

**January 1, 1771** *Again returns the circling year*, an ode by William Boyce (59) to words of Whitehead, is performed for the first time.

**January 2, 1771** *Le finte gemelle*, an intermezzo by Niccolò Piccinni (42) to words of Petrosellini, is performed for the first time, in Teatro Valle, Rome.

**January 5, 1771** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (14) is named honorary Kapellmeister of the Verona Accademia Filarmonica.

**January 6, 1771** Emmanuel Armand de Vignerot du Plessis de Richelieu, duc D'Aiguillon replaces Louis Phélypeaux, duc de La Frillère as Chief Minister of France.

This is the probable date of the first performance of *Don Chisciotte allenozze di Gamace*, a divertimento teatrale by Antonio Salieri (20) to words of Boccherini, in the Kärntnertortheater, Vienna. Emperor Joseph II is in attendance.

**January 9, 1771** Hidehito replaces Toshi-ko as Emperor of Japan.

**January 14, 1771** Leopold (51) and Wolfgang Amadeus (14) Mozart depart Milan for Turin.

**January 16, 1771** *Annibale in Torino*, a dramma per musica by Giovanni Paisiello (30) to words of Durandi, is performed for the first time, in Teatro Regio, Turin. Two visiting Germans named Leopold (51) and Wolfgang Amadeus (14) Mozart are in the audience.

**January 19, 1771** This night, armed soldiers go to the homes of every member of the Parlement of Paris. They are required to say whether they will resume their duties under the Edict of Discipline of the King. 39 say they will.

**January 20, 1771** When the Parlement of Paris meets, the 39 yea-sayers of last night change their minds and the opposition to the king continues. Tonight, every member who answered nay last night is transferred to distant places in the country. Over the next year, the Parlement of Paris will be dismantled.

**January 22, 1771** Spain cedes the Falkland Islands to Great Britain after threats of war.

**January 26, 1771** A second version of Nicolò Jommelli's (56) opera seria *Achille in Sciro*, to words of Metastasio, is performed for the first time, in Teatro della Dame, Rome.

**January 30, 1771** Leopold (51) and Wolfgang Amadeus (15) Mozart depart Turin, heading for Milan.

**January 31, 1771** Leopold (51) and Wolfgang Amadeus (15) Mozart arrive in Milan.

**February 4, 1771** Leopold (51) and Wolfgang Amadeus (15) Mozart depart Milan for Venice.

**February 11, 1771** Leopold (51) and Wolfgang Amadeus (15) Mozart reach Venice from Milan at the end of Carnival.

**February 12, 1771** Adolf Fredrik, King of Sweden, dies in Stockholm and is succeeded by his son, Gustaf III.

**February 15, 1771** *Der büssende Sünder*, an oratorio by Michael Haydn (33), is performed for the first time.

**February 16, 1771** French astronomer Charles Messier publishes his first catalogue of nebulae in the *Memoirs* of the French Academy of Sciences. These are 45 unexplained objects he found while searching for comets. They will turn out to be galaxies and other celestial phenomena.

Niccolò Piccinni (43) is appointed second organist of the Royal Chapel, Naples. During his ten years as second organist, Piccinni will spend much of his time on leave and away at the opera centers of Europe, especially Rome.

**February 20, 1771** A decree in Denmark frees all peasants from rule by the nobility who are not serfs.

**February 23, 1771** Empress Maria Theresa grants royal consent to Florian Leopold Gassmann (41) to form the Tonkünstler-Societät. It will provide pensions for the widows and orphans of Viennese musicians.

**March 3, 1771** Leopold (51) and Wolfgang Amadeus (15) meet with Count Giacomo Durazzo, Imperial ambassador to Venice.

**March 4, 1771** The Regio Ducal Teatro commissions a new opera from Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (15), sending it to Salzburg today. It will be *Lucio Silla*.

**March 5, 1771** Leopold (51) and Wolfgang Amadeus (15) Mozart perform in the Palazzo Malfetti (Palazzo Tiepolo), Venice.

**March 7, 1771** The *Massachusetts Gazette* announces that Englishman David Propert will give a concert playing “select pieces on the new instrument (called) the Forte, piano.”

**March 12, 1771** Leopold (51) and Wolfgang Amadeus (15) travel from Venice to Padua by boat.

**March 14, 1771** Leopold (51) and Wolfgang Amadeus (15) Mozart depart Padua, making for Verona.

**March 16, 1771** Leopold (51) and Wolfgang Amadeus (15) Mozart arrive in Verona from Padua.

**March 20, 1771** Leopold (51) and Wolfgang Amadeus (15) Mozart depart Verona for home.

**March 23, 1771** An organizational meeting of the Tonkünstler-Societät takes place in the Vienna apartment of Florian Leopold Gassmann (41).

**March 25, 1771** Leopold (51) and Wolfgang Amadeus (15) Mozart reach Innsbruck in a violent snowstorm.

**March 28, 1771** Leopold (51) and Wolfgang Amadeus (15) Mozart arrive in Salzburg from Italy after a sojourn of one year and three months.

**April 16, 1771** Giovanni Battista Cambiaso replaces Giovanni Battista Negrone as Doge of Genoa.

**April 18, 1771** *Der Dorfbalbier*, a comische Operette by Johann Adam Hiller (42) and Christian Gottlob Neefe (23) to words of Weisse after Sédaine, is performed for the first time, at the Theater am Rannstädter Thore, Leipzig.

**May 1, 1771** *Il viaggiatore americano in Joanesberg*, a farce by Carl Ditters (31) to words of Pinto, is performed for the first time, in the Turm-Theater, Johannisberg, near Jauernig (Javorník).

**May 11, 1771** Several exiles to Kamchatka, some of them noblemen, overthrow and kill the Russian commander on the peninsula and force the local citizens to swear allegiance to Pavel Petrovich, son of Empress Ekaterina II. They seize the local treasury and a ship. Most will die as they bounce from port to port in Asia and are repulsed by Japan, Taiwan and Macao. Some will survive and return as free men to Siberia, pardoned by the Empress.

**May 15, 1771** *La donna di bell'umore*, an opera buffa by Niccolò Piccinni (43), is performed for the first time, in Teatro dei Fiorentini, Naples.

**May 29, 1771** *Les projets de l'Amour*, an opéra-ballet by Jean-Joseph Cassanea de Mondonville (59) to words of Voisenon, is performed for the first time, at Versailles.

**May 30, 1771** Nicolò Jommelli's (56) opera seria *Ifigenia in Tauride* to words of Verazi is performed for the first time, in Teatro San Carlo, Naples. Finished today and hastily prepared, the work is such a complete failure that the embarrassed composer will return his payment.

**June 2, 1771** *Armida*, a dramma per musica by Antonio Salieri (20) to words of Coltellini after Tasso, is performed for the first time, in the Burgtheater, Vienna.

**June 4, 1771** *Long did the churlish East detain*, an ode by William Boyce (59) to words of Whitehead, is performed for the first time, to honor the birthday of King George III.

**July 6, 1771** Austria and the Ottoman Empire conclude a treaty to oppose Russian conquest of the Crimea.

**July 7, 1771** Queen Caroline Matilda of Denmark gives birth to a daughter at Hirschholm Palace north of Copenhagen. It is widely believed to be the child of the King's minister Johann Friedrich, Count Struensee.

**July 13, 1771** His Majesty's Bark *Endeavour*, captained by James Cook, anchors in the Downs, thus completing a voyage of almost three years. Of 96 passengers and crew, 55 return, a very good mortality rate for such an expedition.

**July 17, 1771** Samuel Hearne of the Hudson's Bay Company, traveling with a Chipewyan war party, reaches the Arctic Ocean at the mouth of the Coppermine River.

**August 13, 1771** Leopold (51) and Wolfgang Amadeus (15) Mozart depart Salzburg for Italy. *Nitteti*, a dramma per musica by Pasquale Anfossi (44) to words of Metastasio, is performed for the first time, in Teatro San Carlo, Naples. Also premiered is Anfossi's cantata *I dioscuro* to words of Mattei.

**August 14, 1771** Nicolò Jommelli (56) suffers a major paralytic stroke in Naples. He survives, and will gradually regain his speech and use of his right arm.

James Cook is presented to King George III at St. James' Palace, London. He is promoted and given command of HMS *Scorpion*.

**August 21, 1771** Leopold (51) and Wolfgang Amadeus (15) Mozart arrive in Milan from Salzburg.

**August 27, 1771** Ten days ago in Leeds, Joseph Priestley puts a sprig of mint into air in which a wax candle had been burned out. Today he burns another candle in the same air, thus proving that plants give off oxygen.

**August 29, 1771** In Milan, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (15) receives a libretto by Giuseppe Parini for *Ascanio in Alba*.

*So ihr bleiben* for soprano and strings by Johannes Herbst (36) is performed for the first time.

**August 31, 1771** Leopold (51) and Wolfgang Amadeus (15) Mozart meet Johann Adolf Hasse (72) in Milan.

**September 15, 1771** British forces officially repossess the Falkland Islands from Spain.

**September 18, 1771** The Comédie-Italienne, Paris, agrees to pay André-Ernest-Modeste Grétry (30) a regular salary.

**October 4, 1771** Riots break out in Moscow against government handling of an outbreak of plague since June. A hundred people are killed, 300 arrested. Among those dead is Archbishop Amvrosii. The plague causes 300-400 deaths daily. Abandoned corpses litter the streets.

**October 16, 1771** *Il Ruggiero ovvero L'eroica gratitudine*, an opera by Johann Adolf Hasse (72) to words of Metastasio after Ariosto, is performed for the first time, in the Teatro Regio Ducale, Milan. Among the audience are two visitors named Leopold (51) and Wolfgang Amadeus (15) Mozart.

**October 17, 1771** *Ascanio in Alba* K.111, a festa teatrale by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (15) to words of Parini, is performed for the first time, in the Teatro Regio Ducale Teatro, Milan, to celebrate the wedding of Archduke Ferdinand of Austria and Maria Ricciarda Berenice of Modena. Leopold Mozart (51) reports that it is "an extraordinary success" overshadowing the work by Hasse (72) performed last night.

**October 21, 1771** Margrave August Georg Simpert of Baden-Baden dies and his dominions pass to Margrave Karl IV Friedrich of Baden-Durlach. The new entity is called the Margraviate of Baden.

**October 25, 1771** Heinrich Ernst II replaces Christian Ernst as Count of Stolberg and Wernigerode.

**October 26, 1771** *L'ami de la maison*, an opéra-comique by André-Ernest-Modeste Grétry (30) to words of Marmontel, is performed for the first time, in Fontainebleau.

**October 27, 1771** Johann Gottlieb Graun dies in Berlin, aged approximately 69 years.

**November 2, 1771** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (15) completes his Symphony K.112 in Milan.

*Le faucon*, an opéra comique en prose mêlée d'ariettes by Pierre-Alexandre Monsigny (42) to words of Sedaine after La Fontaine, is performed for the first time, at Fontainebleau. The reception is not favorable.

**November 4, 1771** *Ezio*, an opera seria by Antonio Sacchini (41) to words of Metastasio, is performed for the first time, in Teatro San Carlo, Naples.

**November 8, 1771** Leopold (51) and Wolfgang Amadeus (15) Mozart dine together with Johann Adolf Hasse at the home of Count Carl Joseph Firmian, Governor-General of Austrian Lombardy in Milan. Last month, both Hasse and Mozart produced operas in Milan to celebrate the wedding of Archduke Ferdinand with Maria Ricciarda Berenice.

**November 9, 1771** *Zémire et Azor*, a comédie-ballet mêlée de chants et de danses by André-Ernest-Modeste Grétry (30) to words of Marmontel after *Le Prince de Beaumont*, is performed for the first time, at Fontainebleau.

**November 10, 1771** King Louis XV of France grants a royal pension of 1,200 francs to André-Ernest-Modeste Grétry (30).

**November 12, 1771** *The Fairy Prince*, a masque by Thomas Augustine Arne (61) to words of Colman after Jonson, is performed for the first time, in Covent Garden, London.

**November 22, 1771** Today or tomorrow, Leopold (52) and Wolfgang Amadeus (15) Mozart perform at the residence of Albert Michael von Mayr, keeper of the privy purse to Archduke Ferdinand, Governor of Lombardy in Milan. The music probably includes the premiere of the Symphony K.112. Divertimento K.113 by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (15) is performed today or tomorrow for probably the first time, in Milan.

**November 27, 1771** Johann Adolph Hasse (72) and his daughter reach Vienna from Naples. Tomorrow he will have an audience with Empress Maria Theresa.

**November 30, 1771** Leopold (52) and Wolfgang Amadeus (15) Mozart are received by Archduke Ferdinand, Governor of Lombardy, in Milan.

**December 5, 1771** Leopold (52) and Wolfgang Amadeus (15) Mozart depart Milan for Salzburg.

**December 11, 1771** Muhsinzade Mehmed Pasha replaces Silahdar Mehmed Pasha as Grand Vizier of the Ottoman Empire.

**December 12, 1771** After showing interest in hiring Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (15), Archduke Ferdinand, Governor and Captain-General of Lombardy in Milan is warned in a letter from his mother, Empress Maria Theresa not to employ such "useless people."

**December 13, 1771** *Die Apotheke*, a comic opera by Christian Gottlob Neefe (23) to words of Engel, is performed for the first time, in Berlin.

**December 15, 1771** Leopold (52) and Wolfgang Amadeus (15) Mozart arrive in Salzburg from Italy.

**December 16, 1771** Sigismund Christoph von Schrattenbach, Archbishop of Salzburg, employer of Leopold (52) and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (15), and Michael Haydn (34), dies at the age of 74.

**December 21, 1771** Esterházy Kapellmeister Joseph Haydn (39) witnesses a contract settling a dispute between two Esterházy musicians, oboist Zacharias Pohl and bassist Xavier Marteau, to wit, a brawl in the local tavern in June during which Pohl lost an eye.

**December 26, 1771** Giovanni Paisiello's (31) *dramma per musica Artaserse* to words of Metastasio is performed for the first time, at the Ducal court, Modena.

**December 28, 1771** Two weeks after the death of Archbishop Schrattenbach, Leopold Mozart (52) petitions the Cathedral Chapter for the reinstatement of his salary.

**December 30, 1771** Nicolò Jommelli (57) writes a few lines on a New Year's greeting written by his brother, the first words he has written since his stroke on August 14.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (15) completes his Symphony K.114 in Salzburg.

**January 1, 1772** The London Exchange Banking Company begins issuing "promissory notes for travelers," the first travelers' checks. It is the idea of Sir Robert Herries, a partner in the bank.

*At length the fleeting Year is o'er*, an ode by William Boyce (60) to words of Whitehead, is performed for the first time.

**January 2, 1772** *Missa pro defunctis Archiepiscopo* by Michael Haydn (34) is performed for the first time, at a funeral mass for Sigismund Christoph von Schrattenbach, Archbishop of Salzburg, by all the court musicians, including Leopold (52) and Wolfgang Amadeus (15) Mozart.

**January 9, 1772** Emperor Joseph II writes to his brother, Grand Duke Leopold of Tuscany, proposing that Antonio Salieri (21) write an opera for some house in Italy.

**January 11, 1772** Nicolo Piccinni (43) departs Naples for Rome.

**January 15, 1772** The Poland Partition Treaty is agreed to by ministers of Russia and Prussia in St. Petersburg.

**January 17, 1772** Queen Caroline Matilda of Denmark, Minister Johann Friedrich, Count Struensee and Count Enevold Brandt are arrested at Christiansborg Castle. King Christian VII travels through the town to general rejoicing.

**January 24, 1772** A riot breaks out amongst Cossacks in Yaitsk (Orel). They kill the local commander, General Traubenberg, and take over the army.  
André-Ernest-Modeste Grétry (30) writes to Padre Giovanni Battista Martini (65) that King Louis XV has granted him a pension of 1,200 francs plus a bonus of 200 louis d'or.

**January 29, 1772** *La fiera di Venezia*, a commedia per musica by Antonio Salieri (21) to words of Giovanni Gastone Boccherini, is performed for the first time, in the Burgtheater, Vienna. It is a great success.

**February 7, 1772** Leopold Mozart (52) writes from Salzburg to the Breitkopfs in Leipzig, offering Wolfgang's (16) compositions to them for publication.

**February 10, 1772** Prince Josef Wenzel Lorenz of Liechtenstein dies and is succeeded by his nephew, Franz Josef I.

**February 12, 1772** Two ships led by Yves-Joseph de Kergulen-Trmarec sight land in the Indian Ocean at 49° 40' south and make landfall, claiming it for France. It will be named Kergulen Island.

**February 20, 1772** *Symphonie Concertante* in G C32 by Johann Christian Bach (36) is published in London.

**February 21, 1772** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (16) completes his Symphony K.124 in Salzburg.

**February 22, 1772** *L'americano*, an intermezzo by Niccolò Piccinni (44), is performed for the first time, in Teatro Capranica, Rome.

**February 29, 1772** A great fire in Edo, Japan kills over 6,000 people and destroys up to 10,000 buildings.

**March 3, 1772** Carl Ditters (32) marries Nicolina Trink, a Hungarian soprano, in Johannisberg, near Jauernig (Javorník).

**March 10, 1772** Ernst II replaces Friedrich III as Duke of Saxe-Gotha.

**March 11, 1772** Niccolò Piccinni (44) returns to Naples from Rome.

**March 13, 1772** Emperor Joseph II appoints Florian Leopold Gassmann (42) to succeed Georg von Reutter as Hofkapellmeister to the Imperial Court in Vienna, only hours after Reutter's death.

**March 14, 1772** Hieronymous Joseph Franz de Paula, Count Colloredo, Bishop of Gurk is elected Prince Archbishop of Salzburg on the 49th ballot, and becomes the employer of Leopold (52) and Wolfgang Amadeus (16) Mozart and Michael Haydn (34).

**March 16, 1772** *Squire Badger*, a burletta by Thomas Augustine Arne (62) to his own words after Fielding, is performed for the first time, in the Little Theatre, Haymarket.

**March 29, 1772** Emanuel Swedenborg dies in London at the age of 84.  
*La Betulia liberata*, an oratorio by Florian Leopold Gassmann (42) to words of Metastasio, is performed for the first time, in Vienna for one of the first concerts of the Tonkünstler-Sozietät. Gassmann is musical director of the society, *ex officio*.

**March 30, 1772** In a speech to the House of Commons, Robert, Lord Clive defends himself against charges of corruption while he was Governor of Bengal.

**April 6, 1772** Johann Christian Bach's (36) serenata *Endimione* to words after Metastasio is performed for the first time, in King's Theatre, London.

**April 13, 1772** Warren Hastings is appointed British governor of Bengal.

**April 15, 1772** Karl replaces Viktor II as Prince of Anhalt-Bernburg-Schaumburg-Hoym.

**April 22, 1772** Joachim von Düben replaces Ulrik Scheffer as Chancellery President of Sweden.

**April 28, 1772** As a result of a conspiracy of nobles to depose him, Johann Friedrich, Count Struensee, physician and minister to King Christian VII of Denmark is tortured and executed. He introduced reforms to aid the poor and freedom of the press but he also introduced himself to the Queen's bedchamber. Also executed is his confederate, Count Enevold Brandt.

