



**Winter Olympics:
Closing ceremony
marks ends of 2022
Beijing Games**

Author/ Bo Didi

The Beijing Winter Olympics came to a close on Sunday in a touching ceremony. Almost 3,000 athletes competed in 109 events across 15 disciplines during the past two weeks. International Olympic Committee president Thomas Bach called for political leaders around the world to be inspired by the athletes "example of solidarity and peace". "This unifying power of the Olympic Games is stronger than the forces that want to divide us," he said. Bach said the athletes had given peace a chance. "Every one of you strived to achieve your personal best. We were deeply touched how you were wishing and cheering for your competitors to achieve their best as well," he said. "You not only respected each other: you embraced each other, even if your countries are divided by conflict." Bach also encouraged countries to continue vaccinating against Covid-19, saying: "If we want to finally overcome this pandemic, we must be faster. "We must aim higher, we must be stronger, we must stand together. Vaccination means caring for each other. "In this Olympic spirit of solidarity, we call on the international community: give equal access to vaccines for everybody around the world." The Olympic flame was extinguished, with the next Games taking place in Milan Cortina in Italy in 2026. The Winter Paralympics begins in Beijing on 4 March.



1. come to a close 落下帷幕
2. call for 提倡; 前往接某人
3. International Olympic Committee 国际奥林匹克委员会
4. example n. 例子; 楷模典型
5. disciplines n. 纪律 v. 训导; 使有纪律
6. solidarity n. 团结
7. give equal access to 给予平等的机会



**What is the origin
of the Paralympics?**

By Global Times
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The word "Paralympics" is a portmanteau formed by two different words: paraplegic and Olympic. The special word originated in 1948 when it was a sports competition for British World War II veterans with spinal cord injuries. It was launched by Dr Ludwig Guttman, a German-British neurologist at Stoke Mandeville Hospital in the UK.

The Games adopted a humanitarian ambition to become a competition for the disabled sports community to be held in parallel with the Olympic Games. It was called the 1948 International Wheelchair Games and it was held at the same time as the London Summer Olympics in the same year.

In Rome 12 years later, the term "Paralympics" was officially used for the first time to describe the sports event that emerged in 1948. This was one of the milestones of the Paralympics because it included more athletes with a different range of physical disabilities, and led to the term of Paralympics being redefined.

Now, the "Para" in Paralympics is seen as referring to the Greek term "para," meaning "beside" or "alongside." It suggests that the

Paralympics are parallel Games with the Olympics and the two exist side-by-side.

Besides, the Paralympic Games include both winter and summer events. Any city that bids to host the Olympics is also required to host the Paralympics. This is to follow the "one bid, one city" policy agreed on by the International Olympic Committee and the International Paralympic Committee in 2001.

生词速递

- Paralympics n. 原为脊髓病患者举行的运动会
- portmanteau n. 混成词 adj. 综合的; 复合式的
- paraplegic adj. (患) 截瘫的 n. 截瘫患者
- veterans n. 经验丰富的人, 老兵 (veteran 的名词复数); 退伍军人
- spinal cord injuries 脊髓损伤
- neurologist n. <医> 神经病学专家
- Stoke Mandeville Hospital 斯托克曼德维尔医院

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Steal the Ginkgo Leaf

Author/ Zhu Hongyi

The fire was overwhelming, and left no hope for flesh and blood to put out. The fire was a pursuer, while exhaustion was the accomplice to drag his leg. With sweat wetting eyes, smoke and steam dimmed his hope of survival.

He gave it up. He sat at an unburned tree to review his whole life.

Why he decided to be a forest ranger? In his childhood, nature nourished a free soul, a son of a woodcutter, and offered a moment to his encounter with a little girl.

Under the maidenhair tree in the courtyard, yellow leaves everywhere, all over the sky, embraced the girl, short and with a soft voice,



in a skirt, faint yellow. "Your papa is a bad man. We should not cut trees." Maybe at that sunset, he declared not to be a woodcutter. Ringing laughter, from then on, had always accompanied him in the meadow.

After many years, they were admitted into the same college. He studied phytology, and she chose medicine. When it was the second time they had been in the courtyard, that maidenhair tree was nowhere. The girl whispered, "Maybe it was the first to witness the beginning of our love. But my parents forced me to marry a city guy. I am teared."

Time fled faster. She got an offer at hospital, but he applied for a forest ranger, which amazed everyone. Others asked him why, and his answer is, "My father had cut many trees before, but now I want to do something different. The time to see him off to Ta-Liang mountains was coming, but no one heard her sobbing.

