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## Commute may actually be good for mental health: *Study*



For most workers who commute, the trip to and from the office takes a lot of time, in some cases taking up to more than two hours a day. Many people think of commuting as a chore and a waste of time. However, during the remote work surge resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, several journalists curiously noted that people were – could it be? – missing their commutes.

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# We can now hear the 'sound' of one of the most beautiful stars

You can now listen to the sounds of the space around one of the Milky Way's most spectacular stars.

RS Puppis, a Cepheid variable star around 6,500 light-years away, has gotten the data sonification treatment by the sci-art outreach project SYSTEM Sounds. They took a Hubble image of the star and transcribed the light into sound, assigning pitch to the direction from the center of the image and volume to the brightness of the light, Science Alert reported.

As you listen to the below sounds, a higher pitch can be heard at the top of the image and lower at the bottom; the left and right will play in their respective speakers if surround sound is active.

As the circle closes in on the bright

star in the center, the sound gets louder, ending on a single convergence of sound.

Sonifying the Universe offers another way to experience the wonders of the cosmos, but there are some really useful reasons to do so, as well.

For one, converting visual data into auditory data makes it more accessible to people with limited vision or blindness. It can also make complex concepts easier to understand by offering a new perspective.

It can also reveal details in the data that may be overlooked in its original form by showing patterns, weaker signals, or information that would be lost in the noise.

For something like a Cepheid variable

star, that would be a powerful tool as they are among the most useful stars in the galaxy.

These stars regularly vary in brightness; for RS Puppis, the period is about six weeks. Many stars vary in brightness, but for Cepheid variables, there is a known and distinct relationship between the star's brightness and its periodicity.

So, once you have the timing of a Cepheid variable, you can work out exactly how intrinsically bright it is – not how bright it appears to us on Earth, but how much light it actually emits. And if you know how bright something is, you can work out how far away it is. This means we can use Cepheid variables to map distances in the galaxy.



Scan to listen to the sound of a beautifu star on Iran Daily's twitter account.

### Tiny notebook by 'first Shakespeare geek' to go on show in Stratford



In 2017, an expert on BBC One's Antiques Roadshow was excited by a minuscule 17th-century notebook that bore the name of Shakespeare, but the writing was so tiny it was difficult to read.

Since then, it has been transcribed and studied by leading scholars and its anonymous author has emerged as what is thought to have been the playwright's first obsessive fan.

The manuscript is so small that it fits into the palm of a hand. Yet its author had crammed 12,500 words into its 48 pages, drawing on hundreds of quotations from Shakespeare's 36 plays in the first folio, which was published in 1623, the Guardian reported.

It will be publicly displayed for the first time as part of an exhibition at the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust in Stratford-upon-Avon.

Paul Edmondson, a leading scholar and one of the show's creators, said the notebook's true significance could now be appreciated. "It is one of the most fascinating Shakespearean artefacts that I've come across," he said. Describing it as the "first proper reader's response" to the first folio, Edmondson joked that its anonymous author was "the first Shakespeare geek".

"We're able to see things that he really liked about Shakespeare and what he wanted to remember or to use maybe in conversation and to sound clever," he said. "The plays just flow on from each other seamlessly. For example, you're reading Measure for Measure and suddenly you're reading The Comedy of Errors."

The notebook was transcribed by Tiffany Stern, another leading scholar, who is based at the Shakespeare Institute, University of Birmingham.

She dated the handwriting to between the 1630s and 1650s, and discovered that it was all the more intriguing be-



### Fajr International Poetry Festival wraps up

"Hope" rekindles with love, as Roya, Belgian crane joins Omid (translated as 'hope' in Persian) in this frigid winter, not leaving the 15-year-old male crane alone. IRANIAN PLATEAU The 17th edition of the Fajr International Poetry Festival wrapped up on Friday and the top literary works were honored during a ceremony held at IRIB International Conference Center.

The top works were announced in the five main categories of classical poetry, modern poetry (in the style of Nima, free verse), colloquial poetry, children's and young adults' poetry, and research in the field of poetry.

Among the five main sections of the event, only in the research section, the jury members announced the winner, which was 'Timeless Centuries: Analytical-Epistemological Review on Attar's 'Mantiq-ut-Tayr' (The Conference of the Birds),' written by Mehdi Mohabbati. In the other four sections, no winner was selected; only some works were honored. Delivering a speech at the closing ceremony of the 17th edition of the festival, Ali Ramezani, CEO of Book and Literature House of Iran, said that the international participants of the event were from India, Pakistan Tajikistan Afghanistan, and Uzbekistan, as well as Lebanon, Syria, and the Republic of Azerbajian.

Ramezani elaborated on the festival, saying over 3,100 works were received by the secretariat of the festival, from 885 publishers, which was indicative of a 20 percent increase compared to the last year's figure.

He noted that 15 poets from 11 publishers were nominated to receive the award, five of whom were women.

As the other key speaker of the ceremony, the Deputy Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance for Cultural Affairs Yasser Ahmadvand highlighted the position of poetry in the Islam-



#### ic Republic.

The Fajr Poetry Festival is one of the most important literary events in Iran, which has been held every winter since 2005. The 17th edition of the festival opened in Shiraz, southern Iran, on January 7, with a tribute to the victims of the Shah Cheragh terrorist attack. cause the most famous quotes were ignored, revealing lines that were perhaps of greater interest to the first generation of Shakespeare's readers. "Our own history of what we value in Shakespeare has changed over time," she said.

For example, Stern said the notebook's author overlooked Hamlet's "to be, or not to be", preferring a description of kneeling: "And crooke the pregnant Hindges of the knee,' which he rendered 'Crooke ye pregnant hindges of ye knee."

She added: "He likes metaphors and is fascinated by pregnancy, so this really works for him. The image is of a knee getting more and more pregnant – bulging – as one goes down on it." Stern noted that he simplified it to what may be more useful as a general threat: "My nailes Ile Anchor in thine eys." The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust is the independent charity that cares for five historic sites in playwright's Warwickshire home town, including New Place, the family home from 1597 until his death there in 1616.