**April 29, 1772** Hieronymous, Count Colloredo enters Salzburg to take up his new position as Prince Archbishop. He receives homage at the Residenz. A gala dinner takes place in the evening accompanied by an orchestra which includes Leopold (52) and Wolfgang Amadeus (16) Mozart. Wolfgang's cantata *Il sogno di Scipione* is probably performed.

**May 2, 1772** The last Bach (36)-Abel concert takes place at Mr. Almack's Room, King Street. The two split amicably.

**May 4, 1772** *Sie werden weder hungern* for chorus and strings by Johannes Herbst (36) is performed for the first time.

**May 10, 1772** *Amors Guckkasten*, an operetta by Christian Gottlob Neefe (24) to words of Michaelis, is performed for the first time, in Leipzig.

**May 12, 1772** Antonio Salieri's (21) intermezzo *Il barone di Rocca antica* to words of Petrosellini is performed for the first time, in the Burgtheater, Vienna. It is well received.

**May 27, 1772** *Motezuma*, an opera seria by Baldassare Galuppi (65) to words of Cigna-Santi, is performed for the first time, in Teatro San Benedetto, Venice.

**June 4, 1772** *From scenes of death and deep distress*, an ode by William Boyce (60) to words of Whitehead, is performed for the first time, to celebrate the birthday of King George III.

**June 9, 1772** Run aground in Narragansett Bay off Providence, Rhode Island, the British revenue ship *Gaspée* is set afire by local citizens during the night of June 9-10.

**June 10, 1772** Thomas Augustine Arne's (62) *The Cooper*, a musical entertainment to his own words after Audinot and Quétant, is performed for the first time, in the Haymarket Theatre, London.

**June 13, 1772** Governor Thomas Hutchinson informs the Massachusetts legislature that he will not accept their salary and will henceforth be paid directly by the King.

**June 22, 1772** In the case of the black servant James Somerset, Lord Mansfield, Chief Justice of the Court of the King's Bench, rules that slavery does not exist in England. Over 10,000 slaves in England are thus freed.

**June 23, 1772** *I rovinati*, a comedy by Florian Leopold Gassmann (43) to words of Giovanni Gastone Boccherini, is performed for the first time, in the Burgtheater, Vienna.

**June 24, 1772** Stagecoach service begins from Boston.

**July 13, 1772** James Cook sets off from Plymouth on his second expedition to the south seas, this time in search of the "southern continent." He has two ships, *Resolution* and *Adventure*.

**July 14, 1772** Both houses of the Massachusetts legislature pass "An act for Granting to William Billings (25) of Boston the Sole privilege of printing and vending a Book by him Composed consisting of a Great variety of psalm-tunes, Anthems, & Canons in two Vols.-" Thomas Hutchinson, royal governor of Massachusetts, will refuse to assent to the bill, perhaps owing to the political situation and Billings' friendship with Samuel Adams.

**August 5, 1772** Representatives of Russia, Prussia and Austria sign the Partition of Poland treaty in St. Petersburg. Russia receives Polish territory east of the Dvina and Dnieper Rivers. Prussia takes West Prussia, except Danzig (Gdansk), and Ermeland. Austria receives East Galicia and Lodomerica.

**August 8, 1772** The Mt. Papandayan volcano on Java explodes. Within five minutes, the summit collapses sending debris crashing down the mountainside. 40 villages with up to 3,000 people are destroyed.

**August 9, 1772** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (16) is granted a salary of 150 florins for the post of second Konzertmeister in Salzburg.

**August 17, 1772** *Der Krieg*, a comische Oper by Johann Adam Hiller (43) to words of Weisse and Ramler after Goldoni, is performed for the first time, in the Behrenstrassetheater, Berlin.

**August 19, 1772** King Gustaf III of Sweden effects a coup d'état as he suspends the constitution and arrests legislative leaders. He intends to reintroduce absolutism, backed by France and opposed to Russia, who guarantees the constitution.

**August 21, 1772** King Gustaf of Sweden speaks before the Riksdag and tells them of the new constitution. Henceforth, they will be called and dismissed at the pleasure of the king.

**August 22, 1772** Ulrik Scheffer replaces Joachim von Düben as Chancellery President of Sweden.

**September 1, 1772** The Mission of San Luis Obispo de Tolosa is founded near the mouth of the Salinas River, California.

**September 2, 1772** Charles Burney meets Christoph Willibald Gluck (56) for the first time at his country home in St. Marx. *Iphigenie en Aulide* is already completed.

**September 12, 1772** In his work Inaugural dissertation on the air called fixed or mephite, British scientist Daniel Rutherford describes his discovery of "noxious air", or nitrogen.

**September 13, 1772** Prussia takes possession of West Prussia.

**September 14, 1772** *Cerere placata*, a serenata by Nicolò Jommelli (58) to words of Sarcone, is performed for the first time, in the Perrelli Palace, Naples.

**October 8, 1772** Jean-Joseph Cassanea de Mondonville dies in Belleville, 60 years, nine months and 13 days after his baptism.

**October 9, 1772** The earthly remains of Jean-Joseph Cassanea de Mondonville are laid to rest in the Church of Saint Jean de Belleville.

**October 21, 1772** *La secchia rapita*, a dramma eroicomico by Antonio Salieri (22) to words of Giovanni Gastone Boccherini (brother of the composer) after Tassoni, is performed for the first time, in the Kärntnertortheater, Vienna.

**October 24, 1772** Leopold (52) and Wolfgang Amadeus (16) Mozart depart Salzburg for Italy.

**November 1, 1772** Antoine Lavoisier sends a note to the Secretary of the French Academy of Sciences stating that he has discovered that both sulfur and phosphorous gain weight upon heating. The discovery changes the study of chemistry and opens the door to the understanding of the makeup of air.

**November 2, 1772** A Boston town meeting votes to set up a Committee of Correspondence to communicate with other towns throughout Massachusetts.

**November 4, 1772** Leopold (52) and Wolfgang Amadeus (16) Mozart arrive in Milan from Salzburg. Niccolò Piccinni's (44) opera seria *Ipermestra* to words of Metastasio is performed for the first time, in Teatro San Carlo, Naples.

**November 5, 1772** *Temistocle*, an opera by Johann Christian Bach (37) to words of Varazi after Metastasio, is performed for the first time, in a gala performance before the court in the Mannheim Hoftheater.

**November 8, 1772** Don Domingo Boenechea, sailing for Spain from Peru, arrives in Tahiti and stays for ten days, calling it Ile d'Amat (after the viceroy of Peru) and claiming it for Spain, the third country to claim the island.

**November 11, 1772** *Antigona*, an opera seria by Tommaso Traetta (45) to words of Coltellini, is performed for the first time, at the Russian court, St. Petersburg.

**November 12, 1772** Russian and Ottoman ministers agree to the Treaty of Karasu Bazaar. The Khanate of the Crimea is made independent of Turkey, in alliance with Russia.

**November 21, 1772** *Elfrida*, a dramatic poem by Thomas Augustine Arne (62) to words of Coleman after Mason, is performed for the first time, in Covent Garden, London.

**November 22, 1772** On St. Cecilia's Day, Georg Joseph Vogler (23) celebrates his first mass in the presence of the court of Elector Karl Theodor in Mannheim.

**December 2, 1772** Thomas Augustine Arne's (62) comic opera *The Rose*, perhaps to his own words, is performed for the first time, in the Drury Lane Theater, London.

**December 6, 1772** *Missa Sancti Nicolai* by Joseph Haydn (40) is possibly performed for the first time, at Esterháza.

**December 12, 1772** After being closed for 15 months due to an outbreak of plague, government offices in Moscow reopen.

Niccolò Piccinni (44) departs Naples for Rome on his second leave of the year.

**December 26, 1772** *Lucio Silla* K.135, a dramma per musica by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (16) to words of de Gamerra, is performed for the first time, in the Teatro Regio Ducal Teatro, Milan. The curtain goes up late due to the tardy arrival of Archduke Ferdinand, and the production lasts six hours. Despite the inauspicious premiere, it will run for 26 performances.

*The Pigmy Revels, or Harlequin Foundling*, a pantomime by Thomas Augustine Arne (62) to words of Messink, is performed for the first time, in the Drury Lane Theater, London.

**January 1, 1773** *Wrapt in stole of sable grain*, an ode by William Boyce (61) to words of Whitehead, is performed for the first time.

**January 7, 1773** Ferdinando Spinola replaces Giovanni Battista Cambiaso as Doge of Genoa.

**January 9, 1773** *La sposa collerica*, an intermezzo by Niccolò Piccinni (44), is performed for the first time, in Teatro Valle, Rome.

**January 11, 1773** *Le bon fils*, an opéra-comique by François-André Danican-Philidor (46) to words of Devaux (pseudonym of Abbé Lemonnier), is performed for the first time, at the Comédie-Italienne, Paris. It is originally performed as *Antoine Masson* but the title will be changed in the printed libretto.

**January 12, 1773** At the annual meeting of the Charleston, South Carolina Library Society, North America's first public museum is organized.

**January 16, 1773** William Shakespeare's *Hamlet* is produced in German for the first time, at the Kärntnertortheater, Vienna.

**January 17, 1773** *Exsultate, jubilate* K.165, a solo motet by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (16), is performed for the first time, in the Church of the Theatines, Milan. It was composed for Venanzio Rauzzini, primo uomo in the Milan opera.

The expedition led by James Cook crosses the Antarctic Circle at 39° E longitude, the first Europeans to do so.

**January 18, 1773** After reaching a farthest south of 66° and experiencing solid pack ice, the Cook expedition turns north.

The Swedish Royal Opera gives its inaugural performance, in Stockholm.

**January 19, 1773** *Il Cid*, an opera seria by Antonio Sacchini (42) to words of Bottarelli after Corneille, is performed for the first time, in King's Theatre, London.

**January 26, 1773** Alessandro Piero Francesco Grimaldi replaces Ferdinando Spinola as Doge of Genoa.

**January 30, 1773** *Sismano nel Mogol*, a dramma per musica by Giovanni Paisiello (32) to words of De Gamerra, is performed for the first time, in the Regio Ducal, Milan. Among the audience is Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (17). His father Leopold (52) was planning to go but he is still in bed with rheumatism.

**February 3, 1773** A letter from Christoph Willibald Gluck (58) appears in the *Mercure de France*. The composer explains and defends his new ideas about setting the French language in opera as opposed to traditional Italian opera. It only serves to fuel an already raging debate between advocates of the two approaches.

**February 4, 1773** Niccolò Piccinni (45) returns to Naples from Rome.

**February 6, 1773** *The Golden Pippin*, a pasticcio comic opera with five songs by Thomas Augustine Arne (62) to words of O'Hara, is performed for the first time, in Covent Garden, London.

**February 12, 1773** Christian Heinrich replaces Ludwig Ferdinand as Count of Sayn-Wittgenstein-Berleburg.

**February 13, 1773** *La casa di campagna*, a dramma giocoso by Florian Leopold Gassmann (43) to words possibly by Giovanni Gastone Boccherini, is performed for the first time, in the Burgtheater, Vienna.

**February 20, 1773** Carlo Emanuele III, King of Sardinia, dies in Turin and is succeeded by his son Vittorio Amadeo III.

**February 23, 1773** *Alzuma*, a play Murphy after Dryden and Voltaire, with music by Thomas Augustine Arne (62), is performed for the first time, at Covent Garden, London.

**February 26, 1773** At a performance of the oratorio *Judith* by Thomas Augustine Arne (62) at Covent Garden, women are used in a London choir for the first time.

**March 4, 1773** Leopold (52) and Wolfgang Amadeus (17) Mozart depart Milan for Salzburg. *Le magnifique*, a comédie mise en musique by André-Ernest-Modeste Grétry (32) to words of Sedaine after LaFontaine, is performed for the first time, at the Comédie-Italienne, Paris.

**March 13, 1773** Leopold (53) and Wolfgang Amadeus (17) Mozart return to Salzburg from Italy.

**March 15, 1773** Karl Theodor, Elector Palatine, provides Georg Joseph Vogler (23) with the financial means to pursue musical studies in Italy. *She Stoops to Conquer* by Oliver Goldsmith is first performed.

**March 24, 1773** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (17) dates his *Divertimento* K.166 in Salzburg.

**March 25, 1773** The Cook expedition reaches New Zealand where they will winter.

**March 30, 1773** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (17) completes his Symphony no.26 K.184.

**April 5, 1773** *Die Jubelhochzeit*, a comsiche Oper by Johann Adam Hiller (44) to words of Weisse, is performed for the first time, in the Behrenstrassetheater, Berlin.

**April 10, 1773** *Gelobet sey der Herr, gross von Rath* for chorus and strings by Johannes Herbst (37) is performed for the first time.

**April 13, 1773** Mohammed Bey Abudh Dhahab comes to power in Egypt and recognizes Ottoman authority.

**April 21, 1773** Joseph-Jérôme Lefranc ais de Lalande gives a summary of his paper on comets to the Paris Academy of Sciences. He states that a collision of a comet with the Earth is possible but extremely unlikely. Word spreads that he gave a summary because he wished to suppress the news that a comet would hit the Earth on May 20 and thus cause a panic. Panic ensues.

**May 1, 1773** *Il tutore e la pupilla*, a dramma giocoso by Carl Ditters (33) to words of Goldoni, is performed for the first time, in the Turm-Theater, Johannisberg, near Jauernig (Javorník).

**May 6, 1773** *Tamerlano*, an opera seria by Antonio Sacchini (42) to words of Bottarelli after Piovene, is performed for the first time, in King's Theatre, London.

**May 7, 1773** Joseph-Jérôme Lefrançais de Lalande publishes an explanation in the *Gazette de France* that predicting a collision between a comet and the Earth is not possible.

**May 8, 1773** Former Sultan of Egypt Ali Bey al-Kabir dies of wounds suffered last week trying to regain power in Cairo.

**May 10, 1773** The British Parliament passes the Tea Act. The East India Company is allowed to import tea into America without paying a duty, but the colonists are required to pay a tax on the tea they consume.

**May 17, 1773** *Sventatura, in van mi lagno*, an aria by Johann Christian Bach (37) to anonymous words, is performed for the first time, in Hickford's Rooms, Brewer Street, London.

**May 19, 1773** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (17) dates his Symphony no.23 K.181 in Salzburg.

**May 28, 1773** The first through-composed serious German opera, *Alceste* by Anton Schweitzer to words of Wieland, is performed for the first time, in Weimar.

**June 1, 1773** Voltaire's satirical letter on the comet scare of a month ago is published in the *Journal Encyclopédique*.

**June 4, 1773** *Born for millions are the kings*, an ode by William Boyce (61) to words of Whitehead, is performed for the first time, to honor the birthday of King George III.

**June 5, 1773** Empress Maria Theresa grants to Carl Ditters (33) a certificate of nobility and the name "von Dittersdorf."

**June 8, 1773** *La locandiera*, a *dramma giocoso* by Antonio Salieri (22) to words of Poggi after Goldoni, is performed for the first time, in the Kärntnertortheater, Vienna.

**July 1, 1773** Areas of Holstein under rule by the Gottorp line are given to the Segeberg line in return for Oldenburg. Paul von Holstein-Gottorp (Crown Prince Pavel of Russia) replaces Christian XII (King Christian IX of Denmark) as Count of Oldenburg.

The *Hector* departs Loch Broom, near Ullapool, with the first group of Scottish emigrants for Nova Scotia.

**July 12, 1773** Johann Joachim Quantz dies in Potsdam, aged 76 years, five months and twelve days.

**July 14, 1773** The most recent Cossack revolt is officially ended with relatively lenient punishments handed out in Yaitsk (Orel) by the Imperial government.

Johann Christian Bach (37) appears with singer Cecilia Grassi in a concert tour stop in Blandford. Leopold (53) and Wolfgang Amadeus (17) Mozart leave Salzburg for Vienna.

**July 17, 1773** Leopold (53) and Wolfgang Amadeus (17) Mozart have dinner with Dr. Anton Mesmer in Vienna.

**July 21, 1773** Pressured by the Bourbon dynasties, Pope Clement XIV issues the breve *Dominus ac Redemptor*, completely suppressing the Jesuit order.

**July 26, 1773** *L'infedeltà delusa*, a *burletta per musica* by Joseph Haydn (41) to words of Coltellini, is performed for the first time, at Esterháza Palace, for the nameday of Dowager Princess Maria Anna.

**August 5, 1773** Leopold (53) and Wolfgang Amadeus (17) Mozart are received by Empress Maria Theresa.

**August 7, 1773** Antoine Lavoisier submits his *Opuscules physiques et chymiques* to the French Academy for review. They are impressed.

**August 11, 1773** Izzet Mehmed Pasha replaces Muhsinzade Mehmed Pasha as Grand Vizier of the Ottoman Empire.

**August 18, 1773** Samuel Johnson and James Boswell begin a 17-week journey to the Hebrides.

**August 25, 1773** The Esterházy chapel organist, Franz Novotni, dies. As no suitable replacement can be found, Kapellmeister Joseph Haydn (41) will be hired, sharing the duties with schoolmaster Joseph Dietzl.

**September 1, 1773** Empress Maria Theresa and her entourage arrive for a visit to Esterháza Palace, amidst much pomp. Joseph Haydn (41) conducts *L'infedeltà delusa* with great success. After the opera, the Empress is taken to the Chinese pavilion for a concert by Haydn and the Esterházy orchestra, all in Chinese costumes.

**September 2, 1773** Warren Hastings, British Governor General of India, makes an alliance with the state of Oudh against the Marathas.

Amidst the visit of Empress Maria Theresa, the new Esterháza marionette theater opens with the premiere of Joseph Haydn's (41) new opera, *Philemon und Baucis, oder Jupiters Reise auf die Erde*, to words of Pfeffel. The Empress is much pleased and gives Haydn 30 ducats.

**September 3, 1773** The Russian Senate orders a conscription at 1 per 100 people to deal with the Turks. This is considerably lower than the previous 1 per 150.

**September 8, 1773** Mr. Peter Beckford begins his quarterly payments to Nicolo Clementi for the privilege of bringing his son, Muzio (21) to England.

**September 15, 1773** The *Hector* arrives at Pictou with the first group of Scottish emigrants for Nova Scotia.

**September 22, 1773** Scepan Mali (Stephen the Little) Prince of Montenegro and pretender to the Russian crown is murdered by his Greek servant. His throat is cut. Who hired the murderer is unknown but Turks and Venetians are the leading candidates.

**September 24, 1773** Leopold (53) and Wolfgang Amadeus (17) Mozart depart Vienna for Salzburg.

**September 26, 1773** Leopold (53) and Wolfgang Amadeus (17) Mozart arrive back in Salzburg from Vienna.

**September 28, 1773** A Don Cossack, Emelian Ivanovich Pugachev, declares himself to be Tsar Pyotr III and begins an insurrection among the Cossacks of the Yaik River. He issues his first manifestos. *Amore e Psiche*, an opera seria by Tommaso Traetta (46) to words of Coltellini, is performed for the first time, at the Russian court, St. Petersburg.