Since the separation, she had always received ginkgo branches. In the garden of hospital,

maidenhair trees were higher, and by the window, a quiet girl was more beautiful. Until that time she didn't marry anyone despite her families' urge. How deep love she wanted him to know! But what the rural young man gave back, was just silence.

How sorrowful he was, the boy who always sent branches far away!

"Not so much regret in my life, I think. The tree I have protected was equal to that my father had cut. She always knew my love for her, and I didn't waste her time." Then the fire engulfed him.

A little figure ran away from the Ta-Liang mountain nurse rescue team.

She sobbed again, embracing him, and this time everyone could hear. Below the burned tree was the man who sacrificed for nature, her lost lover.

If not the accident, she would never meet him. The ginkgo leaves in the garden of the hospital, danced in the wind, and bathed in the sunbeam.

Steal the ginkgo leaf, and do my heart. The city was noisy, disturbing my heart so I can't pay attention to memory. But the memory came back where we can see.



Can't I do something now? No. I am alone without you and you were the "idea woman" and general instigator of all our wild adventures.

When you were sick you worried because you could not give me something that you wanted to and thought I needed.

You needn't have worried. Just as I told you then there was no real need because I loved you in so many ways so much. And now it is clearly even more true you can give me nothing now yet I love you so that you stand in my way of loving anyone else but I want you to stand there.

You, dead, are so much better than anyone else alive.

" I Love My Life, But My Life Is Dead "

Author/ Yang Yaxian
摘自英版《见字如面》

I know you will assure me that I am foolish and that you want me to have full happiness and don't want to be in my way.

I'll bet you are surprised that I don't even have a girlfriend (except you, sweetheart) after two years.

But you can't help it, darling, nor can I don't understand it, for I have met many girls and very nice ones and I don't want to remain alone but in two or three meetings they all sent ashes.

You only are left to me. You are real. My darling wife, I do adore you. I love my wife. My wife is dead.

Rich.
PS Please excuse my not mailing this—but I don't know your new address.

LETTERS ALIVE



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Light entertainment

Pianist Tian Jiabin plans to tour nationwide and record a new album featuring music works by German composer Felix Mendelssohn this year. She adapted an old pipa song and combined it with a piano concerto and a Chinese folk song, accompanied by Chinese poems, at this year's annual TV show by China Central Television to celebrate Lantern Festival. CHINA DAILY

When pianist Tian Jiabin was invited to perform at the annual TV show by China Central Television to celebrate Lantern Festival, which was broadcast on Feb 15, she didn't arrange a conventional music piece.

By working with artists of traditional Chinese operas: Huangmei Opera, Cantonese Opera, Hebei Bangzi and Peking Opera, she presented a performance titled Meng Hui Yuan Xiao (Dreaming of Lantern Festival).

"Lantern Festival, a traditional event in China, is a special occasion for families to get together and have sweet glutinous rice balls. The combination of the Western musical instrument with traditional Chinese opera offers the audience a sense of both freshness and nostalgia," says Tian.

The performance also featured the recitation of works by four ancient Chinese poets: Ouyang Xiu, Li Qingzhao, Su Shi and Xin Qiji, all from the Song Dynasty (960-1279).



Tian decided to adapt Flute and Drum at Sunset, an old pipa (a four-stringed Chinese lute) song. The composition is a song with captivating and elegant tones that portray the beautiful landscape of southern China. The pianist combined it with Piano Concerto in A Minor by Norwegian composer Edvard Grieg and a popular Chinese folk song, Xiu Jin Bian (Embroidered Gold Tablet).

"The process of adapting and combining the three musical works was very challenging, yet interesting. It was the first time that I performed with artists from traditional Chinese operas, which offered me a closer and deeper look at their art and techniques," says Tian.

"In ancient China, poems were often recited to the music of traditional Chinese instruments, such as guqin (the seven-stringed Chinese zither). The piano and poems went well together. It's a show that took me back to thousands of years ago," she adds.

Born in Beijing in 1986, the pianist says the sounds of traditional Chinese operas are not new to her, since her family attended some Peking Opera shows when she was a child. She also loves to use the piano to imitate a variety of traditional Chinese musical



instruments, such as pipa, guqin, drums, and traditional Chinese bamboo flute.

"I hope the sound will enable the audience to imagine something really amazing," she adds.

Tian was introduced to music by her parents—her mother is a soprano and her father is a composer and conductor.

