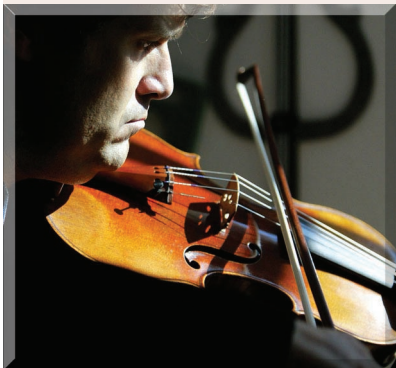


*Monday, December 18*

## *ON THIS DAY*



▲ **1737:** Italian violin-maker Antonio Stradivari died. His surviving violins, noted for their astonishing sound quality, are still unsurpassed

**1956:** Japan was admitted to the United Nations

**1969:** The death penalty for murder was formally abolished in Britain

**1991:** The first international project to save the world's rainforests was launched in Brazil

**2005:** Evo Morales won a landslide presidential election victory to become Bolivia's first indigenous head of state since the Spanish Conquest over 470 years earlier