**October 1, 1773** The Cook expedition reaches the Friendly Islands (Tonga) at Eau, not visited by Europeans since Tasman in 1643.

**October 2, 1773** Pugachev's Cossacks capture Fort Ilyetsk, the citizenry welcoming him.

**October 3, 1773** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (17) dates his Symphony no.24 K.182 in Salzburg.

**October 5, 1773** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (17) dates his Symphony no.25 K.183 in Salzburg.

**October 7, 1773** *Symphonie concertante* in Eb C33a&b by Johann Christian Bach (38) is published in London.

**October 8, 1773** Pugachev's rebels capture Fort Tatishchev, west of Orenburg.

**October 9, 1773** Russian crown prince Pavel Petrovich marries Princess Wilhelmina of Hesse-Darmstadt in St. Petersburg.

**October 11, 1773** Pugachev's rebels occupy Fort Chernorechensk, 30 km west of Orenburg.

**October 14, 1773** A British cargo ship is burned at Annapolis, Maryland.

**October 16, 1773** Pugachev's Cossack army lays siege to Orenburg.

**October 18, 1773** A mass meeting in Philadelphia demands and obtains the resignation of merchants named as agents for the East India Company.

**October 22, 1773** *Amore artigiano*, an intermezzo by Luigi Cherubini (13), is performed for the first time, in Teatro San Domenico, Fiesole.

**October 23, 1773** André-Ernest-Modeste Grétry's (32) *La rosière de Salency* to words of Masson de Pézay is performed for the first time, at Fontainebleau.

**October 25, 1773** News of Pugachev's revolt reaches Empress Ekaterina II of Russia. Emelian Pugachev has begun a revolt against the Empress by Cossacks and Kazakhs in the Yaitsk (Orel) region. General Vasily Alyekseyevich Kar is dispatched from St. Petersburg at the head of a punitive expedition to deal with the situation.

**October 30, 1773** *Zémire et Mélide*, an opéra comique by François-André Danican-Philidor (47) to words of Fenouillot de Falbaire, is performed for the first time, at Fontainebleau.

**November 1, 1773** The Roman Catholic Cathedral of St. Hedwig is consecrated in Berlin, the "capital of the Protestants."

**November 4, 1773** Carl Ditters von Dittersdorf (34) is appointed Amtshauptmann of Freiwaldau (Jeseník).

**November 6, 1773** *La belle Arsène*, a comédie-féerie mêlée d'ariettes by Pierre-Alexandre Monsigny (44) to words of Favart after Voltaire, is performed for the first time, at Fontainebleau.

**November 7, 1773** *Freuet euch, ihr Kinder Zions*, an inauguration cantata by Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach (59) to words of Müller, is performed for the first time, in Hamburg.

**November 13, 1773** Rebels besieging Orenburg assault the town but are thrown back by Russian forces with heavy losses.

**November 19, 1773** Cossack rebels attack the expedition of General Kar at Yuzeyeva, 100 km north of Orenburg, and send it into retreat.

**November 24, 1773** Pugachev and his Cossacks ambush Imperial forces coming to the aid of Orenburg. They capture them all within 15 minutes and after executing most of the officers, turn the soldiers to their side. In the afternoon, however, 2,400 Imperial troops and 22 cannon make it in to Orenburg.

**December 4, 1773** *Sabinus*, a tragédie lyrique by François-Joseph Gossec (39) to words of de Chabanon, is performed for the first time, in Versailles.

**December 14, 1773** Friedrich August, Bishop of Lübeck replaces Paul von Holstein-Gottorp (Crown Prince Pavel of Russia) as Count of Oldenburg.

**December 16, 1773** *Achilles in Petticoats*, a burlesque by Thomas Augustine Arne (63) to words of Colman after Gay, is performed for the first time, at Covent Garden, London.

After an indignation rally at the Old South Meeting House, several citizens of Boston dressed as Indians board three ships in Boston harbor and dump 342 chests of tea into the water to protest the tax on tea.

**December 19, 1773** *L'Esther ossia La liberatrice del popolo giudaico nella Persia*, an oratorio by Carl Ditters von Dittersdorf (34) to words of Pintus, is performed for the first time, in Vienna.

**December 20, 1773** Imperial troops from St. Petersburg enter Kazan to protect it from Pugachev.

**December 21, 1773** The Russian Senate approves heightened security measures in provinces surrounding the Pugachev revolt.

**December 26, 1773** *Alessandro nell'Indie*, a dramma serio by Giovanni Paisiello (33) to words of Metastasio, is performed for the first time, at the court of Modena.

**December 30, 1773** *Céphale et Procris, ou L'amour conjugal*, a ballet-héroïque by André-Ernest-Modeste Grétry (32) to words of Marmontel after Ovid, is performed for the first time, at Versailles, to celebrate the wedding of the Comte d'Artois and Marie-Thérèse of Savoy.

**January 1, 1774** *Pass but a few short fleeting years*, an ode by William Boyce (62) to words of Whitehead, is performed for the first time.

**January 3, 1774** An insurgent army of many different ethnic groups attack Ufa but are driven back.

**January 5, 1774** Cossacks loyal to Pugachev enter Samara in triumph. Meanwhile, in St. Petersburg, the Imperial government proclaims that Pugachev is a pretender and that all who follow him are criminals.

**January 9, 1774** In the middle of a snowstorm, Imperial troops defeat Cossack rebels and recapture Samara from them.

**January 12, 1774** A second version of *Alessandro nelle Indie*, an opera seria by Niccolò Piccinni (45) to words of Metastasio, is performed for the first time, in Teatro San Carlo, Naples to celebrate the birthday of King Ferdinando IV. It is a big success with press and public.

The citizens of Newport, Rhode Island boycott all persons buying or selling tea.

**January 16, 1774** Cossacks foment an uprising in Chelyabinsk and the surrounding area.

**January 20, 1774** 10 p.m. Florian Leopold Gassmann dies in Vienna, aged 44 years, eight months and 15 days. He is succeeded as Austrian court composer and conductor of the Italian opera by his young protege, Antonio Salieri (23).

**January 21, 1774** The Ottoman Sultan Mustafa III dies in Constantinople and is succeeded by his brother Abdulhamid I.

Peasant insurgents attack Chelyabinsk but are thrown back.

**January 24, 1774** Imperial Russian forces march out of Orenburg and attack Pugachev's rebels north of the town. The action turns into a fiasco and the Russian limp back to Orenburg.

The expedition led by Junípero Serra sets sail from the port of San Blas (Nayarit) heading north towards the Californias.

*Das Opfer der Nymphen*, a prologue by Johann Abraham Peter Schulz (26) to words of Ramler, is performed for the first time, in Berlin.

**January 25, 1774** Citizens of Boston tar and feather a customs official and march him through town.

**January 29, 1774** *Perseo*, an opera seria by Antonio Sacchini (43) to words of Bottarelli after Aureli, is performed for the first time, in King's Theatre, London.

**January 30, 1774** The Cook expedition reaches a furthest south of 71° 10' at longitude 106° west where it is stopped by ice. No one will reach this far south for 49 years. He turns north satisfied that there is no "great southern continent."

**January 31, 1774** Pugachev's rebels assault the fortress of the Cossack capital of Yaitsk (Oral) but are thrown back with heavy losses.

The British Parliament dismisses its Postmaster-General for the American Colonies because of his seditious activities. His name is Benjamin Franklin.

**February 3, 1774** A peasant army surrounds Kungur, northwest of Ekaterinburg.

**February 5, 1774** Insurgents attack Ufa for a second time and for a second time are driven off.

**February 7, 1774** Antonio Salieri (23) is appointed Court Chamber Composer and director of the Italian Opera.

**February 9, 1774** Imperial Russian troops break the siege of Kungur. It is the furthest north the insurrection will reach.

**February 12, 1774** Despite the fact that he already has a wife and three children, insurgent leader Emelian Ivanovich Pugachev marries Ustinia Petrovna Kuznetsova, a 16-year-old Cossack, in Yaitsk (Orel).

**February 19, 1774** Imperial Russian troops quit Chelyabinsk, along with most of the population. An insurgent army move in the same day.

**February 26, 1774** An advertisement in the *Wiener Diarium* announces the first Vienna publication of Joseph Haydn's (41) music: six piano sonatas XVI: 21-26.

**March 2, 1774** Imperial Russian troops regain control of Krasnoufimsk, southeast of Kungur, from the rebels.

**March 10, 1774** Russian Imperial troops soundly defeat Cossack insurgents at Utkinsk.

Russian Empress Ekaterina II appoints Grigory Alyeksandrovich Potemkin her adjutant-general.

**March 11, 1774** The Cook expedition reaches Easter Island, the third European voyage to do so.

**March 20, 1774** Johann Herbst (38) is ordained a deacon in the Moravian Church in Barby.

**March 23, 1774** *The Fall of Egypt*, an oratorio by John Stanley (62) to words of Hawkesworth, is performed for the first time, in Drury Lane Theatre, London.

**March 25, 1774** The British Parliament votes to close the port of Boston in retaliation for the Boston Tea Party. They also require the city to pay for the tea lost in the Boston Tea Party last December. It will become effective on June 1.

**March 30, 1774** A setting of Psalm 50, *Miserere* by Nicolò Jommelli (59) is performed for the first time, at the home of Saverio Mattei in Naples on the Wednesday of Holy Week. The composer is at the harpsichord.

The Royal Governor of Massachusetts dissolves that colony's General Assembly.

**April 2, 1774** Imperial troops smash Pugachev's Cossacks at Fort Tatishchev, west of Orenburg, nearly capturing Pugachev himself. 2,500 rebels are killed, 3,000 captured.

General Thomas Gage is appointed Royal Governor of Massachusetts.

**April 4, 1774** Imperial troops rout the northern force of the Cossack rebellion near Ufa.

Oliver Goldsmith dies in London at the age of 46.

*Thamos, König in Ägypten*, a play by Tobias Philipp Baron von Gebler, is performed in the Kärntnertheater, Vienna, probably for the first time, with music by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (18).

**April 6, 1774** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (18) dates his Symphony no.29 K.201 in Salzburg.

**April 7, 1774** The Cook expedition reaches the Marquesas Islands at Fafu Huku, a previously unknown island. They will eventually anchor at Santa Christina (Tahu-ata).

**April 13, 1774** A second setting of the musical drama *Henry and Emma* by Thomas Augustine Arne (64) to words of Bate Dudley after Prior, is performed for the first time, at Covent Garden, London.

**April 15, 1774** *Amor vincitore*, a serenata by Johann Christian Bach (38), is performed for the first time, in Carlisle House, Soho Square, London.

**April 17, 1774** Empress Ekaterina II receives word of a favorable response from Constantinople to her peace overtures at the same time she receives word of Pugachev's defeat at Fort Tatishchev on April 2.

Václav Jan Krtitel Tomásek is born in Skutec, 113 km east of Prague, the youngest of 13 children born to a linen merchant.

**April 19, 1774** Emelian Pugachev revives his revolt by taking the Avziano-Petrovsky metal works on the upper Belaya River. They add 400 men to their number and take on badly needed provisions. *Iphigénie en Aulide*, a tragédie opéra by Christoph Willibald Gluck (59) to words of DuRoulet after Racine after Euripedes, is performed for the first time, at the Paris Opéra. It was scheduled for April 13, but when a lead singer caught a cold, Gluck changed the date of the premiere, even though many members of the royal family planned to attend. As it turned out, the royal family adjusted their schedule to accommodate Gluck. More than any other, this work solidifies Gluck's success with the Parisian public. It captivates the audience, which includes the dauphin and his wife, Marie Antoinette.

*Nitteti*, an opera seria by Antonio Sacchini (43) to words of Bottarelli after Metastasio, is performed for the first time, in King's Theatre, London.

**April 22, 1774** Citizens board the *London* in New York harbor and destroy a shipment of tea aboard.

**April 24, 1774** Pugachev and his force take the Beloretsk metal works. He will use this as a base for acquiring new forces.

**April 27, 1774** Imperial Russian troops regain the Cossack capital of Yaitsk (Orel) from insurgents.

**April 30, 1774** After six years, French troops evacuate the Papal lands of Avignon.

**May 5, 1774** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (18) dates his Symphony no.30 K.202 in Salzburg.

**May 10, 1774** King Louis XV of France dies at Versailles and is succeeded by his grandson, Louis XVI, age 19. This, unfortunately, interrupts the successful run of Gluck's (59) *Iphigénie en Aulide*.

**May 12, 1774** A Boston town meeting recommends that all colonies suspend trade with Great Britain.

**May 17, 1774** Pugachev's forces capture Fort Magnitnaia (Magnitogorsk).

The town meeting of Providence, Rhode Island calls for a meeting of all the North American colonies to deal with British policies. It is the first such call by any assembly in the colonies.

Carrying a much more aggressive colonial policy, General Thomas Gage arrives in Boston to take up the post of royal governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, replacing Thomas Hutchinson.

**May 20, 1774** Royal assent is granted to two acts of the British Parliament: 1. The Administration of Justice Act provides that royal officials accused of a capital crime will be tried in another colony or England, rather than the colony in which the crime was committed. 2. Massachusetts Government Act nullifies the colony's charter and grants the governor direct control over town meetings, judges, jurors and sheriffs.

**May 24, 1774** The Virginia House of Burgesses adopts a protest against the Boston Port Act.

**May 25, 1774** *Il geloso in cimento*, a dramma giocoso by Pasquale Anfossi (47) to words of Bertati after Goldoni, is performed for the first time, in the Vienna Burgtheater.

**May 26, 1774** The Virginia House of Burgesses is dissolved by the royal governor.

**May 27, 1774** Meeting illegally, the Virginia House of Burgesses declares that an attack on one colony is an assault on all.

**May 28, 1774** William Billings (27) advertises in the *Providence Gazette* for a singing school.

**May 30, 1774** Pugachev's forces capture Troisk, murder the officers and many of the inhabitants, and carry off a large amount of booty.

**May 31, 1774** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (18) dates his Concertone K.190 in Salzburg.

**June 1, 1774** Russian Imperial troops surprise Pugachev's rebels outside Troitsk and massacre them mercilessly. 4,000 are killed, the rest scattered.

The Boston Port Act goes into effect closing the port of the city. Acts of fasting and prayer occur throughout the colonies.

**June 2, 1774** Henri Léonard Jean Baptiste Bertin replaces Emmanuel Armand de Vignerot du Plessis de Richelieu, duc D'Aiguillon as Chief Minister of France.

The British Quartering Act is passed by Parliament. It allows for stationing of regular troops in any building in the colonies. This act and the two of May 20 become known as the Coercive Acts.

**June 3, 1774** Russian Imperial troops once again defeat Cossack rebels under Pugachev, killing about 1,000 of them. Pugachev escapes.

**June 4, 1774** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (18) dates his Bassoon Concerto K.191 in Salzburg.

*Hark!--or does the Muse's ear*, an ode by William Boyce (62) to words of Whitehead, is performed for the first time, to honor the birthday of King George III.

**June 11, 1774** Emmerich Josef, Baron Breidbach, Elector-Archbishop of Mainz, dies.

**June 17, 1774** The Massachusetts General Assembly calls for delegates from all colonies to meet in Philadelphia on September 1. As a result, Governor Gage dissolves the Assembly.

**June 20, 1774** Russian forces invading Bulgaria encounter a large Turkish force near Shumla (Shumen) and after an eight-hour battle, send them into retreat. Another Russian force defeats the Turks on the Danube at Ruschuk (Ruse).

**June 22, 1774** The Quebec Act gains royal assent to take effect next May 1. The boundaries of the Province of Quebec are enlarged to include the coast of Labrador to the Great Lakes and the Ohio River. English law is to apply to criminal cases but civil cases will be judged by French law. The Roman Catholic Church is recognized and given special status.

**June 25, 1774** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (18) dates his *Missa brevis* K.192 in Salzburg.

**June 28, 1774** Johann Christian Bach (38), Karl Heinrich Abel and Giovanni Andrea Gallini acquire property on the corner of Hanover Street and Hanover Square, London, upon which they will build a concert hall.

**July 2, 1774** After three days of battle, Osa surrenders to Pugachev.

**July 9, 1774** The commander of Russian forces invading Bulgaria Pyotr Alyeksandrovich Rumiantsev, rejects a truce request from the Turkish Grand Vizier.

**July 17, 1774** The Cook expedition reaches Espiritu Santo in Vanuatu, the third European expedition to visit this island. Cook will lead the first circumnavigation and charting of the entire group, naming them New Hebrides.

**July 18, 1774** Friedrich Karl Josef, Baron Erthal becomes Elector-Archbishop of Mainz.

**July 21, 1774** Charles Gravier, comte de Vergennes replaces Henri Léonard Jean Baptiste Bertin as Chief Minister of France.

Russia and the Ottoman Empire reach peace terms at Küçük-Kainardji. Russia receives Azov, Kerch, Yenikale, Kinburn and some of the Black Sea coast between the Dnieper and Bug rivers. The Crimea becomes independent. Reparations are to be paid by Turkey. Russia is granted free navigation on the Black Sea.

**July 22, 1774** Having picked up thousands of followers along the way, Pugachev reaches Kazan at the head of an army of 20,000.

**July 23, 1774** 20,000 peasants led by Emelian Pugachev capture Kazan, put it to the torch, kill the men and carry off the women. Russian troops catch up with the rebels and defeat them outside the city.

**July 24, 1774** Russian Imperial troops again attack Pugachev's rebels and force them back.

**July 26, 1774** Pugachev reinforces and reforms his army and counterattacks against Russian troops at Kazan. After four hours, the rebels are routed. 2,000 are killed, 5,000 captured.

Karl Theodor von Dalberg replaces Emerich Josef von Breisach zu Burrenheim as Prince-Bishop of Worms.

William Billings (27) marries Lucy Swan in Stoughton, Massachusetts.

**July 31, 1774** Pugachev's forces take Kurmysh without a fight. Middle and upper classes flee in panic at his approach.

**August 1, 1774** Joseph Priestley isolates oxygen in the laboratory of his home in Calne, England. He will receive the credit for discovering the element, although the German Carl Wilhelm Scheele produced oxygen in Sweden before 1773.

**August 2, 1774** *Orphée et Eurydice*, a tragédie opéra by Christoph Willibald Gluck (60) to words of Moline after Calzabigi, is performed for the first time, at the Paris Opéra. See October 5, 1762.

**August 3, 1774** News of the Peace of Küçük-Kainardji reaches St. Petersburg setting off wild celebrations of joy and thanksgiving. Meanwhile, Pugachev turns south and enters Alatyry without firing a shot.

**August 5, 1774** Fearful of the approach of Pugachev, officials in Moscow begin planning the defense of the city.

*Six Quintets* op.11, B70-75 for flute or violin, oboe or violin, viola, cello by Johann Christian Bach (38) are published in London.

**August 7, 1774** Turning southwest from Alatyry, Pugachev enters Saransk. Over the next three days, more than sixty landowners and stewards will be hanged.