She started to learn to play the piano at the age of 3 and at 18, she entered Shenyang Conservatory of Music and studied under Wei Danwen. Upon graduation, Tian furthered her studies at the United States' Manhattan School of Music, under the tutelage of Jeffrey Cohen. Tian has since won awards for her performances in the US, including the 2011 Dora Zaslavsky Koch Concerto Competition, and the First Young Artist Competition in Long Island. She was also selected to perform with the New York Concert Artists Symphony Orchestra through their Rising Artists Concerto Presentation in 2011. Her achievements attracted the attention of several record companies.

In May 2012, she received her master's degree in classical performance from the Manhattan School of Music.

She won acclaim for her solo performance of Mozart's Piano Concerto No 20 in D Minor K 466 at the Rising Artists Evening event organized by the New York Concert Artists & Associates at Carnegie Hall in New York on June 2, 2012. On July 6, 2012, she returned to China and held her solo concert at Beijing Concert Hall.

As a touring artist, she slowed down and spent much more time at home after the COVID-19 pandemic hit. She launched a series of lessons online for charity and, after the pandemic eased, she started to work with Chinese symphony orchestras as a soloist.

"I often include Chinese music pieces in my concerts abroad because I want to introduce those great pieces to audiences worldwide. When I play in China, I gain more experience by working with Chinese composers, which is inspiring," she says.

This year, Tian plans to tour nationwide and record a new album featuring music works by German composer Felix Mendelssohn.

语言点

1. concerto [kən'fɜ:tʃu:to] n. 协奏曲
2. Lantern festival n. 元宵节
3. CCTV 全称: China Central Television
4. glutinous rice balls 黏的甜米球: 汤圆
5. Nostalgia n. 乡愁, 怀旧之情 (文学性词汇)
6. Recitation n. 背诵, 背诵的诗; 讲述, 陈述
7. Captivating n. 迷人的 captivate v. 迷住, 使.....着迷
8. Portray v. 描绘描写 (在艺术或文学作品用)
9. bamboo flute n. 竹笛子
10. Soprano n. 女高音; 最高音部; [sə'prænəʊ]
11. Shenyang Conservatory of Music n. 音乐学院
12. Acclaim n. (尤指对艺术成就的) 称赞与高度评价



Never too old to learn, never too late to turn.

乌克兰求助, 马斯克应邀“参战”?

A lorry full of Starlink dishes has arrived in Ukraine, with the country's deputy prime minister thanking Elon Musk, who runs the firm.

It is not clear where they are heading - but it is likely that they will be used by the government itself. Currently internet access in Ukraine is fairly good but it is expected to deteriorate as the conflict worsens.

Meanwhile businesses are trying to get their hands on the dishes, as back-up systems. Ukraine's deputy prime minister Mykhailo Fedorov asked for Mr Musk's help, and tweeted a picture of the Starlink dishes arriving.

语言点

1. run v. 经营, 管理 (operate)
His father runs a prosperous paint company.
他父亲经营着一家生意兴隆的涂料公司。
2. It is not clear.... 某事还不清楚
It's not clear whether he likes it or not.
还不清楚他是否喜欢。
3. internet access 网络接入
have internet access 连上网
4. deteriorate v. 恶化 (becoming worse)
The situation is getting worse.
=The situation is deteriorating.
情况越来越糟了。
5. get one's hands on sth. 弄到, 得到 (非正式)
She's only marrying her boyfriend to get her hands on his money.
她跟地男友结婚, 只是想把他的钱弄到手。
6. ask for one's help 请求某人的帮助



4000 辆保时捷、宾利等豪车报废, 只因货船失火?

A cargo ship that was carrying thousands of luxury cars has sunk off the Portuguese Azores archipelago, nearly two weeks after it caught fire.

The ship, named Felicity Ace, was transporting around 4,000 cars such as Porsches and Bentleys.

The vessel was on its way to Rhode Island in the United States from the German port of Emden when the fire broke out.

All of its crew members were evacuated when the fire broke out on February 16.

语言点

1. cargo ship 货船
- cargo n. 货物
2. sink v. 沉没
3. off prep. 离某地不远
- off the coast 靠近海岸
4. catch fire 着火
- sth. catch fire 某样东西着火 (主语为“某事物”)
5. transport v. 运输
6. vessel n. 货船
7. the fire breaks out 火灾爆发 (主语为“火”)

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Author/Bo Didi

To cut down the awful influence caused by the greenhouse gases, scientists begin to change lifestyles of people and fallacies of cities, even trying to succeed in new inventions with the help of solar, wind, or water energy...But to their surprise, the appearance of Air Eau de Perfume—the first perfume made from the air, gives scientists a new look!

