

Read the text and answer the questions that follow.

LUCIANO PAVAROTTI: MORE THAN MUSIC

5 Luciano Pavarotti (1935-2007) was perhaps the most celebrated tenor the world has ever known. This great Italian opera singer successfully entered the world of popular music as well, as he recorded albums of famous Italian songs in addition to opera. Pavarotti achieved unmatched fame for the beauty of his voice and for his ability to reach very high notes. Pavarotti's famous Three Tenors project, which emerged from a concert he gave with the Spanish tenors Plácido Domingo and José Carreras in 1990, is imitated today by various performers. But Pavarotti was involved in many other meaningful projects.

10 Pavarotti annually hosted the "Pavarotti and Friends" charity concert in his hometown of Modena, Italy. In these concerts, artists from all parts of the music industry and from all over the world – Sting, Bono and many others – joined him to raise money for important causes. These concerts were held to help children hurt in various wars, in places such as Bosnia, Guatemala and Iraq. Pavarotti also gave solo benefit concerts to raise money for victims of other tragedies, like the earthquake in Armenia in 1988.

15 Pavarotti maintained particularly fruitful relations with the United Nations. He used his fame to bring people closer to UN issues, such as fighting AIDS and poverty and protecting children's rights. In return, he was appointed the UN Messenger of Peace in 1988. Another UN award, the Nansen Medal, was given to Pavarotti in 2001 for his efforts to help refugees worldwide. In addition, the Red Cross gave him awards for his services to humanity.

Pavarotti holds two Guinness World Records for the best-selling classical album (*In Concert* by the Three Tenors) and for being the only singer to get 165 curtain calls! However, his voluntary activities should also be remembered. Through benefit concerts and volunteer work, Pavarotti managed to raise more than \$1.5 million, much more than any other single volunteering artist. Pavarotti's music and love for people brought a lot of joy to many people around the world.

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THE WORLD'S MOST INFECTIOUS PUZZLE

I Not long ago, Sudoku was almost unknown outside Japan. Now the puzzle has become extremely popular and can be found in more than 140 newspapers around the world. What is the secret of Sudoku's success?

II "The beauty of Sudoku is that it is so easy to grasp the concept, yet it has depth," says Nobuhiko Kanamoto of the Japanese puzzle publisher, Nikoli. Every Sudoku puzzle starts with a nine-by-nine grid, divided into nine three-by-three regions. The goal is to fill the 81 squares with numbers from 1 to 9 in such a way that each row, column and region contains exactly one of each number. Each puzzle starts with a certain number of squares already filled in; how many is one of the factors that determines the level of difficulty – the fewer, the harder. Despite all the numbers involved, no arithmetic is required whatsoever.

III Surprisingly, modern Sudoku started in the United States as "Number Place", an occasional feature of puzzle magazines in the late 1970s. In 1984, the puzzle was exported to Japan, where it was renamed. Because the Japanese alphabet is poorly suited to crossword puzzles, Sudoku had little competition.

IV In 1997, a New Zealand judge named Wayne Gould, who was living in Japan, became addicted to Sudoku. In fact, he wrote a computer program that could create the puzzles. In October 2004, Gould offered Sudoku to Mike Harvey, an editor at *The Times* newspaper in London. Despite initial scepticism, "it took about two minutes for him to persuade me," recalls Harvey. *The Times* began running Sudoku in November 2004; three days later, another newspaper, the *Daily Mail*, had its own version. Next, Gould tried his luck in the USA. The *New York Post* liked it and the United States was hooked, too. Thus, the "revolution" was on its way – Sudoku had begun conquering the world!

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LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR

- I The European Broadcasting Union, founder of the Eurovision Song Contest, says its aim is to “contribute to the creation of high-level” pop songs. But if the songs are the point, the following facts are disappointing. Only two of the winners of the Eurovision Song Contest have gone on to become superstars: ABBA, who won with *Waterloo* in 1974, and Celine Dion, who represented Switzerland in 1988. One might also add to the list a few world superstars who have participated but have not won, such as Cliff Richard and Julio Iglesias.
- II Eurovision is a rare opportunity for unknown performers to present their songs to millions. In fact, that may be the only time most people will hear the songs, because few songs gain popularity outside their home countries. In the past, one of the reasons was a now-abolished rule requiring performers to sing in the language of the country they were representing. However, it is also because many of the songs simply are not very good.
- III For some Eurovision fans, the music really does matter – but perhaps not for many. Chris Melville, webmaster of a Eurovision fan site, says, “Very few people see the competition as it should be: a competition of songs in which people vote for their favourite song, irrespective of which country it’s representing.” Apparently, however, people enjoy voting for their friends and against their enemies. The voting patterns show this without a doubt. For example, no matter how good (or bad) its song is, Greece usually receives 12 points from Cyprus, and vice versa. The Norwegian press has even calculated that, over the years, Norway has given Sweden more points than Sweden has given it and the Norwegians expect to be compensated in future contests.
- IV To further complicate the voting issues, the contest’s organisers have now got a new problem to deal with: fans crossing the border to other countries in order to vote for their own country’s song. And yet, in spite of all that has been said about the Eurovision Song Contest, hundreds of millions of people continue watching the programme live on TV, year after year.