**August 8, 1774** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (18) dates his *Missa brevis* K.194 in Salzburg.

**August 10, 1774** A manifesto issued by Pugachev inspires serfs along the Volga and Sura to rise up and kill their landowners. Many are inspired to do just that.

**August 12, 1774** Moving south from Saransk, Pugachev enters and invests Penza.

**August 17, 1774** Pugachev's army captures Saratov from outnumbered defenders.

**August 24, 1774** High ministers René Nicolas Charles Augustin de Maupeou and Joseph Marie Terray are sacked by King Louis XVI of France. They are replaced by Anne-Robert-Jacques Turgot, Baron de Laune as Controller General and Armand Thomas Hue de Miromesnil as Keeper of the Seals.

**August 25, 1774** After a second stroke, Nicolò Jommelli dies in Naples, aged 59 years, eleven months and 15 days. His mortal remains will be buried next to those of his wife in the Chapel of San Tommaso da Villanova in the Church of San Agostino della Zecca.

**August 28, 1774** Pugachev and his forces enter Dubovka, capital of the Volga Cossacks, and is welcomed in triumph.

**August 29, 1774** *Halt an dem Vorbilde* for chorus and strings by Johannes Herbst (39) is performed for the first time.

**September 1, 1774** Pugachev's forces surround Tsaritsyn (Volgograd) and begin bombarding the town. A vigorous response from the defenders causes Pugachev to move further south down the Volga.

A false rumor spreads that British ships are bombarding Boston. By morning, 3,000 militiamen are assembled on Cambridge Common. 10,000 more are within 30 km.

**September 5, 1774** Captain Cook's ship *Resolution* drops anchor at New Caledonia.

Pursuing Russian troops finally catch up to Pugachev's forces and attack them 100 km south of Tsaritsyn (Volgograd). The rebels are smashed and the survivors scatter in flight. Pugachev escapes but this essentially ends his rebellion.

The First Continental Congress opens in Philadelphia. All colonies except Georgia are represented. Peyton Randolph of Virginia is elected president.

**September 13, 1774** French Controller-General Turgot liberalizes the grain trade by removing all restrictions on the grain market. It meets with serious opposition.

**September 14, 1774** Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach (60) announces the publication of his oratorio *Die Israeliten in der Wüste* in the *Hamburgischer Unpartheyischer Correspondent*.

**September 19, 1774** Johann Wolfgang von Goethe receives the first three pre-publication copies of *Die Leiden des jungen Werthers* (*The Sorrows of Young Werther*) from his publisher. It will go on sale at Michaelmas.

**September 21, 1774** A convention of Massachusetts towns meets in Worcester and urges all town meetings to create companies of "minutemen". It also recommends a system of alarms and riders be set up.

**September 22, 1774** Giovanni Vincenzo Antonio Ganganelli, Pope Clement XIV, dies in Rome.

**September 26, 1774** Yaik Cossacks betray their former leader, Pugachev, and hand him over to Imperial Russian authorities at Yaitsk (Oral).

The town meeting of Concord, Massachusetts votes to create a company of minutemen.

**September 27, 1774** *La pubblica felicità*, a cantata by Luigi Cherubini (14), is performed for the first time, in the Florence Cathedral.

**October 1, 1774** An all-day battle between Chief Logan's Indians and British troops (at Point Pleasant, West Virginia) causes the Indians to retreat across the Ohio River. 88 people are killed.

**October 3, 1774** Members of the White Lotus religious sect, led by Wang Lun, capture the city of Shou Chiang in Shantung Province, China. They shortly move on to take other cities in the province.

**October 5, 1774** The Massachusetts Assembly meets illegally in Salem.

**October 7, 1774** News of Pugachev's capture reaches St. Petersburg.

The Massachusetts Assembly reconstitutes itself in Concord and elects John Hancock president.

**October 10, 1774** Antonio Salieri (24) marries Theresia Helferstorfer, whose father once worked in the Austrian court treasury, on the same day as the dress rehearsal for his opera *La calamita de cuori*.

**October 11, 1774** The White Lotus rebels lay siege to the city of Lintsing, China.

A provincial congress for Massachusetts meets in Concord and becomes the de facto government for the colony.

*La calamita de cuori*, a dramma giocosa by Antonio Salieri (24) to words of Goldoni, is performed for the first time, in the Kärntnertortheater, Vienna.

**October 14, 1774** The Continental Congress adopts a Declaration of Rights containing eleven articles—rights of Englishmen denied the colonists.

**October 18, 1774** By decree of Empress Maria Theresa, Christoph Willibald Gluck (60) is created Imperial Court Composer in Vienna, "in consideration of his thorough knowledge of music and his proven especial skill, as also an ability practiced in various compositions."

**October 19, 1774** After paying duty on tea imported by his ship in Annapolis, Captain Anthony Stewart agrees to run his ship aground and set it afire, to dissuade an angry mob from killing him.

**October 20, 1774** All of the settlements of the British East India Company are unified under a single rule.

The Continental Congress adopts the Continental Association, wherein the twelve colonies assembled agree not to import or consume British goods or export to Britain. It will become effective on December 1. They further resolve that the colonies "discountenance and discourage all horse racing and all kinds of gaming, cock fighting, exhibitions of shows, plays and other expensive diversions and entertainments."

**October 26, 1774** The Continental Congress adjourns in Philadelphia.

The Massachusetts Assembly organizes companies of militia sworn to be ready “at the minute” and takes measures to collect ammunition for defense.

**October 31, 1774** Surrounded by imperial troops, the leader of the White Lotus rebels, Wang Lun, takes his own life by setting fire to the tower he is in at Lintsing, Shantung Province.

**November 11, 1774** A massive public funeral service in memory of Nicolò Jommelli (†0) takes place in the Church of San Agostino della Zecca, Naples.

**November 12, 1774** King Louis XVI's lit de justice of this date restores the Parlements almost four years after they were dissolved.

**November 14, 1774** Gaspare Luigi Pacifico Spontini is born in Maiolati, near Iesi, the son of an artisan.

**November 15, 1774** Emelian Pugachev reaches Moscow under guard and is imprisoned in the Kremlin. A large crowd is gathered for the event.

**November 17, 1774** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (18) dates his *Symphony no.28* K.200 in Salzburg.

**November 22, 1774** Implicated in the financial difficulties of the British East India Company, former governor of Bengal Robert, Lord Clive, stabs himself to death in his London home.

**November 28, 1774** *Lucio Vero*, an opera seria by Tommaso Traetta (47) to words of Coltellini after Zeno, is performed for the first time, at the Russian court, St. Petersburg.

**December 4, 1774** *Il divertimento de' numi*, a scherzo rappresentativo per musica by Giovanni Paisiello (34) to words of Lorenzi, is performed for the first time, in the Royal Palace, Naples.

**December 6, 1774** Leopold (55) and Wolfgang Amadeus (18) Mozart depart Salzburg for Munich to produce *La finta giardiniera*.

**December 14, 1774** Armed colonials seize the British garrison of Fort William and Mary in Portsmouth, New Hampshire and make off with guns and powder. There are no serious casualties.

**December 18, 1774** Empress Maria Theresa orders the expulsion of Jews from Bohemia and Moravia.

**December 26, 1774** *Olimpiade*, a dramma per musica by Pasquale Anfossi (47) to words of Metastasio, is performed for the first time, in Teatro San Benedetto, Venice.

**January 10, 1775** Emelian Pugachev confesses to his crimes in Moscow before the Senators of Moscow and members of the Holy Synod.

**January 13, 1775** *La finta giardiniera* K.196, an opera buffa by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (18) to words possibly by Petrosellini, is performed for the first time, in the Munich Assembly Rooms in the presence of Elector Maximilian III. It is warmly received.

**January 15, 1775** After receiving the Last Rites of the Roman Catholic Church and a special papal blessing with plenary indulgence, Giovanni Battista Sammartini dies in Milan, aged approximately 74 years.

**January 16, 1775** Evening. The earthly remains of Giovanni Battista Sammartini are laid to rest in the Church of San Alessandro, Milan.

The expedition of Captain James Cook aboard *Resolution* discovers and names Willis Island and Bird Island, and rediscovers and renames South Georgia. He claims South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands for Great Britain.

**January 18, 1775** *Berthe*, an opéra by François-André Danican-Philidor (48), François-Joseph Gossec (41) and others to words of de Pleinchesne, is performed for the first time, at the Théâtre de la Monnaie, Brussels. Danican-Philidor sends the overture from Paris today and it will not arrive until January 24, but the opera will probably not be repeated.

A solemn mass in memory of Giovanni Battista Sammartini is sung by musicians of the Milan Cathedral and others. Several Sammartini symphonies are played.

**January 21, 1775** Before a large crowd in Bolotnaia Square, Moscow, Emelian Ivanovich Pugachev is beheaded, followed by the severing of his hands and feet (a symbolic quartering). The limbs and

head are placed on public display before being burned. Four other revolt leaders are executed while several more receive corporal punishment.

**January 26, 1775** The expedition of Captain James Cook aboard *Resolution* discovers the southern end of the South Sandwich Islands, the southernmost land yet known.

In an effort to wipe out the memory of the Pugachev revolt, Empress Ekaterina renames the Yaik River the Ural River (now Zhayya), and Yaitsk is renamed Uralsk (now Oral).

**January 27, 1775** *Ariadne auf Naxos*, a duodrama by Georg Benda (52) to words of Brandes after von Gerstenberg, is performed for the first time in Gotha. It is Benda's first stage work in German and finds great success.

**January 31, 1775** Fabrizio Giustiniani Banca replaces Alessandro Piero Francesco Grimaldi as Doge of Genoa.

**February 1, 1775** William Pitt's "Plan for Conciliation with the Colonies" is rejected by Parliament at the first reading.

The Hanover Square Rooms, the newly renovated London theatre built by Johann Christian Bach (39), Karl Friedrich Abel and Giovanni Andrea Gallini, is inaugurated with the first concert of a new season of the Bach-Abel series. The space will be used by concert goers for a century.

*La fausse magie*, a comédie mêlée de chants by André-Ernest-Modeste Grétry (33) to words of Marmontel, is performed for the first time, at the Comédie-Italienne, Paris.

**February 7, 1775** *Montezuma*, an opera seria by Antonio Sacchini (44) to words of Bottarelli, is performed for the first time, in King's Theatre, London.

**February 9, 1775** The British Parliament declares Massachusetts to be in a state of rebellion.

**February 10, 1775** *Der Jahrmarkt*, a comische Oper by Georg Benda (52) to words of Gotter and Engel, is performed for the first time, in Gotha.

**February 15, 1775** Giovanni Angelo Braschi becomes Pope Pius VI.

**February 20, 1775** In an unexpected attempt to diffuse the situation in the North American colonies, Prime Minister Lord North introduces the Conciliatory Resolution to the the House of Commons. It proposes to return the power of taxation to the colonies, if their taxation be approved by the King and both Houses of Parliament.

**February 23, 1775** *Le Barbier de Séville* by Pierre-Augustin Caron de Beaumarchais is performed for the first time, by the Comédie française in the Tuileries, Paris.

**February 26, 1775** British troops sent from Boston to seize colonial weapons meet armed opposition and crowds of indignant citizens in Salem. The British withdraw without shots fired.

**February 27, 1775** Lord North's Conciliatory Resolution of February 20 is approved by the Commons.

A second version of *L'arbre enchanté* by Christoph Willibald Gluck (60) to words of Moline after Vadé, is performed for the first time, at the Versailles opera house. See October 3, 1759.

**March 2, 1775** 135 kg of tea are burned in Market Square, Providence.

**March 3, 1775** *Symphonie Concertante* in C, C43 by Johann Christian Bach (39) is performed for the first time, in the King's Theater in the Haymarket, London.

**March 5, 1775** A setting of *Misericordias Domini* K.222 for chorus, two violins, bass and organ by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (19) is performed for the first time, in Munich.

**March 7, 1775** Leopold (55), Wolfgang Amadeus (19) and Nannerl Mozart return to Salzburg from Munich.

**March 8, 1775** In his home laboratory in Calne, England, Joseph Priestley discovers that mice need oxygen to survive.

**March 10, 1775** In defiance of Britain's prohibition against colonial expansion beyond the Alleghenies, Daniel Boone sets out from Ft. Wautage, North Carolina, making for the mouth of the Kentucky River.

**March 20, 1775** François-André Danican-Philidor's (48) opéra-comique *Les femmes vengées, ou Les feintes infidélités* to words of Sedaine is performed for the first time, at the Comédie-Italienne, Paris. The reviews are mixed, but the work is generally successful.

**March 22, 1775** Edmund Burke addresses the House of Commons at length, advocating reconciliation with the American colonists.

**March 23, 1775** Speaking before the Virginia Provincial Assembly in Richmond, Patrick Henry declares "Give me liberty or give me death."

**March 28, 1775** Empress Ekaterina II of Russia issues an amnesty for all involved in the Pugachev revolt.

**March 30, 1775** Royal assent is granted to the New England Restraint Act. Beginning July 1, the New England colonies will be forbidden to trade with anyone but Great Britain and the British West Indies.

**April 1, 1775** Daniel Boone establishes Boonesborough at the mouth of the Kentucky River.

**April 2, 1775** *Il ritorno di Tobia*, an oratorio by Joseph Haydn (43) to words of Giovanni Gastone Boccherini, is performed for the first time, in Vienna, directed by the composer.

Two British ships arrive at Marblehead, Massachusetts, reportedly with orders for Governor Gage to act sternly with colonial leaders. With this, almost all the leaders leave Boston, with the exception of Paul Revere and Joseph Warren.

**April 3, 1775** The first recorded appearance by Muzio Clementi (23) as a pianist in London takes place at the Hickford Rooms.

**April 7, 1775** While dining with friends, Samuel Johnson remarks "Patriotism is the last refuge of a scoundrel."

**April 14, 1775** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (18) dates his Violin Concerto K.207 in Salzburg.

*HMS Nautilus* arrives in Boston with orders for Governor Gage from London. They have declared Massachusetts in open rebellion and order Gage to use force to put it down.

Benjamin Franklin and Benjamin Rush are named presidents of the Pennsylvania Society for the Relief of Free Negroes Unlawfully Held in Bondage, the first anti-slavery society in North America.

**April 15, 1775** Members of the Massachusetts legislature, which has been meeting in Concord, flee the town amidst reports of British troops about to depart Boston.

**April 18, 1775** Under orders of Governor Gage, Lt. Col. Francis Smith and 700 British troops set off from Boston across the Charles River, intending to march to Concord to seize colonial stores. The colonials are forewarned by riders from Boston.

**April 19, 1775** Dawn. British troops reach Lexington Common, 15 km northwest of Boston, where 70 armed colonials wait. In the ensuing action, eight colonials are killed, ten wounded. One British soldier is wounded. The soldiers then move on to Concord. There they carry off what stores they can find and meet armed resistance. On their retreat to Boston they are constantly harassed by colonial militiamen. By the end of the day, 1,800 British troops have encountered a total of 4,000 colonials. 65 British and 49 colonials are dead, while 199 British and 46 colonials are wounded or missing. Colonial forces dig in and lay siege to Boston. It is the first day of the American Revolution.

**April 23, 1775** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's (19) serenata *Il ré pastore* K.208 to words after Metastasio, is performed for the first time, in the Archepiscopal Palace, Salzburg for the visit of Archduke Maximilian Franz, youngest son of Empress Maria Theresa. The production is in a concert setting as there is no opera house in Salzburg.

As the news from Lexington and Concord reaches New York City, colonials seize the arsenal and its 600 muskets as well as the customs house and most other public buildings.

The Massachusetts General Court calls for the raising of an army of 30,000 men.

**April 27, 1775** Antoine Laurent Lavoisier reads his paper "Experiments Upon Vegetables, Discovering Their Great Power of Purifying the Common Air in Sunshine, and of Injuring It in the

Shade and at Night" before the French Academy of Sciences. It identifies oxygen as a component of air and that it combines with other metals upon calcination.

**May 1, 1775** *Il maniscalco*, an operetta giocoso by Carl Ditters von Dittersdorf (35) to words after Quétant, is performed for the first time, in the Turm-Theater, Johannisberg, near Jauernig (Javorník). *Medea*, a melodrama by Georg Benda (52) to words of Gotter after Euripedes, is performed for the first time, in Leipzig.

**May 2, 1775** Benjamin Franklin completes his study of the Gulf Stream. He is the first to chart the Gulf Stream.

**May 7, 1775** Austria annexes Bukovina from the Ottoman Empire.

**May 9, 1775** Green Mountain Boys accompanied by men from New Hampshire and Connecticut, led by Ethan Allen and Benedict Arnold demand and receive the surrender of the British garrison of Ft. Ticonderoga on Lake Champlain "in the name of the great Jehovah and the Continental Congress," or so Allen's story goes.

**May 10, 1775** The Second Continental Congress Convenes in Philadelphia.

Vermont militia capture the British garrison of Fort Crown Point, 15 km north of Fort Ticonderoga on the New York side of Lake Champlain. There is no resistance.

**May 18, 1775** Colonial forces under Benedict Arnold surprise the British garrison at St. Johns, Canada, capture HMS *George III*, destroy boats and other stores and withdraw to Ft. Ticonderoga.

**May 19, 1775** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (18) dates his aria *Si Mostra la Sorte* K.209 in Salzburg.

**May 26, 1775** *Clarissa, oder Das unbekannte Dienstmädchen*, an operette by Johann Abraham Peter Schulz (28) to words of Bock, is performed for the first time, in Berlin.

**May 31, 1775** The Royal Governor of North Carolina flees New Bern to Fort Johnston on Cape Fear.

**June 4, 1775** *Ye Powers who rule o'er states and Kings*, an ode by William Boyce (63) to words of Whitehead, is performed for the first time, to celebrate the birthday of King George III.

**June 8, 1775** Lord Dunmore, Royal Governor of Virginia, takes refuge aboard HMS *Fowey* at Yorktown.

The graduating class of Rhode Island College, led by Andrew Law (26) and two others, petitions the president, faculty and trustees to hold the upcoming commencement ceremonies in accordance with the call of the Continental Congress to "discourage every species of extravagance and dissipation."

**June 10, 1775** In Como, Alessandro Volta writes to Joseph Priestley that he has invented an electrophorus for the purpose of creating and storing electricity. It has already been developed by Swedish Professor Johannes Wilcke in 1762.

**June 11, 1775** Armed lumbermen take over the British cutter HMS *Margetta* at Machias, Maine district.

**June 12, 1775** Governor Gage proclaims martial law in Massachusetts promising pardons to all who pledge allegiance to the crown, except for Samuel Adams and John Hancock.

**June 14, 1775** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (18) dates his Violin Concerto K.211 in Salzburg.

The Continental Congress authorizes the raising of six companies of riflemen, the first Continental Army.

**June 15, 1775** The Continental Congress chooses George Washington as commander-in-chief of the Continental Army.

**June 16, 1775** 1,200 colonials fortify Breeds Hill overlooking Boston.

George Washington accepts command of the Continental Army in Philadelphia.

