

News

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Swiss folklore fans gather for world's biggest festival of wooden alpine horns

世界最大のアルペンホルンのイベント、スイスで開催

The soft sounds of hundreds of wooden Swiss alpine horns filled the valley below Switzerland's Mount Tracouet on July 22. They had gathered for the world's biggest festival of alpine horns.

The traditional instruments — called *alphorn* in German and *cor des Alpes* in French — look like long smoking pipes. They are over 3 meters long.

Swiss love the horns because their smooth sounds make them think of snow-topped mountain

peaks and low-lying clouds. The horns were long ago used by herders to call their cows and were often blown in the evening.

This year, more than 3,500 people attended the three-day festival in the ski town of Nendaz. The town is in the Swiss canton of Valais above the Rhone River valley.

In the grand finale on July 22, about 200 men and women dressed in folk costumes blew their horns at the same time, trying to impress the judges. (Reuters)

folklore 民俗芸能。gather 集まる。alpine horns アルペンホルン。filled ～に響き渡った。valley 谷。traditional 伝統的な。smoking pipes 喫煙用のパイプ。～ long (長さが)～だ。peaks 頂上。low-lying 低く垂れ込める。long ago 大昔。herders 放牧者。attended ～に出席した。canton (スイスの)州。at ... time 同時に。impress ～を感動させる。



最終日のフィナーレでは、200人以上が同時にアルペンホルンを演奏した。

REUTERS

ボキャブラリー解説

▶ gather: 「集まる、集合する」

見出しの Swiss folklore fans gather は「スイスの民俗芸能ファンが集まる」という意味。同じ目的を持った人々が集まるときにこの語が使われることが多い。gather には他にもさまざまな意味があるが、多くが「(人や物が) 集まる・集められる」に関連している。名詞形は gathering で「集会、集まり」の意。

◆ People gathered around him to listen to his words.

(彼の言葉を聞くために、人々は彼の周りに集まった)

◆ Give me a moment to gather my things and then we can leave.

(私の荷物をまとめる時間をもらえたら、出発できます)

◆ The company has been gathering information on customers for three years.

(その企業は顧客の情報を3年前から集めている)

Astronaut drops in from space station to perform at Kraftwerk concert

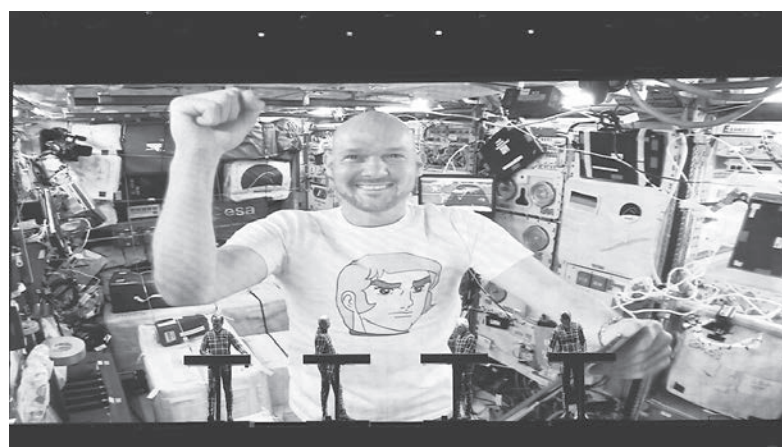
国際宇宙ステーションに滞在中の宇宙飛行士、エレクトロバンドと共演

The German pop group Kraftwerk is famous for their electronic music. In the '70s, their "robot pop" sounded like it was played by an astronaut. At a Kraftwerk concert on July 19, a real astronaut appeared and played with the band.

German astronaut Alexander Gerst appeared on a huge screen at the band's concert in Stuttgart, southern Germany. Gerst has been on the International Space Station since early June. It is his second time on the ISS.

He wore a T-shirt with the anime character Captain Future on it, and he held a tablet showing a colored synthesizer keypad. As the four members of Kraftwerk stood behind their own synthesizers, Gerst played the five notes from the movie *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*. The 1977 movie is about aliens landing on Earth in a UFO. Then Kraftwerk and Gerst launched into a performance of the synth-pop band's 1978 song, *Spacelab*. (The Japan Times)

Astronaut 宇宙飛行士。drops in ふらりと立ち寄る。is famous for ～～で知られている。appeared 登場した。synthesizer シンセサイザー。keypad キーボード。stood behind ～～の後ろに立った。notes 音符。Close ... Kind 『未知との遭遇』。aliens 宇宙人。launched into ～～を始めた。



国際宇宙ステーションから共演を果たした宇宙飛行士のアレクサンダー・ゲルストさん AFP-JJII

文法解説

▶ 「～以来」を表す since

< since + 時期 > は「～以来」「～からずっと」という意味で、ある動作や状況がいつから続いているかを表す。前置詞の場合は名詞が、接続詞の場合は主語+動詞が後に続くが、いずれも動作や状況の起点を示す表現が後に続く(本文第2パラグラフは前置詞+名詞の形)。その他にも、ever since の形で副詞として使われることもある。

◆ He has been working on the project since last month.

(彼はそのプロジェクトに先月から取り組んでいる) (since は前置詞)

◆ I have lived in Yokohama since I was 8.

(8歳のときから横浜に住んでいます) (since は接続詞)

◆ I met her at college and we've been friends ever since.

(彼女とは大学で出会って、それ以来ずっと友達です) (since は副詞)