Air Company, a star-up, active and creative American cooperation that dedicates to capture carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and process it into verities of drinks for citizens to consume these years. When their technology broke premature limit, able to create tangible products with conversion, Gregory Constantine—the founder and the chief executive subscribed in its chief technology officer, Stafford Sheehan, wants something common but unique to keep company with people. Thereafter they have a bold afflatus: turning air into perfume!

The CO₂ gets cooled, pressurized, liquefied and

packaged in tanks before being delivered to one of Air Company's Air Innovation facilities in Brooklyn. A bottle of it approximately uses 56 grams of CO₂.

Via attaining inspiration from the most ample and vital air water and sunshine, Air Eau de Parfum, fresh and crisp, is reminiscent of a bolt of sunlight through a cloud, with a mineral hint of sea pray, taking people an equal feeling.

Additionally, from designing, producing to packing, which is green. When customers open their own package using the reuse paperboard, a no-tag, transparent perfume comes into view. They also notice the bottle's chrome and white caps are available to reduce environmental impact.

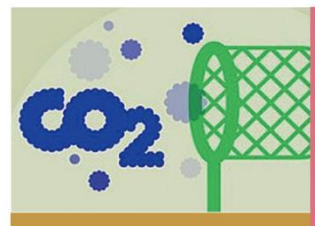
"We believe that products are one of the best ways to educate people about a much bigger story, and that story is climate change," Gregory wrote via email.

Nowadays, you could buy a bottle of Air Eau de Perfume, if there didn't sell out. "We understand that our climate impact is still somewhat

minimal, but if we were to apply our technology to all applicable industries, we would negate global CO₂ emissions by just over 10 percent for one single technology," Mr. Constantine said.

(素材来源: 纽约日报)

1. star-up a. 新兴的
2. the chief executive 首席执行官
3. chief technology officer 首席技术官
4. afflatus n. 灵感
5. a bolt of 一缕
6. transparent a. 透明的
7. chrome a. 铬合金的
8. minimal a. 极小的



Born a Crime

The Autobiography of Trevor Noah

We spend so much time being afraid of failure, afraid of rejection.

But regret is the thing we should fear most.

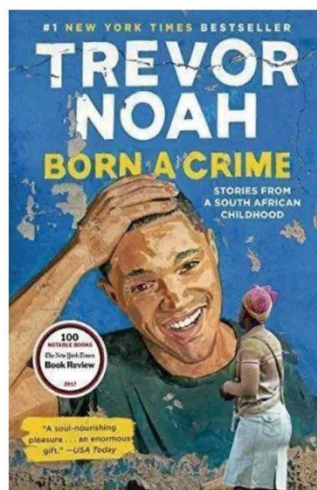
—Born a Crime, Comedian, Trevor Noah

Author/ Zhu Hongyi

I don't know if you have the same feeling as I do, that it's hard to reconcile this kind of serious, senior-sounding statement with Trevor's sense of humor, rebelliousness, and quickness. The quote comes from Trevor's autobiography Born a Crime, which has a sad, heavy undertone to its title.

Trevor was born in South Africa to a white father and a black mother. As a child of color, he was an unreasonable and illegal embarrassment at birth because of apartheid in South Africa. However, although his mother was displaced and poor all her life, she gave her son unconditional support and companionship with her own optimism and determination, creating a normal life for him in the environment of discrimination, violence and poverty. Born a Crime is Trevor's autobiography and a love letter to his mother. The rise of a guilty, mixed-race, colored kid from an unanticipated background to one of America's most popular talk show hosts is largely due to his eccentric, omnipotent mother.

"We spend so much time being afraid of failure, afraid of rejection. But regret is the thing we should fear most." This is one of the philosophies Trevor's mother had taught him.



What we should fear more than failure and rejection is regret. Regret is an emotion that we might perceive in everyday life in two ways: regret for doing something and regret for not doing something. In the context of this sentence, I think regret puts more emphasis on the latter.

Trevor thinks that even if the result of some things is not that satisfactory, it is better than the fear of failure and not trying. Many of us, myself included, have experienced the pain of rejection at some point in our lives. Expressing love, applying for a job, asking for cooperation, simply asking for directions from a stranger, or even offering to help someone else will all be rejected. This taste of failure makes people afraid, hesitant, and unwilling to try.

In fact, no matter how you do these large and small multiple choices in your life, it may not be perfect. There are always detours to take and bush to beat around. But believe that there is no road to go in vain. Even failure or rejection is the response given to you by the world, so that you can re-evaluate the way of treating people and dealing with things and adjust your mentality without regret.

Great minds have purpose, others have wishes.

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