**June 17, 1775** British ships bombard Charles Town, Massachusetts setting the town on fire. British troops assault colonial fortifications on Breeds Hill just north of Boston. After twice repulsing the attackers, the colonials are overrun when their ammunition gives out. The British suffer 1,054 casualties, almost half of their attacking strength. Colonials lose 100 dead, 267 wounded and 30 captured.

**June 21, 1775** Karl Wilhelm replaces Karl as Prince of Nassau-Usingen.

**June 24, 1775** William Boyce (63) files his will, leaving all his possessions to his wife and children.

**July 3, 1775** George Washington assumes command of all colonial forces on Cambridge Common, Massachusetts.

**July 5, 1775** William Crotch is born in Norwich, the youngest son of Michael Crotch, a master carpenter, and Isabella Crotch.

The Continental Congress adopts the Olive Branch Petition to King George. It restates the colonial grievances and requests the king to solve the problem without further bloodshed. It will not be received by the king.

**July 7, 1775** Johann Christian Bach (39) and the painter Thomas Gainsborough, returning to London from Bath by coach, are set upon by two highwaymen two kilometers from Hammersmith. The thieves relieve Bach of his gold watch and chain and Gainsborough of his watch and two guineas. The robbers will be caught and condemned to death.

Dervis Mehmed Pasha replaces Izzet Mehmed Pasha as Grand Vizier of the Ottoman Empire.

**July 12, 1775** Colonials capture Fort Charlotte, South Carolina, 80 km north of Augusta, Georgia.

**July 18, 1775** The royal governor of North Carolina takes refuge aboard HMS *Cruzier* in the Cape Fear River.

**July 25, 1775** James Cook returns to England at the end of his second voyage. In three years in southern waters he has lost only four men, an unprecedented feat.

**July 26, 1775** The British cabinet resolves to send 2,000 more troops to Boston.

Benjamin Franklin is chosen as Postmaster-General by the Continental Congress.

**August 1, 1775** *La Cythère assiégée*, an opéra-ballet by Christoph Willibald Gluck (61) to words of Favart, is performed for the first time, at the Académie Royale, Paris. It is a revision of Gluck's 1759 opéra-comique. The response is not favorable.

**August 5, 1775** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (18) dates his *Serenade* K.204 in Salzburg.

**August 17, 1775** Two-year-old Joseph Franz Maria replaces Johann Franz Wilhelm as Count of Salm Reifferscheid zu Dyck under regency.

**August 20, 1775** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (18) dates his *March* K. 214 in Salzburg.

**August 22, 1775** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (18) dates his *Piano Sonata* K.284 in Salzburg.

**August 23, 1775** Mass in C by Luigi Cherubini (14) is performed for the first time, in Florence.

King George III declares the American colonies to be in open rebellion.

**August 29, 1775** Joseph Haydn's (43) *dramma giocoso L'incontro improvviso* to words of Friberth after Dancourt is performed for the first time, at Esterháza Palace for a state visit by Archduke Ferdinand and his consort Beatrice d'Este.

*Gott der Herr ist meine Stärke* for chorus and strings by Johannes Herbst (40) is performed for the first time.

**September 2, 1775** Aires de Sá e Melo replaces Luís da Cunha Manuel as Secretary of State (prime minister) of Portugal.

A hurricane hits the coast of North Carolina and over the next week will travel as far north as Nova Scotia. Over 4,000 people will be killed.

**September 5, 1775** Antoine Laurent Lavoisier reads his "Memoir on Combustion in General" before the French Academy of Sciences. He debunks Stahl's phlogiston theory and puts forth his own ideas about combustion.

**September 9, 1775** *La finta scema*, a commedia per musica by Antonio Salieri (25) to words of De Gamerra, is performed for the first time, in the Burgtheater, Vienna. The composer finds the singing substandard and will write that "this music was esteemed more than it was applauded."

**September 11, 1775** Colonel Benedict Arnold and 1,100 men set out from Cambridge making for Quebec, without permission of General Washington.

**September 12, 1775** The British government requests 20,000 soldiers from Russia for service in America.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (19) dates his Violin Concerto K.216 in Salzburg.

**September 13, 1775** Andrew Law (26) graduates from Rhode Island college, in the manner requested on June 8.

**September 25, 1775** In a poorly organized attack on Montreal, Ethan Allen and 40 of his men are captured.

**September 26, 1775** Philipp Franz Wilhelm Ignaz Peter replaces Franz Georg Karl Anton as Count of Leyen and Hohengeroldseck.

Two pastorales by François-Joseph Gossec (41) to words of Chabanon de Maugris are performed for the first time, at the Paris Opéra: *Alexis et Daphné* and *Philémon et Baucis*.

**September 28, 1775** Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach (61) writes to Crown Prince Friedrich Wilhelm of Prussia sending him several compositions hoping to have them performed.

**October 6, 1775** Leopold Mozart (55) writes to Breitkopf in Leipzig offering any of Wolfgang's (19) compositions for publishing. Breitkopf will politely decline.

**October 7, 1775** A British squadron bombards Bristol, Rhode Island, for one-and-a-half hours. They leave after the town sends out 40 sheep.

**October 10, 1775** Governor Gage is replaced as British commander in Boston by General Sir William Howe.

**October 13, 1775** The Continental Congress votes to buy two ships, the first of the Continental Navy.

**October 18, 1775** In retaliation for colonial privateers, a British ship bombards Falmouth (Portland), Maine district for nine hours. No one is killed, but 417 buildings and eleven ships are destroyed.

**October 19, 1775** The royal governor of New York seeks the refuge of HMS *Duchess of Gordon* in the harbor.

**October 23, 1775** American Stephen Sayre is arrested in London on suspicion of plotting the kidnapping of King George III.

**October 24, 1775** King Ferdinando IV of Naples orders performances of *Socrate immaginario* by Giovanni Paisiello (35) to words of Lorenzi halted. He finds the libretto "indiscreet."

**October 26, 1775** 60,000 people turn out to see King George III ride through London to Westminster to open Parliament. The King tells Parliament that the American colonies are in rebellion and that he intends to deal swiftly and harshly with the rebels.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (18) dates his aria *Voi avete un cor fedele* K.217 in Salzburg.

**October 28, 1775** Stephen Sayre is brought to court in London on charges of treason. Testifying against him is fellow American Lt. Francis Robinson, presently stationed in the Tower. Robinson says that Sayre told him of a plot to kidnap King George and hold him in the Tower. Sayre consistently denies the charges and without corroborating evidence, the case is dismissed. London newspapers treat the whole affair as a farce. Sayre will win a judgement of £1,000 for false arrest against William Henry, Earl of Rochford, who signed the arrest warrant.

*May-Day, or The Little Gipsy*, a musical farce by Thomas Augustine Arne (65) to words of Garrick is performed for the first time, in Drury Lane Theatre, London.

**November 2, 1775** The British garrison at St. John's surrenders after a colonial siege of 55 days. This leaves Montreal unprotected.

**November 5, 1775** Johann Pfalzgraf zu Gelnhausen replaces Christian III as Count of Birkenfeld. He is replaced as Duke of Palatinate-Zweibrücken-Birkenfeld by Karl III August Christian, Pfalzgraf von Birkenfeld.

*Lucio Silla*, an opera by Johann Christian Bach (40) to words of Verazi after De Gamerra, is performed for the first time, in the Mannheim Hoftheater. The court watches the opera in the knowledge that Duke Christian is near death. News of his end reaches them as the opera concludes.

Esek Hopkins is appointed commander of the Continental Navy at Philadelphia.

**November 7, 1775** Johann Wolfgang von Goethe arrives in Weimar, encouraged there by Duke Carl August. He will live there for the rest of his life.

John Murray, Lord Dunmore, Royal Governor of Virginia, from the protection of a British ship off Norfolk, declares martial law in the province and promises freedom to every slave that joins his cause.

**November 11, 1775** The Naples Cappella Reale grants Niccolò Piccinni (47) a one-year leave of absence on condition that one-quarter of his salary go to a replacement. He will travel to Rome but will return by next March.

**November 13, 1775** Empress Ekaterina II promulgates her Statute for the Administration of the Provinces of the Russian Empire. It decentralizes government and the courts. Elected representatives of different classes will be recruited into the government.

Colonial forces occupy Montreal.

**December 8, 1775** Today marks the first recorded use of digitalis by William Withering, an English physician, which he developed from foxglove. The patient, who complains of "an asthma" is treated successfully.

Colonial forces lay siege to Quebec.

**December 9, 1775** An expedition led by Colonel Henry Knox departs from Fort Ticonderoga south down Lake George. They are transporting 58 mortars and cannon from the fort to the Continental Army surrounding Boston. The total weight to be transported almost 500 km is estimated at over 50,000 kg.

**December 14, 1775** Maximilian Christoph von Rodt becomes Prince-Bishop of Constance.

**December 16, 1775** François-Adrien Boieldieu is born near Rouen, the first of three children born to Jacques François Adrien Boieldieu, a clerk in the secretariat of the Rouen archdiocese, and Anne-Marguerite Dumouchel.

**December 20, 1775** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (19) dates his Violin Concerto K.219 in Salzburg.

**December 22, 1775** The British Parliament passes the Prohibitory Act, forbidding all trade with their American colonies.

**December 31, 1775** The first performance of George Frideric Handel's (†16) *Messiah* in German takes place in Hamburg, conducted by Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach (61).

Colonial forces attack Quebec in a blinding snowstorm. They are repulsed by the British defenders with heavy losses.

**January 1, 1776** British soldiers in Boston send copies of the King's speech of October 26 across to the colonial lines. The copies just recently arrived in the city. The King's words fill the Americans with resolve and dash any hope of accommodation with the British. General Washington orders that the men surrounding Boston now be called the Continental Army.

*On the white rocks which guard her coast*, an ode by William Boyce (64) to words of Whitehead, is performed for the first time.

**January 2, 1776** *La vera costanza*, a dramma giocoso by Pasquale Anfossi (48) to words of Puttini, is performed for the first time, in Teatro delle Dame, Rome.

**January 3, 1776** *Le due contesse*, an intermezzo by Giovanni Paisiello (35) to words of Petrosellini, is performed for the first time, in Teatro Valle, Rome.

**January 5, 1776** New Hampshire adopts a revolutionary constitution at Exeter.

**January 6, 1776** Franz Joseph Haydn's (43) new symphony (no.60) is performed, possibly for the first time, between the acts of Regnard's play *Le distrait*, at the Kärntnertor Theater, Vienna.

**January 9, 1776** The expedition of Colonel Henry Knox departs the eastern shore of the Hudson River at Albany and begins the trek carrying 58 mortars and cannon over the Berkshires in the middle of winter.

**January 10, 1776** Thomas Paine's *Common Sense* is published in Philadelphia. It is a pamphlet laying out the arguments for immediate independence and the follies of monarchy. Within a few months it will sell 100,000 copies throughout the colonies.

**January 24, 1776** Colonel Henry Knox reaches Cambridge with 43 cannon and 16 mortars, having carried them overland from Fort Ticonderoga.

**January 25, 1776** Tommaso Traetta's (48) opera seria *La Merope* to words of Zeno is performed for the first time, in Teatro Ducale, Milan.

**February 11, 1776** The Royal Governor of Georgia escapes to a British warship.

**February 13, 1776** Domenico Cimarosa's (26) one-act comedies *I sdegni per amore* and *I matrimoni in ballo* are presented before King Ferdinando IV of Sicily. It is the first music of Cimarosa to receive a command performance.

**February 17, 1776** The first volume of Edward Gibbon's *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* is published.

By imperial decree, the Burgtheater in Vienna becomes the Hof-und National Theater, a home for German opera.

**February 20, 1776** *La Contadina fedele*, an opera by Carl Ditters von Dittersdorf (36) is performed for the first time, in the Turm-Theater, Johannsberg, near Jauernig (Javorník).

**February 22, 1776** *Phoebe at Court*, an operetta by Thomas Augustine Arne (65) to his own words after Lloyd, is performed for the first time, in the Little Theatre, Haymarket.

**February 23, 1776** *Walder*, an ernsthafte Operette by Georg Benda (53) to words of Gotter after Marmontel, is performed for the first time, in Gotha.

**February 27, 1776** News of the British Parliament's Declaratory Acts of last December reaches Philadelphia.

**March 2, 1776** The Continental Congress appoints Silas Deane as a secret envoy to France to assess whether that country would be likely to support the colonies in a fight for independence.

**March 3, 1776** Colonial naval forces capture New Providence (Nassau), Bahamas and carry off its military stores.

**March 4, 1776** During the night of March 4-5 3,000 colonial troops occupy the Dorchester Heights overlooking Boston setting up fortifications and gun emplacements with cannon and mortars from Fort Ticonderoga.

**March 5, 1776** British troops in Boston begin operations to assault the colonial positions on the Dorchester Heights. A furious storm comes up and the plan has to be postponed.

*Zemire und Azor*, a komische Oper by Christian Gottlob Neefe (28) to words of von Thummel after Marmontel, is performed for the first time, in Leipzig.

**March 6, 1776** With a fierce winter storm still raging in Boston, British commander General William Howe calls off the attack on Dorchester and orders the evacuation of Boston.

**March 9, 1776** *The Wealth of Nations* by Adam Smith is published in Britain.

**March 14, 1776** The Continental Congress votes to disarm the Tories, Americans opposed to the revolution.

**March 16, 1776** Emperor Joseph II cancels the contracts of the opera buffa and ballet in the Imperial theaters, their performances having become so poor.

**March 17, 1776** Empress Ekaterina II grants a monopoly to Prince Urusov to operate a theater in Moscow. This is the beginning of the Bolshoi Theater.

After a siege of eleven months, 6,000 British troops and 1,000 loyalists board ship in Boston move off shore. Colonial troops begin entering the town.

Colonial naval forces end their occupation of the Bahamas.

A rondo, duet and aria buffa by Luigi Cherubini (15) are performed for the first time, at the Accademia degli Ingegneri, Florence.

**March 20, 1776** British engineers blow up Castle William in Boston harbor.

**March 23, 1776** Baldassare Galuppi (69) leaves the service of the Ospedale degli incurabili in Venice. Emperor Joseph II gives instructions about the management of the Nationaltheater, Vienna. Only one composer is mentioned by name: Antonio Salieri (25). He is to be paid an annual salary of 200 ducats.

The Continental Congress allows for privateers to attack British shipping.

**March 25, 1776** Rebel militia attack a community of escaped slaves on Tybee Island at the mouth of the Savannah River, Georgia, killing as many as they can find. The whites fear that the British will use the former slaves against them, as they have pledged to do.

New reaches Philadelphia of the British evacuation of Boston

**March 26, 1776** Christian Gottlob Neefe's (28) drama *Heinrich und Lyda* to words of "B.C. d'Arien", is performed for the first time, in Berlin.

**March 27, 1776** The British fleet carrying troops and loyalists from Boston sets sail for Halifax, Nova Scotia.

**March 28, 1776** 247 Spanish colonists led by Juan Bautista de Anza arrive at the site of the present San Francisco and begin to establish a settlement.

**March 31, 1776** *Litaniae de venerabili altaris sacramento* K.243 for solo voices, chorus, orchestra and organ by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (20) is performed for the first time, in Salzburg.

**April 2, 1776** The Burgtheater, Vienna is proclaimed a national theater by Emperor Joseph II.

**April 6, 1776** The Continental Congress opens all ports in the 13 colonies to ships of all nations except Great Britain.

**April 12, 1776** The North Carolina Assembly meeting in Halifax authorizes its delegation in Congress to support independence.

**April 13, 1776** George Washington arrives in New York and begins making preparations for the defense of the city.

**April 23, 1776** *Alceste*, a tragédie opéra by Christoph Willibald Gluck (61) to words of Calzibigi in a French translation by Leblanc du Roullet, is performed for the first time, at the Paris Opéra. The third act is not well received but the work will eventually succeed.

**April 26, 1776** Grand Duchess Natalia, wife of Grand Duke Pavel, heir to the throne, dies in childbirth in St. Petersburg.

*Cefalo e Procri*, a cantata by Johann Christian Bach (40) to words possibly by Bottarelli, is performed for the first time, at the Hanover Square Rooms, London.

**April 29, 1776** The French government creates a Commission of Medicine to take information from doctors throughout the country which might help in dealing with epidemics.

**May 1, 1776** *La Moda, o sia Gli scompigli domestici*, a dramma giocoso by Carl Ditters von Dittersdorf (36) to words of Cipretti, is performed for the first time, in the Turm-Theater, Johannisberg, near Jauernig (Javorník).

**May 2, 1776** Based on discussion between Arthur Lee and the Comte de Vergennes, King Louis XVI decides to provide a loan of 1,000,000 livres to the cause of the American colonies.

**May 4, 1776** The Rhode Island Assembly proclaims their colony the independent state of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.

**May 6, 1776** The appearance of British reinforcements at Quebec causes the withdrawal of colonial troops.

*Symphonie concertante* in G, C45 by Johann Christian Bach (40) is performed for the first time in the Hanover Square Rooms, London.

**May 8, 1776** For two days, two British ships attempt to run the river defenses on the Delaware, south of Philadelphia. They fail and depart.

**May 12, 1776** King Louis XVI sacks his progressive Controller-General Anne-Robert-Jacques Turgot. He replaces him with Jean Etienne Bernard Ogier Clugny. Turgot's liberalizing reform of the economy will soon be repealed.

**May 15, 1776** The Virginia Assembly instructs its delegation in Congress to propose independence. The Continental Congress adopts a measure to suppress the powers of the crown and admit to no power in the colonies other than the people.

**June 4, 1776** *Ye Western gales, whose genial breath*, an ode by William Boyce (64) to words of Whitehead, is performed for the first time, to honor the birthday of King George III.

**June 7, 1776** Richard Henry Lee of Virginia introduces a resolution on independence to the Continental Congress.

**June 8, 1776** Colonial forces attack British and Canadians at Trois Rivières, halfway between Montreal and Quebec.

**June 9, 1776** Colonial forces evacuate Montreal.

**June 10, 1776** King Louis XVI of France approves loans to Americans.

After a three day battle at Trois Rivières, British and Canadian forces fight off colonial attackers. The Continental Congress decides to put off debate on independence until July 1, giving southern colonies time to receive instructions. In the meantime, they appoint a committee to draft a declaration of independence. The members are John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, Robert Livingston and Roger Sherman.

**June 12, 1776** *Le mariages samnites*, a drame lyrique by André-Ernest-Modeste Grétry (35) to words of de Rosoi after Marmontel, is performed for the first time, in the Comédie-Italienne, Paris.

**June 15, 1776** New Hampshire declares independence from Great Britain.

The New Jersey legislature orders the arrest of royal governor William Franklin (illegitimate son of Benjamin Franklin). They appoint new delegates to the Continental Congress and order them to vote in favor of independence.

**June 18, 1776** The *Divertimento* K.247 by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (20) is performed for the first time, for the nameday of Countess Antonia Lodron in Salzburg.

**June 20, 1776** The General Assembly of Connecticut declares its independence from Britain.

**June 27, 1776** The *Serenade* no.501 by Luigi Boccherini (33) is performed for the first time, for the wedding of the Spanish Infante Don Luis to Doña Maria Teresa Ballabriga y Rosas.

