

A portrait of Giuseppe Verdi, an elderly man with a full white beard and hair, wearing a dark suit and a white bow tie. He is holding a baton in his right hand, raised as if conducting, and his left hand rests on a book or manuscript. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Today in History

October 10, 1813

▲ **Giuseppe Verdi, one of the most influential composers of the 19th century, was born in Italy. His best-loved works include Aida, Rigoletto, and La traviata**

1913: The final stretch of the Panama Canal, connecting the Atlantic Ocean with the Pacific Ocean, was cleared

2005: Angela Merkel, leader of the conservative Christian Democrats, became the first woman Chancellor in Germany's history

2008: Stock markets crashed across Europe and Asia

2012: A Moscow court freed one of the three members of Pussy Riot, the punk band jailed for hooliganism