#) on 27 October 1726, the 19th Sunday after [Trinity](#), it was scored for [woodwinds](#), [strings](#) and [continuo](#), and features an [obligato](#) oboe. The [autograph](#) score (*pictured*) is one of a few cases where Bach described one of his compositions as a cantata. In 2015 it was discovered that Bach collaborated with mathematics and theology student [Christoph Birkmann](#), who wrote the text about a Christian willing to "carry the cross" as a follower of [Jesus](#), in a life compared to a voyage towards a harbour. The work's five [movements](#) include [arias](#), [recitatives](#) and the [chorale](#) "*Komm, o Tod, du Schlafes Bruder*" ('Come, o death, you brother of sleep'). In his Bach biography, [Albert Schweitzer](#) said it placed "unparalleled demands on the dramatic imagination of the singer". It has been recorded more than 100 times since a 1939 live broadcast. ([Full article...](#))

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Did you know ...

- ... that [George Balanchine](#) said ***Allegro Brillante*** (*dancers pictured*) "contains everything I knew about classical ballet – in thirteen minutes"?
- ... that [birders in New York City](#) have recorded over 400 species?
- ... that Iraqi poet [Kazim al-Samawi](#) spent more than half his life in political exile and was called "The [Sheikh](#) of the Exiles"?
- ... that the [Piedmont Hotel](#) hosted a former, a current, and a future [U.S. president](#) in one week?
- ... that [Royston Brooks](#) was the last European to serve as the Commanding Officer of the [Royal Hong Kong Auxiliary Air Force](#) from 1988 to 1990?
- ... that the U.S. [National Firefighter Registry](#) will match [state cancer data](#) with voluntarily collected work history data from firefighters?
- ... that Scottish physician [George Gray](#) received the thanks of the Chinese government for his work during the [Manchurian plague of 1910–11](#)?
- ... that [Rockstar Leeds](#) was once based at a decommissioned church?



[Kansas City Ballet](#) dancers in *Allegro Brillante*

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- Amid **a government crisis** in the United Kingdom, Prime Minister **Liz Truss** (*pictured*) announces her resignation.
- **Ulf Kristersson** is elected **Prime Minister of Sweden** following a four-party agreement.
- **Hurricane Julia** leaves more than 90 people dead across **South** and **Central America**.
- After **an explosion** damages the **Crimean Bridge**, Russia **attacks** many Ukrainian cities with missiles.



Liz Truss

Ongoing: [Mahsa Amini protests](#) · [Russian invasion of Ukraine](#)

Recent deaths: [Pablo Eisenberg](#) · [Lucy Simon](#) · [Jim Bolla](#) · [Harry White](#) · [Peter Schjeldahl](#) · [Joanna Simon](#)

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On this day

October 23: Mole Day

- **1641** – Irish Catholic gentry in **Ulster** tried to **seize control** of **Dublin Castle**, the seat of English rule in Ireland, to force concessions to Catholics.
- **1934** – **Jeannette Piccard** (*pictured*) piloted a hot-air balloon flight that reached 57,579 feet (17,550 m), becoming the first woman to fly in the **stratosphere**.
- **1942** – **World War II**: Japanese troops began **an unsuccessful attempt** to recapture **Henderson Field** on **Guadalcanal** in the Solomon Islands from American forces.
- **1972** – **Vietnam War**: **Operation Linebacker**, a U.S. bombing campaign against **North Vietnam** in response to its **Easter Offensive**, ended after five months.
- **2015** – **Hurricane Patricia**, the most intense **tropical cyclone** on record in the Western Hemisphere, peaked with **maximum sustained winds** of 215 mph (345 km/h) south of Mexico.



Jeannette Piccard

John Heisman (b. 1869) · **Douglas Jardine** (b. 1900) · **Soong Mei-ling** (d. 2003)

More anniversaries: [October 22](#) · **[October 23](#)** · [October 24](#)

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Today's featured picture



Lichfield Cathedral, in **Lichfield**, Staffordshire, is the only medieval **English cathedral with three spires**. The cathedral suffered severe damage during the **English Civil War** in which all of the stained glass was destroyed. In spite of this, the windows of the **Lady Chapel** contain some of the finest medieval **Flemish** painted glass in existence. Dating from the 1530s, it came from **Herkenrode Abbey** in Belgium, in 1801, having been purchased by **Sir Brooke Boothby** when that abbey was dissolved during the **Napoleonic Wars**. It was sold on to the cathedral for the same price. There are also some fine windows by Betton and Evans (1819), and many fine late-19th-century windows, particularly those by **Charles Eamer Kempe**. This photograph depicts part of cathedral's **nave**, depicting the column structure on the wall.

Photograph credit: **David Iliff**

Recently featured: **Alexander Fleming** · **Rose robin** · **Abraham Bradley Jr.**
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Other areas of Wikipedia

- **Community portal** – The central hub for editors, with resources, links, tasks, and announcements.
- **Village pump** – Forum for discussions about Wikipedia itself, including policies and technical issues.
- **Site news** – Sources of news about Wikipedia and the broader Wikimedia movement.
- **Teahouse** – Ask basic questions about using or editing Wikipedia.
- **Help desk** – Ask questions about using or editing Wikipedia.
- **Reference desk** – Ask research questions about encyclopedic topics.
- **Content portals** – A unique way to navigate the encyclopedia.

Wikipedia's sister projects

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



Commons

Free media repository



Meta-Wiki

Wikimedia project coordination



Wikidata

Free knowledge base



Wikiquote

Collection of quotations



Wikispecies

Directory of species



Wikivoyage

Free travel guide



MediaWiki

Wiki software development



Wikibooks

Free textbooks and manuals



Wikinews

Free-content news



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Free-content library



Wikiversity

Free learning tools



Wiktionary

Dictionary and thesaurus

Wikipedia languages

This Wikipedia is written in [English](#). Many [other Wikipedias are available](#); some of the largest are listed below.

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