**June 28, 1776** Colonial shore batteries severely damage British ships in Charleston Harbor, South Carolina.

**June 30, 1776** Great Britain reintroduces troops to the thirteen rebellious colonies as they occupy Staten Island, New York. Eventually there will be 32,000 soldiers on the island, larger than any city in North America.

**July 1, 1776** The Continental Congress debates for nine hours Virginia's resolution on independence from Great Britain.

**July 2, 1776** The Continental Congress votes 12-0 for independence with one colony, New York, abstaining.

The colony of New Jersey grants suffrage to female citizens. This will remain in effect until 1807.

**July 4, 1776** After two days of debate and amendments, the Declaration of Independence is approved by the Continental Congress and signed by the President of the Congress, John Hancock and the Secretary of the Congress, Charles Thomson.

**July 5, 1776** The Philadelphia printer John Dunlap produces printed copies of the Declaration of Independence. Congressmen begin sending them throughout the country.

**July 6, 1776** The *Pennsylvania Evening Post* becomes the first newspaper to print the Declaration of Independence.

**July 7, 1776** Silas Deane arrives in Paris as the first representative of the United States to a foreign power.

**July 8, 1776** The Declaration of Independence is read publicly for the first time, before the State House in Philadelphia. This is followed by general celebrations, bonfires, and parades. The royal arms are removed from the Supreme Court at the State House and placed on a large fire.

**July 9, 1776** General Washington orders that the Declaration of Independence be read to the troops assembled on the New York Common (City Hall Park). After the reading, citizens of the city tear down the large equestrian statue of King George III.

The New York Assembly votes to support independence, thereby allowing its representatives to sign the document in Philadelphia.

**July 12, 1776** James Cook sets sail from Plymouth on his third voyage to the southern oceans, aboard *Resolution* to be joined later by *Discovery*.

Five British ships proceed up the Hudson past the American shore batteries. They anchor unmolested at Tarrytown.

**July 14, 1776** An emissary from General Howe meets with General Washington in New York with peace overtures. Washington politely but pointedly rebuffs the offer.

**July 17, 1776** Joseph Haydn's (44) house is once again part of a general conflagration in Eisenstadt. The town hall, two churches, a monastery, a brewery and 104 houses are destroyed. 16 people are killed. This time he is probably at Esterháza and not much music is within the house. Prince Nicholas will pay to have it rebuilt.

**July 21, 1776** The Serenade K.250 "Haffner" by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (20) is performed for the first time, for the evening before the wedding of Franz Xaver Anton Späth to Marie Elisabeth Haffner in Salzburg.

**July 24, 1776** *Il Genio della Russia e il Genio della Prussia* by Johann Friedrich Reichardt (23) to words by Landi, is performed for the first time, as a prologue to a performance of Carl Heinrich Graun's (†16) *Angelica e Medoro*, in the Royal Opera House, Berlin.

**July 26, 1776** The *Divertimento* K.251 by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (20) is performed for the first time, in Salzburg for the 25th nameday of his sister, Nannerl.

**July 29, 1776** Giovanni Paisiello (36) leaves Naples for St. Petersburg where he will take up duties as maestro di cappella to the Russian court.

*Daliso e Delmita*, an azione pastorale by Antonio Salieri (25) to words of De Gamerra, is performed for the first time, in the Burgtheater, Vienna.

**August 1, 1776** Spain separates the Viceroyalty of Rio de la Plata (Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay, Uruguay) from Peru.

**August 2, 1776** A fair copy of the Declaration of Independence now being available, Congressmen sign the document without fanfare in Philadelphia.

*Les romans*, a ballet héroïque by Giuseppe Cambini (30) to words of Bonneval, is performed for the first time, at the Paris Opéra.

**August 3, 1776** A Mass by Luigi Cherubini (15) is performed for the first time, in Comagnia di San Niccolò, Florence.

**August 8, 1776** Upper Peru (Bolivia) and Paraguay are transferred to the Viceroyalty of Rio de la Plata.

**August 22, 1776** Prussia and Poland settle their disputed frontier. Prussia evacuates all land on the left bank of the River Netze (Notec).

British troops begin making the five km journey from Staten Island to Long Island. They immediately set up a beachhead.

**August 25, 1776** David Hume dies in Edinburgh at the age of 65.

**August 27, 1776** British troops manage to get around American troops on the Brooklyn Heights, New York. The Americans run away and are shot down as they flee, many in swamps. At the end of the day, however, the British do not press their advantage.

**August 29, 1776** During the night of August 29-30, American forces secretly withdraw from Long Island across the East River to Manhattan. In one of the most remarkable military maneuvers, Washington saves his 9,000-man army to fight another day.

*Lobsinget dem Herrn* for chorus by Johannes Herbst (41) is performed for the first time.

**August 31, 1776** *Wo euer Schatz ist* for female voices and strings by Johannes Herbst (41) is performed for the first time.

**September 4, 1776** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (20) sends his *Misericordias Domini* K.222 to Giovanni Battista Martini (70) in Bologna, following instructions to keep him informed of his progress in composition. The accompanying letter is written by Leopold Mozart (56).

**September 5, 1776** Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach (62) writes to Charles Burney, thanking him for sending the first volume of Burney's *A General History of Music*.

**September 6, 1776** A hurricane strikes Guadeloupe, Martinique and St. Christopher. Hundreds of French and Dutch ships are sunk. 6,000 people are killed.

The first submarine attack in military history takes place when Ezra Lee sails the *Turtle*, built by David Bushnell of Saybrook, Connecticut, into New York harbor and attaches a time bomb to the hull of Admiral Howe's flagship. The bomb drifts free before it explodes and no damage is done.

**September 7, 1776** *Ich bin der Herr* for chorus and strings by Johannes Herbst (41) is performed for the first time.

**September 9, 1776** The Continental Congress adopts the name United States of America.

**September 10, 1776** British troops from Long Island occupy Montresor's Island at the mouth of the Harlem River.

**September 11, 1776** A delegation from the US Congress, consisting of Benjamin Franklin, John Adams and Edward Rutledge, meets with Lord Howe on Staten Island. Nothing productive comes of it.

**September 14, 1776** General Washington moves his headquarters north to the Harlem Heights, where most of his army is now encamped.

**September 15, 1776** British and German troops land at Kip's Bay, sending the Americans in headlong flight to the rear. The British go on to occupy New York City. Loyalists in the city welcome them with great celebration.

**September 16, 1776** The British pursuit of American forces on Manhattan Island is halted by an unexpected counterattack on the Harlem Heights. The British and Hessians retreat in disorder back towards New York.

**September 21, 1776** A fire of unknown origin destroys about one-quarter of New York City.

**September 22, 1776** Nathan Hale is executed by the British as a spy in Manhattan.

**September 25, 1776** *Romeo und Julie*, an ernsthafte Oper by Georg Benda (54) to words of Gotter after Shakespeare and Weisse, is performed for the first time, in Gotha.

**September 26, 1776** The Continental Congress appoints Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson to join Silas Deane as emissaries to Paris. Jefferson will decline.

**October 7, 1776** Grand Duke Pavel of Russia, heir to the throne, marries Princess Sophia Dorothea of Württemberg in St. Petersburg.

**October 9, 1776** Three British warships force their way past Fort Washington and Fort Constitution on the Hudson River, although sustaining a good deal of damage.

The Mission San Francisco de Asis is founded by Spanish missionary Father Francisco Palou 3,000 km northwest of Mexico City.

**October 11, 1776** Hastily built ships by both British and Americans meet off Valcour Island in Lake Champlain. The British gain the advantage and the Americans withdraw.

**October 12, 1776** *Sophonisbe*, a musikalisches Drama mit historischen Prolog un Choren by Christian Gottlob Neefe (28) to words of Meissner, is performed for the first time, in Leipzig.

**October 17, 1776** General Washington orders the evacuation of Manhattan, except for Fort Washington.

**October 18, 1776** As thousands of British troops land at Pell's Point, a small number of Americans on the scene fight a successful holding action through the day until falling back.  
Polish general Tadeusz Kosciuszko is given a commission in the United States Army.

**October 20, 1776** Fiume is transferred from Venice to Croatia.

**October 25, 1776** Georg Joseph Vogler (27) receives a contribution from Elector Palatine Karl Theodor to found the Mannheimer Tonschule.

**October 28, 1776** British and Hessian troops defeat Americans at White Plains, New York, 40 km north of the city, forcing an American retreat.

**November 1, 1776** The American army sets up defensive positions across the Bronx River to wait for a British attack which never comes.  
Mission San Juan Capistrano is founded by Spanish missionaries 2,400 km northwest of Mexico City.

**November 5, 1776** British troops facing the American army in White Plains begin moving south.

**November 9, 1776** The Naples Cappella Reale grants Niccolò Piccinni (48) a one-year leave of absence. He has been urged to go to Paris by the Neapolitan ambassador to France.  
The Neues Theater opens in Pressburg.

**November 12, 1776** The syndicate of Johann Christian Bach (41), Karl Friedrich Abel and Giovanni Andrea Gallini dissolves, partly because of a rival concert series. Gallini becomes the sole owner and begins renovations to the Hanover Square Rooms.

**November 16, 1776** Nicolò Piccinni (48) and his wife depart Naples for his new appointment in Paris.  
British and Hessian troops capture Ft. Washington, New York and its garrison of 2,800 troops.  
As the American vessel *Andrew Doria* enters the harbor of St. Eustasius in the West Indies, the Dutch garrison fires a ritual salute. It is the first recognition of American sovereignty by a foreign power.

**November 20, 1776** British forces capture Ft. Lee, New Jersey, across the Hudson River from Manhattan. It has been abandoned by the Americans.

**November 21, 1776** The United States Army begins retreating south across New Jersey.

**November 25, 1776** A British army departs New York in pursuit of the fleeing Americans, whom they outnumber over 3-1.

**November 26, 1776** *Creonte*, a dramma per musica by Dmitri Stepanovich Bortnyansky (25) to words of Coltellini, is performed for the first time, in Teatro San Benedetto, Venice.

**November 30, 1776** Admiral Lord Howe and General Sir William Howe issue a proclamation of reconciliation to Americans. In return for their oath of allegiance to the King, they will grant a pardon. Thousands of New Jersey residents will seek out the British army to swear allegiance.

**December 1, 1776** In (New) Brunswick, New Jersey, George Washington loses about one-half of his army as enlistments in the New Jersey and Maryland militia expire and the men go home. The rest of the army retreat towards Trenton as the British cross the Raritan River and occupy the town.

**December 6, 1776** Thomas Augustine Arne's (66) dramatic poem *Caractacus* to words of Mason is performed for the first time, at Covent Garden, London.

**December 7, 1776** After pausing six days in (New) Brunswick, New Jersey, the British resume the pursuit of Washington. At the same time, the American army is crossing the Delaware River to Pennsylvania.

**December 8, 1776** British forces occupy Newport, Rhode Island.

**December 12, 1776** With British forces in Trenton, New Jersey, 45 km to the northeast of Philadelphia, Congress invests General Washington with dictatorial powers and flees to Baltimore.

**December 13, 1776** A small detachment of British soldiers manages to capture General Charles Lee at a tavern near Morristown, New Jersey. At the same time, General Howe decides to suspend his advance in Trenton until the Spring.

**December 14, 1776** General Howe leaves his army in Trenton and returns to New York. He establishes a line of outposts across New Jersey to protect his gains.

**December 18, 1776** Padre Giovanni Battista Martini (70) responds to the letter of September 4 and accompanying compositions by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (20). He gives them high praise.

**December 19, 1776** The first installment of *The American Crisis* by Thomas Paine is published, containing the words "These are the times that try men's souls."

**December 21, 1776** Benjamin Franklin arrives in Paris.

**December 24, 1776** The Cook expedition reaches the Kerguelen group in the south Indian Ocean. Cook records, "Perhaps no place...under the same...latitude, affords so scanty a field for the naturalist as this barren spot."

**December 26, 1776** During the night of December 25-26, General Washington and 2,400 men cross the Delaware River and attack Hessians at Trenton, New Jersey at dawn. 22 Hessians are killed, 948 captured. Americans lose two dead (frozen to death), five wounded. They retreat back across the Delaware.

**December 27, 1776** The American Congress votes to give General Washington dictatorial powers for six months.

**December 30, 1776** The American Congress votes to send envoys to Austria, Prussia, Spain and Tuscany.

**December 31, 1776** The man perceived to be the most important rival of Christoph Willibald Gluck (62), Niccolò Piccinni (48), arrives in Paris. He is to be a director of a singing school for the next three years.

**January 1, 1777** *Again imperial Winter's sway*, an ode by William Boyce (65) to words of Whitehead, is performed for the first time.  
A British force sent to retake Trenton occupies Princeton, New Jersey.

**January 2, 1777** American troops halt the British advance towards Trenton.

**January 3, 1777** American forces sweep around the advancing British and attack their rear guard at Princeton, New Jersey driving them back towards Trenton.

**January 5, 1777** Darendeli Cebecizade Mehmed Pasha replaces Dervis Mehmed Pasha as Grand Vizier of the Ottoman Empire.  
*Günther von Schwarzburg*, a singspiel by Ignaz Holzbauer (65) to words of Klein, is performed for the first time, in the Mannheim Hoftheater. It is the first performance in this new building outside the palace.

**January 15, 1777** Delegates to a convention in Windsor in the Hampshire grants vote to secede from both Great Britain and the United States. They call their new country New Connecticut.

**January 21, 1777** *Germondo*, an opera seria by Tommaso Traetta (49) to words of Goldoni, is performed for the first time, in King's Theatre, London. Traetta finds it tough going in London due to the great popularity of Antonio Sacchini (46).

**January 28, 1777** *Nitteti*, a dramma per musica by Giovanni Paisiello (36) to words of Metastasio, is performed for the first time, at the Russian court, St. Petersburg. It is Paisiello's first effort in Russia and is well received.

**February 4, 1777** Giuseppe Lomellini replaces Fabrizio Giustiniani Banca as Doge of Genoa.

**February 24, 1777** José, King of Portugal, dies in Lisbon and is succeeded by his daughter, Maria.

**February 26, 1777** At the Concert des Amateurs in the Hôtel de Soubise in Paris, Joseph Boulogne, Chevalier de Saint Georges (31) conducts the third symphony of Simon Leduc who has recently died. at the age of 33. In the middle of the adagio, Saint Georges, a close friend of Leduc, dissolves into tears. The performance has to be abandoned.

**February 27, 1777** José Moñino, y Redondo, conde de Floridablanca replaces Pablo-Jerónimo de Grimaldi y Pallavicini, marqués de Grimaldi as prime minister of Spain.

**March 1, 1777** Georg Christoph Wagenseil dies in Vienna, aged 62 years and one month.

**March 4, 1777** The United States Congress adjourns in Baltimore.

**March 5, 1777** The United States Congress convenes in Philadelphia.

**March 10, 1777** *Amour pour amour*, a divertissement by André-Ernest-Modeste Grétry (36) to words of Laujon, is performed for the first time, at Versailles.

**March 14, 1777** Leopold Mozart (57) petitions Archbishop Colloredo for leave to travel with his son. The Archbishop will refuse.

**March 15, 1777** *Telemaco*, an opera seria by Tommaso Traetta (49) to words of de Seriman, is performed for the first time, in King's Theatre, London.

**March 22, 1777** Oldenburg is made a duchy under Friedrich August of Holstein-Gottorp.

**March 24, 1777** Antonio II replaces Gaetano as Prince of Piombino.

**April 13, 1777** Salomon II Adigo replaces Tekle Haymanot II Yohannes as Emperor of Ethiopia.

**April 26, 1777** 2,000 British and loyalists land and march to Danbury, Connecticut where they burn down the town.

**April 27, 1777** Domenico Cimarosa marries Costanza Suffi Palante, stepdaughter of a secretary to the Holy Roman Consul, in the Church of Santa Maria Maggiore, Naples.

As they head back to their ships from Danbury, Connecticut, British and loyalists are set upon by rebels. The British have the higher losses but manage an orderly evacuation.

**May 18, 1777** *The School for Scandal* by Richard Sheridan is first performed at Drury Lane Theater, London.

**May 20, 1777** Today is the first recorded public performance by Samuel Wesley (11), at Hickford's Rooms, London in a concert organized by Johann Christian Bach (41).

**May 29, 1777** Christoph Willibald Gluck (62) arrives in Paris to produce *Armide*. He is granted an immediate audience with his most ardent supporter in France, Queen Marie Antoinette.

**June 4, 1777** A convention at Windsor votes to change the name of New Connecticut to Vermont. *Driven out from Heav'n's ethereal domes*, an ode by William Boyce (65) to words of Whitehead, is performed for the first time, to honor the birthday of King George III.

**June 13, 1777** *Divertimento K.287* by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (21) is performed for the first time, in Salzburg for the nameday of Countess Maria Antonia Lodron.

**June 14, 1777** The Congress adopts a flag for the United States, thirteen white stars in a union of blue with thirteen alternating red and white stripes.

**June 15, 1777** Marie Jean Paul Roch Yves Gilbert Motier, Marquis de Lafayette and Baron Johann de Kalb arrive in Charleston, South Carolina. They both have been promised the rank of major general in the Army of the United States.

**July 6, 1777** British troops from Canada occupy Fort Ticonderoga, it having just been abandoned by the Americans.

**July 7, 1777** *Cephalus und Prokris*, a melodram by Johann Friedrich Reichardt (24) to words of Ramler, is performed for the first time, in the Hamburg Gänsemarckt.

**July 8, 1777** A constitution for the Republic of Vermont is adopted at a convention in Windsor. It abolishes slavery, indentured servitude for adults and it is the first state to adopt universal male suffrage.

**July 15, 1777** *A Te Deum* by Luigi Cherubini (16) is performed for the first time, in Florence.

**July 19, 1777** *Ernestine*, an opéra comique by Joseph Boulogne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges (31) to words of Choderlos de Laclos after Riccoboni, is performed for the first time, at the Comédie-Italienne. It is a flop.

**July 22, 1777** 267 British ships carrying 18,000 troops sail out of New York making for Chesapeake Bay.

**July 23, 1777** Casimir Pulaski arrives at Marblehead, Massachusetts. He carries a letter of introduction from Benjamin Franklin and hopes to join the cause of the United States.

**July 27, 1777** Marie Jean Paul Roch Yves Gilbert Motier, Marquis de Lafayette and Baron Johann de Kalb arrive in Philadelphia to aid the revolution.

**August 1, 1777** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (21) (actually written by Leopold (57)) petitions Archbishop Colloredo to be dismissed so that he may seek his fortune elsewhere.

**August 3, 1777** *Il mondo della luna*, a dramma giocoso by Joseph Haydn (45) to words of Goldoni, is performed for the first time, at the Esterháza Palace to celebrate the wedding of Prince Nicholas Esterházy's second son, Nicholas, to Maria Anna, Countess von Weissenwolf.

**August 6, 1777** American forces attack British and Indians laying siege to Fort Stanwix at Oriskany, New York, just west of Utica. The relief column is driven back but the fort remains in American hands.

**August 16, 1777** American forces defeat British and Hessians near Bennington, Vermont. 230 people are killed. 700 British and Hessians are taken prisoner.

**August 21, 1777** The British fleet from New York enters Chesapeake Bay.

**August 22, 1777** Under American pressure, the British lift their siege of Fort Stanwix, New York.

**August 24, 1777** 15,000 British troops land at Head of Elk, Maryland on Chesapeake Bay. In four days they begin a march on Philadelphia.

**August 28, 1777** Four weeks after their latest petition to travel was written, Leopold (57) and Wolfgang Amadeus (21) Mozart are informed by Archbishop Colloredo that they are dismissed.

**August 29, 1777** *Dis ist ein Tag* for female voices and strings by Johannes Herbst (42) is performed for the first time.

**September 5, 1777** In a lecture to the French Academy, Antoine Lavoisier says, "I shall henceforward designate dephlogisticated air or eminently respirable air in the state of combination and fixity, by the name of acidifying principle, or if one likes better the same meaning in a Greek word, by that of le principe oxygine." Oxy-from the Greek for acid, gen-from the Greek, to beget.

**September 10, 1777** Philipp II replaces Wilhelm as Count of Schaumburg, Count and Lord of Lippe.

**September 11, 1777** British troops defeat Americans at Brandywine, Pennsylvania, pushing them east, back into Philadelphia.

**September 15, 1777** The United States Congress creates Casimir Pulaski a brigadier general and places him in command of the cavalry.

**September 16, 1777** British and United States forces engage in Chester County, Pennsylvania. The day goes badly for the Americans but they are saved from annihilation by an enormous cloudburst. It is known as the Battle of the Clouds.

**September 18, 1777** The United States Congress adjourns in Philadelphia. With the urging of General Washington, the Congressmen begin to flee the city.

**September 19, 1777** A British assault on American forces near Saratoga, New York is repulsed with heavy losses.

**September 20, 1777** Over the night of September 20-21, the British overwhelm American forces at Paoli, Pennsylvania, 30 km west of Philadelphia.

**September 23, 1777** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (21), accompanied by his mother, departs Salzburg for Munich. Both Leopold (57) and Nannerl are distraught at the parting, Nannerl to the point of vomiting.

*Armide*, a drame héroïque by Christoph Willibald Gluck (63) to words of Quinault after Tasso, is performed for the first time, at the Paris Opéra. It is received blandly by the audience.

**September 24, 1777** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (21) and his mother arrive in Munich from Salzburg.

**September 26, 1777** Archbishop Colloredo of Salzburg withdraws his dismissal of Leopold (57) and Wolfgang Amadeus (21) Mozart. They were sacked for asking for another leave to travel.

British troops enter and occupy Philadelphia.

**September 27, 1777** British troops occupy Philadelphia. The United States Congress convenes for one day in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, 100 km west of Philadelphia.

**September 29, 1777** Incidental music to Voltaire's play *Zaïre* by Michael Haydn (40) is performed for the first time.

**September 30, 1777** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (21) is received by Elector Maximilian III of Bavaria in Munich.

The United States Congress convenes in York, Pennsylvania, 130 km west of Philadelphia.

**October 1, 1777** A preliminary peace treaty is signed between Spain and Portugal at Santo Ildefonso. Spain gives Portugal the Amazon basin but maintains Banda Oriental (Uruguay). Spain receives Fernando Po and the Annabon Is. from Portugal.

*Divertimento* K.287 by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (21) is performed for the first time, in Munich.

**October 4, 1777** American forces assault the British at Germantown, ten km north of Philadelphia, but are thrown back with heavy losses.

**October 6, 1777** British and Hessians assault and capture Fort Clinton on the Hudson River.

**October 7, 1777** The British thrust south from Canada is once again repulsed with heavy losses near Saratoga, New York.

British and Hessians capture Fort Montgomery and Fort Constitution, near West Point on the Hudson River.

**October 11, 1777** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (21) and his mother travel from Munich to Augsburg.

**October 12, 1777** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (21) is introduced to the Governor of Augsburg, Jakob Langemantel, by his uncle, Franz Alois Mozart.

**October 16, 1777** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (21) performs a concert in Augsburg.

**October 17, 1777** The British invasion force of 5,700 surrenders to the Americans near Saratoga, New York, ending their plan to sever New England from the other colonies.

**October 22, 1777** Concerto for three pianos K.242 by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (21) is performed for the first time, in Augsburg, the composer at one keyboard.

A Hessian attempt to free the Delaware River below Philadelphia fails when their attack on Fort Mercer, New Jersey is beaten back with heavy losses.

**October 26, 1777** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (21) and his mother depart Augsburg for Mannheim.

**October 30, 1777** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (21) and his mother arrive in Mannheim from Augsburg.

**October 31, 1777** At the Mannheim court, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (21) goes to hear a rehearsal of *Messiah* directed by Vice-Kapellmeister Georg Joseph Vogler (28). Vogler, however, directs his own music for more than an hour. Mozart gives up and leaves.

**November 1, 1777** *Missa Sancti Hieronymi* for chorus, oboes, bassoons, trombones and organ by Michael Haydn (40) is performed for the first time, in Salzburg.

Henry Laurens replaces John Hancock as president of the Congress of the United States.

**November 4, 1777** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (21) writes from Mannheim to his father, "Deputy-Kapellmeister Vogler (26), who had composed the mass which was performed the other day, is a dreary musical jester, an exceedingly conceited and rather incompetent fellow. The whole orchestra dislikes him. But today, Sunday, I heard a mass by Holzbauer (66), which he wrote twenty-six years

ago, but which is very fine. He is a good composer, he has a good church style, he knows how to write for voices and instruments, and he composes good fugues." (Anderson, 356)

**November 3, 1777** *Matroco*, a drame burlesque by André-Ernest-Modeste Grétry (36) to words of Lajon, is performed for the first time, at the home of the Prince of Condé.

**November 6, 1777** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (21) performs at a fete celebrating the nameday of Elector Karl Theodor in Mannheim.

**November 14, 1777** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (21) writes to his father after seeing Ignaz Holzbauer's (66) *Günther von Schwarzburg* in Mannheim that "Holzbauer's music is very beautiful. The poetry doesn't deserve such music. What surprises me most of all is that a man as old as Holzbauer should still possess so much spirit; for you can't imagine what fire there is in that music." (Anderson, 374)

**November 15, 1777** The Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union are adopted by the United States Congress as a framework for governing the country.

**November 20, 1777** William Pitt speaks in the House of Commons: "I know that the conquest of English America is an impossibility. You cannot, I venture to say it, you cannot conquer America... (The war is) unjust in its principles, impracticable in its means, and ruinous in its consequences. If I were an American, as I am an Englishman, while a foreign troop was landed in my country, I never would lay down my arms-never-never-never."

**November 21, 1777** In the face of overwhelming odds, US forces abandon Ft. Mercer, New Jersey on the Delaware River below Philadelphia and destroy it.

**November 27, 1777** The Continental Congress names John Adams to join Benjamin Franklin and Arthur Lee as a commissioner to France to win a French alliance.

**December 1, 1777** Friedrich Wilhelm Augustus von Steuben arrives in the United States at Portsmouth, New Hampshire. He comes at the urging of Benjamin Franklin and will be highly valuable in turning the United States Army into an organized fighting force.

**December 4, 1777** News of the British surrender at Saratoga reaches Benjamin Franklin in Paris. He spends the night drafting a communique and printing it on his letter copier to be delivered in the morning to foreign embassies.

**December 6, 1777** M. Gérard of the French Foreign Ministry meets Benjamin Franklin in Paris to draft a treaty of friendship and trade.

**December 8, 1777** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (21) learns that he will not be receiving an appointment from the Mannheim court.

**December 16, 1777** *Vittorina*, an opera buffa by Niccolò Piccinni (49) to words of Goldoni, is performed for the first time, in King's Theatre, London.

**December 17, 1777** Emperor Joseph II decrees the creation of a Singspiel company in Vienna tied to the company producing spoken plays at the Burgtheater, Vienna. It will be directed by Ignaz Umlauf. See February 17, 1778.

France recognizes the independence of the United States of America.

**December 19, 1777** George Washington and the Army of the United States enter their winter quarters at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, 30 km northwest of Philadelphia.

**December 21, 1777** A *Missa brevis* in Bb K.275 by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (21) is performed for the first time, in St. Peter's, Salzburg.

**December 25, 1777** Captain Cook reaches Christmas Island (Kiritimati, Kiribati), so named because of the date of its discovery.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (21) dates his *Flute Quartet* K.285 in Mannheim.

**December 29, 1777** Leopold Mozart (63) writes to his son Wolfgang (21) that Michael Haydn (40) has been appointed organist in Salzburg. "Everyone is laughing. He will be an expensive organist; after each litany he swills a quart of wine."

**December 30, 1777** Elector Maximilian III of Bavaria dies of smallpox in Munich, succeeded by Karl Philipp Theodor, Elector Palatine. This results in the transfer of most of the Mannheim orchestra to Munich.

**January 1, 1778** *When rival nations great in arms*, an ode by William Boyce (66) to words of Whitehead, is performed for the first time.

**January 2, 1778** *Der Holzhauer, oder Die drey Wünsche*, a comische Operette by Georg Benda (55) to words of Gotter and von Wulff after Guichard and Castet, is performed for the first time, in Gotha.

**January 3, 1778** Karl Theodor, Elector Palatine and Elector of Bavaria recognizes Austria's claim to Lower Bavaria. Austrian troops will enter the country within two weeks.

**January 8, 1778** The French government informs Benjamin Franklin in Paris that they agree to an alliance and recognition of the United States should there be war between France and Great Britain.

**January 10, 1778** Carolus Linnaeus dies in Uppsala at the age of 70.

**January 14, 1778** After several public discourtesies towards him, Vice-Kapellmeister Georg Joseph Vogler (28) calls on the visiting Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (21) in Mannheim. Mozart has been indiscreetly contemptuous towards Vogler.

**January 17, 1778** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (21) first mentions Aloysia Weber in a letter.

**January 18, 1778** Captain James Cook first sights the Hawaiian Islands, naming the the Sandwich Islands, after the First Lord of the Admiralty.

**January 23, 1778** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (21) travels without his mother from Mannheim to Kirchheimbolanden in the company of Fridolin Weber and his daughter Aloysia. They will spend several days at the court of Princess Caroline van Nassau-Weilburg where Aloysia sings and Mozart plays.

**January 27, 1778** *Roland*, a tragédie lyrique by Niccolò Piccinni (50) to words of Marmontel after Quinault, is performed for the first time, at the Paris Opéra. It is Piccinni's first French opera. The rehearsals were so horrendous that Piccinni has made plans to leave for Naples tomorrow. As it turns out, the performance, attended by Queen Marie Antoinette, is a success. Reviews are generally positive.

American forces capture forts overlooking New Providence (Nassau), Bahamas.

**January 29, 1778** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (22) arrives at Worms with the Webers.

**February 2, 1778** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (22) and the Webers return to Mannheim.

**February 6, 1778** In the Foreign Ministry, Paris, France, represented by the Comte de Vergennes, signs a treaty of aid and commerce, and an alliance with the United States, represented by Silas Deane and Benjamin Franklin. It is the first international treaty signed by representatives of the United States.

*Achille in Sciro*, a dramma per musica by Giovanni Paisiello (37) to words of Metastasio, is performed for the first time, at the Russian Court, St. Petersburg.

**February 7, 1778** *Erifile*, an opera seria by Antonio Sacchini (47) to words of De Gamerra, is performed for the first time, in King's Theatre, London.

**February 14, 1778** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (22) writes to his father about a commission he has received for flute music, "...you know that I become quite powerless whenever I am obliged to write for an instrument which I cannot bear. Hence as a diversion I compose something else, such as duets for clavier and violin, or I work at my mass." (Marshall, 62)

**February 16, 1778** An untitled intermezzo by Luigi Cherubini (17) is performed for the first time, in Teatro di Serviti, Florence.

**February 17, 1778** The first performance of a singspiel by a local composer takes place in Vienna. It is Ignaz Umlauf's *Die Bergknappen* which is afforded a warm reception. The production is a result of a major reorganization of Viennese opera in favor of germanic composers. See March 2, 1778.

**February 23, 1778** Friedrich Wilhelm Augustus von Steuben arrives at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania to begin training the United States Army. For the miracle he performs, he will be created Inspector General.

**March 1, 1778** Christoph Willibald Gluck (63) arrives back in Vienna from Paris.

**March 2, 1778** The opera buffa troupe resident at the Nationaltheater, Vienna gives its last performance. It will disband during Lent. See February 17, 1778.

**March 5, 1778** Thomas Augustine Arne dies in London of a "spasmodic complaint", 67 years, eleven months and 21 days after his baptism.

**March 9, 1778** The demand of King Friedrich II of Prussia that Austria return Bavaria to the status quo reaches Emperor Joseph II in Austria.

**March 11, 1778** Spain and Portugal conclude a peace agreement at Pardo.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (22) dates his Duet Sonata for violin and piano K.296 in Mannheim.

**March 14, 1778** After four-and-a-half months, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (22) and his mother depart Mannheim for Paris.

Houdon's bust of Christoph Willibald Gluck (63) is placed in the Paris Opéra, next to those of Jean-Baptiste Lully (†90) and Jean-Philippe Rameau (†13).

**March 15, 1778** The mortal remains of Thomas Augustine Arne are laid to rest in the churchyard of St. Paul's, Covent Garden.

**March 16, 1778** The British Parliament adopts Lord North's plans for reconciliation with the colonies. Voltaire's tragedy *Irène* is produced at the Théâtre-Français, Paris. The 84-year-old philosopher is present, having returned last month from an exile of 27 years.

**March 18, 1778** Prussia and Saxony conclude an alliance against Austria.

**March 20, 1778** King Louis XVI of France receives Benjamin Franklin and Silas Deane at Versailles as representatives of an equal, sister nation. The treaties of February 6 are made public.

Georg Benda (55) resigns a Kapelldirector to Duke Ernst II of Saxe-Gotha.

**March 22, 1778** An Ottoman naval attack on Russian occupiers of Akhtiar, Crimea, is repulsed by shore batteries.

**March 23, 1778** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (22) and his mother arrive in Paris from Mannheim.

**March 26, 1778** Ludwig van Beethoven (7) appears in concert for the first time, with his father and another child-student of his father, in the Academy Room on the Sternengasse, Cologne.

**March 28, 1778** *Le jugement de Midas*, an opéra-comique by André-Ernest-Modeste Grétry (37) to words of d'Hèle after O'Hara, is performed for the first time, in the apartments of Mme de Montesson in the Palais Royal.

**April 4, 1778** *La Clemenza di Scipione*, an opera seria by Johann Christian Bach (42) to words of an anonymous author, is performed for the first time, in King's Theatre, London.

**April 5, 1778** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (22) reports to his father from Paris that François Joseph Gossec (44) has been saying nice things about his music.

**April 7, 1778** In the middle of a speech in the House of Lords, in which he calls for conciliation with the American colonies, but not independence, former Prime Minister William Pitt, Earl of Chatham, collapses. He will die within a month.

**April 8, 1778** John Adams arrives in Paris replacing Silas Deane in the United States mission.

Antonio Salieri (27) departs Vienna to return to Italy for the first time in twelve years.

**April 22, 1778** 30 men from USS *Ranger* raid Whitehaven, Cumbria, England spiking the guns of two forts and setting three ships on fire.

**April 24, 1778** Off Carrickfergus, Ireland, USS *Ranger* captures HMS *Drake*.

**May 1, 1778** The mother of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (22) writes home from Paris that she has had a toothache, sore throat and an earache for three weeks.

**May 4, 1778** *L'amore soldato*, a *dramma giocoso* by Antonio Sacchini (47) to words of Andrei after Tassi, is performed for the first time, in King's Theatre, London.

**May 11, 1778** William Pitt, Earl of Chatham dies in Hayes, Kent at the age of 60.

**May 12, 1778** The County of Reuss-Greiz becomes the Principality of Reuss-Greiz.

**May 14, 1778** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (22) writes from Paris that he has been offered the post of organist at Versailles.

**May 20, 1778** *Rinaldo ed Armida*, a cantata by Johann Christian Bach (42) is performed for the first time, in Hanover Square Rooms, London.

**May 26, 1778** *La fête de village*, an intermezzo by François-Joseph Gossec (44) to words of Desfontaines, is performed for the first time, at the Paris Opéra.

**May 30, 1778** Voltaire (François-Marie Arouet) dies in Paris at the age of 83. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (22) will write to his father from Paris, "That godless, archvillain Voltaire has pegged out like a dog, like an animal--that's his reward." (Abert 510)

**June 4, 1778** *Arm'd with her native force*, an ode by William Boyce (66) to words of Whitehead, is performed for the first time, to honor the birthday of King George III.

**June 6, 1778** A three-man commission headed by Frederick Howard, Earl of Carlisle arrives in Philadelphia. They have been sent by Prime Minister Lord North to try to reconcile the colonies to the crown.

**June 11, 1778** *Les petits riens*, a ballet mostly by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (22) to a scenario after Piccinni, is performed for the first time, at the Paris Opéra. Mozart composed 13 of the 20 numbers and the overture.

The mother of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (22) is attended by a physician in Paris who bleeds her to relieve her maladies.

**June 12, 1778** Maria Anna Mozart writes to her husband Leopold (58) that although she has pains in her arm and eyes, she is feeling fine.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (22) dates his Symphony K.297 in Paris and performs it tonight before a private audience at the home of Count Sickingen. See June 18, 1778.

**June 13, 1778** The Carlisle Peace Commission sends proposals for reconciliation from Philadelphia to the Continental Congress in York, Pennsylvania.

**June 17, 1778** The United States Congress rejects the British conciliation effort.

**June 18, 1778** After holding the city for nine months, British troops evacuate Philadelphia making for New York.

Symphony K.297 by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (22) is performed publicly for the first time, at a Concert spirituel, Paris. It is "exceptionally successful." (Abert, 507) Unfortunately, his mother is too ill to attend. See June 12, 1778.

**June 19, 1778** While in Paris with her son, Wolfgang Amadeus (22), Maria Anna Mozart takes to bed with what is probably typhoid fever.

United States troops enter Philadelphia. Benedict Arnold is appointed military governor.

**June 24, 1778** Fearful of French doctors, Maria Anna Mozart is seen by Dr. Franz Joseph Haina, a German doctor in Paris.

**June 26, 1778** Dr. Franz Joseph Haina informs Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (22) that his mother will not recover from her illness. She has been in bed for a week.

**June 27, 1778** *Le jugement de Midas*, an opéra-comique by André-Ernest-Modeste Grétry (37) to words of d'Hèle after O'Hara, is performed publicly for the first time, at the Théâtre Italien, Paris. See March 28, 1778.

The United States Congress adjourns in York, Pennsylvania.

**June 28, 1778** The Battle of Monmouth Courthouse takes place near Freehold, New Jersey 40 km east of Trenton. It is a pitched battle with heavy losses and inconclusive result, although the British concede the field to the Americans.

**July 2, 1778** Jean-Jacques Rousseau dies in Ermenonville, France at the age of 66.  
The United States Congress convenes in Philadelphia.

**July 3, 1778** Prussia declares war on Austria.

10:30 p.m. The mother of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (22) dies in Paris, probably of typhoid fever. A few hours later, the composer writes to his father, telling him that Frau Mozart is very ill.

**July 4, 1778** 2:00 a.m. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (22) writes to a family friend in Salzburg, Abbé Bullinger informing him of his mother's death.

Loyalists and Indians destroy Wyoming, Pennsylvania killing 360 militiamen.

American forces capture Kaskaskia (Illinois).

**July 5, 1778** Prussian troops enter Imperial territory in Bohemia near Náchod 130 km northeast of Prague.

**July 6, 1778** When news of war with France reaches India, British forces occupy the French possession of Chandernagore.

**July 8, 1778** After an encounter between a French ship and a British ship off Brest results in the flight of the British and the grounding of the French, the French fleet is ordered to sea. War has begun.

A French fleet arrives in Delaware Bay.

**July 9, 1778** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (22) writes to his father from Paris, "If only the confounded French language weren't so damned impossible where music is concerned. It's hopeless. German is divine in comparison. And then there are the singers! In fact, they shouldn't be called singers at all, as they don't sing but scream and howl at the tops of their voices." (Abert, 499)

**July 10, 1778** France declares war on Great Britain.

**July 13, 1778** Abbé Bullinger informs Leopold Mozart (58) that his wife has died in Paris.

**July 17, 1778** The Continental Congress in York, Pennsylvania, in the person of its president Henry Laurens, responds negatively to the Carlisle Peace Commission, until the British government recognizes the independence of the United States of America.

**July 20, 1778** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (22) writes to his father from Paris, "Well, what are you hearing about the war? For the last three days I have been dreadfully sad and depressed. True, it doesn't really concern me, but I am so sensitive, that I immediately feel interested in any matter. I hear that the Emperor has been defeated...Second, it was said the the King had attacked the Emperor and completely surrounded him and that if General Laudon had not come to his rescue with eighteen hundred cuirassiers, he would have been taken prisoner; that sixteen hundred cuirassiers had been killed and Laudon himself shot dead.. Today, however, I was told that the Emperor had invaded Saxony with forty thousand men; but I don't know whether this is true..."

American forces take Vincennes (Indiana).

**July 24, 1778** Giovanni Paisiello's (38) *dramma giocoso* *Lo sposo burlato* to words of Casti is performed for the first time, at the Russian Court, St. Petersburg.

**July 27, 1778** The British and French fleets engage 110 km off Ushant resulting in the retirement of the British. 533 people are killed, 1203 wounded.

**July 29, 1778** Five-year-old Konstantine Alexander Joseph replaces Ludwig Otto Karl Prince of Salm-Salm under regency.

**August 3, 1778** *L'Europa riconosciuta*, a *dramma per musica* by Antonio Salieri (27) to words of Verazi, is performed for the first time, for the opening of Teatro alla Scala, Milan. The audience reaction is mixed. The theater has been built to replace the Royal Ducal Theater which burned down two years ago. It is named after Regina della Scala who built a church here in the 1300s.

**August 8, 1778** Canadians and Indians lay siege to Boonesboro (Kentucky).

**August 9, 1778** A hurricane hits Rhode Island damaging many French and British ships. The planned combined US-France attack on the British in Newport is abandoned.

**August 17, 1778** Ludwig Engelbert replaces Karl II as Duke of Aremberg.

**August 20, 1778** The siege of Boonesboro is lifted.

**August 27, 1778** Shortly after seeing Johann Christian Bach (42) in Paris for the last time, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (22) writes to his father saying "I love him (as you know) with all my heart and respect him highly; and as for him, there is no doubt that he has praised me, not only to my face, but to others also, not in an exaggerated way like some, but seriously, truly."

**August 31, 1778** Leopold Mozart (58) writes to his son (22) in Paris informing him that the post of court organist in Salzburg is open.

**September 1, 1778** Kalafat Mehmed Pasha replaces Darendeli Cebecizade Mehmed Pasha as Grand Vizier of the Ottoman Empire.

Elector Karl Philipp Theodor decrees that a national theater be created in Mannheim with an annual court grant.

**September 4, 1778** A treaty of friendship and commerce is signed by representatives of the United States and the Netherlands.

**September 7, 1778** French forces capture the British island of Dominica in the Caribbean.

**September 14, 1778** British forces occupy St. Pierre and Miquelon.

The Continental Congress names Benjamin Franklin their sole minister to France. Hitherto, there has been a three-man team.

**September 17, 1778** Publication of two piano duets op.15 by Johann Christian Bach (43) is announced in the *Public Advertiser* in London.

**September 18, 1778** British forces capture the French outpost of Pondicherry, India.

**September 26, 1778** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (22) departs Paris for Salzburg. One of his fellow travellers is a man who openly admits he suffers from "the French disease."

**October 12, 1778** *La partie de chasse*, an opéra comique by Joseph Boulogne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges (32) to words of Desfontaines, is performed for the first time, at the Comédie-Italienne. It is a hit with audience and critics.

**October 14, 1778** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (22) arrives in Strasbourg from Paris.

**October 17, 1778** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (22) performs the first of three concerts in Strasbourg. They are well received but attendance is low.

**October 24, 1778** Christian Friedrich replaces Heinrich Ernst II as Count of Stolberg and Wernigerode.

**October 27, 1778** Joseph Haydn (46) sells his house in Eisenstadt. He lives at Esterháza most of the time.

**November 2, 1778** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (22) writes to his father from Strasbourg, "Kapellmeister (Franz Xaver) Richter (68)...now lives very economically, for instead of forty bottles of wine a day he swills about twenty." (Marshall, 351)

**November 3, 1778** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (22) departs Strasbourg for Mannheim. His departure has been delayed by flooding.

**November 6, 1778** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (22) reaches Mannheim on his way back to Salzburg from Paris.

The Lenoir Ordinance renews the prohibition on prostitution in France. However, if prostitutes insist on plying their trade they must not do so in public places. If they insist on public places, they must confine themselves to certain parts of Paris.

**November 13, 1778** Barely a month after the death of his son, Carl Philip Emanuel Bach (64) sends the manuscript for the first volume of *Sechs Clavier-Sonaten für Kenner und Liebhaber* to his publisher Breitkopf.

**November 14, 1778** Johann Nepomuk Hummel is born in Pressburg (Bratislava), the only child of Johannes Hummel, violinist and conductor, and Margaretha Sommer, widow of a wig maker.

**November 20, 1778** André-Ernest-Modeste Grétry's (37) opéra-comique *Les fausses apparences, ou L'amant jaloux*, to words of d'Hèle after Centlivre is performed for the first time, at Versailles.

**November 24, 1778** *L'avaro deluso, o Don Calandrino*, a dramma giocoso by Antonio Sacchini (48) to words of Andrei after Bertati, is performed for the first time, in King's Theatre, London.

**November 26, 1778** On his second visit to the Sandwich Islands (Hawaii), Captain Cook reaches Maui.

**November 27, 1778** The Carlisle Peace Commission departs North America to return to Britain, having failed in their mission.

**November 30, 1778** Captain Cook reaches the island of Hawaii and marvels at the snow-capped mountains.

**December 7, 1778** Niccolò Piccinni's (50) opera buffa *La buona figliuola* is performed at the Paris Opéra. It proves to be his greatest success in Paris. See February 6, 1760.  
The *Independent Ledger*, Boston reports as "just published" the collection by William Billings (32) entitled *The Singing Master's Assistant*.

**December 8, 1778** This is the approximate date of the appearance in Cheshire, Connecticut, of Andrew Law's (29) first publication, the *Select Harmony*.

**December 9, 1778** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (22) departs Mannheim on his way to Salzburg.

**December 10, 1778** John Jay replaces Henry Laurens as President of the Congress of the United States.

**December 13, 1778** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (22) reaches the Abbey of Kaysersheim on his way back to Salzburg from Paris.

**December 15, 1778** Royal Navy ships defeat the French off St. Lucia.

**December 17, 1778** British and Indians retake Vincennes (Indiana) from the Americans.

**December 24, 1778** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (22) departs the Abbey of Kaysersheim making from Munich.

**December 25, 1778** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (22) reaches Munich on his way from Paris to Salzburg. He will lodge with the Weber family.

**December 26, 1778** *Quinto Fabio*, a dramma serio by Dmitri Stepanovich Bortnyansky (27) to words of Zeno, is performed for the first time, in the Court Theater, Modena.

**December 27, 1778** *La scuola de gelosi*, a dramma giocosa by Antonio Salieri (28) to words of Mazzolà, is performed for the first time, in Teatro San Moisè, Venice. The work achieves great success.

**December 28, 1778** After a two-week fight, British forces take St. Lucia from the French.

**December 29, 1778** British forces take Savannah, Georgia.

**December 31, 1778** Aloise Mocenigo IV, Doge of Venice, dies.  
Ignaz Joseph Graf von Spaur replaces Leopold Maria Joseph Graf von Spaur as Prince-Bishop of Brixen.

**January 1, 1779** A new contract is signed between Joseph Haydn (46) and Prince Nicolas Esterházy. This one is far more favorable to the composer than the first in remuneration and wording. Haydn may now disseminate, perform and publish his music wherever he wishes. See May 1, 1761.  
William Crotch (3) plays organ before King George III and Queen Charlotte Sophia at Buckingham Palace.  
*To arms, to arms ye sons of might*, an ode by William Boyce (67) to words of Whitehead, is performed for the first time. It is Boyce's last court ode.

**January 7, 1779** In Munich, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (22) is introduced to Elisabeth Auguste, wife of the Elector of Bavaria, by Christian Cannabich. He presents her with a copy of his recently published piano sonatas K.301-306.

**January 9, 1779** The Marathas soundly defeat British forces at Wadgaon, 37 km north of Pune.

**January 11, 1779** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (22) departs Munich for Salzburg.

**January 13, 1779** British and Marathas sign the Convention of Wadgaon. The British are required to return all their conquests since 1773. This agreement will be repudiated by the British in Bengal.

**January 14, 1779** Paolo Renier becomes Doge of Venice.

**January 15, 1779** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (22) returns to Salzburg after an absence of almost 16 months.

**January 17, 1779** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (22) is named to the position of court organist by the Archbishop of Salzburg.

*Das Grab des Mufti, oder Die zwey Geizigen*, a comsiche Oper by Johann Adam Hiller (50) to words of Maissner after de Falbaire, is performed for the first time, at Theater am Rannstädter Thore, Leipzig.

Captain Cook and his expedition anchor off the island of Hawaii in Kealakekua Bay. They are immediately inundated with friendly islanders in canoes who are expecting the return of the god Lono. Cook has arrived, quite by accident, at the captial residence of the great chief Kalaniopuu.

**January 30, 1779** French forces retake their colony of Senegal, occupied by Britain since 1758.

**February 2, 1779** *Samson*, an oratorio by Giuseppe Cambini (32) to words of Voltaire, is performed for the first time, at a concert spirituel, Paris.

**February 4, 1779** After his application for membership in the Vienna Tonkünstler-Sozietät is accepted on condition he produce music for them on demand, Joseph Haydn (46) pens a withering reply demanding his deposit back.

**February 7, 1779** William Boyce dies, possibly of gout, at his home in London, 67 years, four months and 27 days after his baptism.

**February 8, 1779** After an all-night storm off Hawaii, Captain Cook discovers that his foremast has given way. He decides to return to Kealakekua Bay for repairs.

**February 11, 1779** French forces occupy the British colony of Gambia.

Two Spanish ships, captained by Ignacio de Arteaga and Juan Francisco de la Bodega y Quadra, set sail from Mexico with orders to explore the Pacific coast as far north as 70°. They will reach as far as Prince of Wales Sound at 60° 30'.

**February 12, 1779** Two Spanish ships set sail from San Blas (Nayarit) to explore the northern Pacific coast as far as San Francisco Bay.

**February 14, 1779** *I filosofi immaginari*, a dramma giocoso by Giovanni Paisiello (38) to words of Bertati, is performed for the first time, at the Hermitage, St. Petersburg.

When Captain Cook and a detachment of Marines try to entice Chief Kalaniopuu on board a launch to take them to their ship, they are stopped by fearful islanders. Fighting ensues and Cook and several others on both sides are killed.

**February 15, 1779** The earthly remains of William Boyce are laid to rest under the dome of St. Paul's Cathedral. The funeral is sung by the combined choirs of St. Paul's, Westminster Abbey and the Chapel Royal.

**February 18, 1779** Charles Burney reports to the Royal Society on the prodigious musical abilities of William Crotch (3).

**February 25, 1779** After their Indian allies desert them, the British surrender Vincennes (Indiana) to the Americans.

**February 26, 1779** *Carmen saeculare*, an oratorio by François-André Danican-Philidor (52) to words of Horace, is performed for the first time, at Freemason's Hall, London. It is extremely successful.

**March 3, 1779** After taking Augusta, Georgia, a force of British and Loyalists is met by advancing Americans at Briar Creek, Georgia. They defeat the Americans and turn towards Charleston. However, the appearance of a large rebel force will send them back to Savannah.

**March 4, 1779** Giacomo Maria Brignole replaces Giuseppe Lomellini as Doge of Genoa.

**March 11, 1779** Louis René, Prince de Rohan-Guémenée replaces Louis Constantin, Prince de Rohan-Guémenée as Prince-Bishop of Strasbourg.

**March 15, 1779** The soprano Luigia Polzelli and her husband, violinist Antonio Polzelli, are hired by Prince Nicholas Esterházy. Soon, she will become the mistress of Franz Joseph Haydn (46), a position she will hold until her departure in 1790.

**March 18, 1779** Franz Ludwig von Erthal replaces Adam Friedrich Count von Seinsheim as Duke-Bishop of Würzburg.

**March 23, 1779** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (23) dates his Mass in C K.317 in Salzburg.

**March 25, 1779** *Enea e Lavinia*, an opera seria by Antonio Sacchini (48) to words of Bottarelli, is performed for the first time, in King's Theatre, London.

**April 3, 1779** Spain demands Gibraltar from Great Britain in return for neutrality. Britain will reject the ultimatum.

**April 4, 1779** The Mass in C "Coronation" K.317 by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (23) is performed for the first time, in the Salzburg Cathedral.

**April 6, 1779** Tommaso Michele Francesco Saverio Traetta dies in Venice, aged 52 years and seven days. His mortal remains will be buried near the Ospedaletto.

**April 8, 1779** A *Quartet* for keyboard, oboe, violin and cello B67 by Johann Christian Bach (43) is performed for the first time, in the Hanover Square Rooms, London.

**April 11, 1779** Louise Reichardt is born in Berlin, daughter of Johann Friedrich Reichardt (26) and Juliane Benda.

**April 12, 1779** France and Spain conclude a treaty of alliance against Great Britain.

**April 24, 1779** *Rose et Carloman*, a comédie héroïque by Giuseppe Cambini (33) to words of Dubreuil, is performed for the first time, at the Hôtel de Montalembert, Paris.

**April 25, 1779** *La vera costanza*, a *dramma giocoso* by Joseph Haydn (47) to words of Puttini, is performed for the first time, at Esterháza.

**April 26, 1779** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (23) dates his Symphony K.318 in Salzburg.

**May 4, 1779** *So spricht der Herr Zebaoth--Das ist unbeschreiblich* for tenor, chorus and strings by Johannes Herbst (43) is performed for the first time.

**May 10, 1779** A *Quartet* for keyboard, oboe, violin and cello B68 by Johann Christian Bach (43) is performed for the first time, in the Hanover Square Rooms, London.

**May 13, 1779** Peace between Prussia and Austria is concluded at Teschen with the help of Russian and French mediators. A tiny portion of Bavaria is allotted to Austria while Bayreuth and Anspach go to Prussia on the death of their childless ruler. The Palatine is united with Bavaria.

**May 16, 1779** *Il vago disprezzato*, an opera buffa by Niccolò Piccinni (51), is performed for the first time, at the Paris Opéra.

**May 18, 1779** *Iphigenie en Tauride*, a tragedy by Christoph Willibald Gluck (64) to words of Guillard after Guymond de La Touche after Euripides, is performed for the first time, at the Paris Opéra. The work enjoys an immediate success.

**May 26, 1779** Joseph Philipp Graf von Spaur replaces Ignaz Joseph Graf von Spaur as Prince-Bishop of Brixen.

**June 4, 1779** *Let Gallia mourn! th'insulting foe*, an ode by John Stanley (67) to words of Whitehead, is performed for the first time, to honor the birthday of King George III.

**June 7, 1779** Friedrich III replaces Philipp Joseph as Prince of Salm-Kyrburg, Prince of Åhaus and Bocholt, Wild-und Rheingraf, Count von Renneberg.

**June 15, 1779** The publication of Muzio Clementi's (27) six keyboard sonatas op.2 is announced in the *Morning Post*, London. Also announced is the publication of Clementi's op.3 containing three duets for piano four hands and three accompanied keyboard sonatas.

**June 18, 1779** French forces capture the island of St. Vincent.

**June 21, 1779** Spain declares war on Great Britain in alliance with France but not the United States. Soon they lay siege to Gibraltar. The siege will not be lifted until February 1783.

**June 24, 1779** A second version of *Demetrio*, a *dramma per musica* by Giovanni Paisiello (39) to words of Metastasio, is performed for the first time, in Tsarskoye Selo.

**July 3, 1779** The Counts of Leiningen are made Princes of the Holy Roman Empire.

**July 4, 1779** French forces capture Grenada.

**July 5, 1779** British troops land at New Haven, Connecticut to a barrage of musket fire from forewarned Americans. Overwhelming numbers allow the British, despite losses, to ransack, pillage and burn the town. They go on to burn Fairfield and Norwalk before returning to New York.

**July 6, 1779** The French defeat the British in naval action off Grenada.

*La morte di Didone*, a *dramma per musica* by Ignaz Holzbauer (67) to words of Metastasio, is performed for the first time, in the National Theater, Mannheim.

**July 9, 1779** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (23) completes his Symphony K.319 in Salzburg. British forces destroy Fairfield, Connecticut.

**July 10, 1779** In Egypt, John Antes (39) writes to Benjamin Franklin in Paris enclosing six quartets which he has "lately composed."

**July 11, 1779** *Lampedo*, a melodrama by Georg Joseph Vogler (30) to words of Lichtenberg, is performed for the first time, in the Hoftheater, Darmstadt.

**July 16, 1779** Americans capture the "impregnable" fortress of Stony Point on the Hudson north of New York.

**July 20, 1779** Tekle Giyorgis I Yohannes replaces Salomon II Adigo as Emperor of Ethiopia.

*L'infedeltà fedele*, a *commedia per musica* by Domenico Cimarosa (29) to words of Lorenzi, is performed for the first time, at the opening of Teatro del Fondo, Naples.

**July 22, 1779** The Spanish expedition up the Pacific coast of North America anchors at Hinchinbrook Island, Alaska, which they name Magdalena.

**July 30, 1779** While preparing *Echo et Narcisse* for the Paris Opéra, Christoph Willibald Gluck (65) suffers his first stroke. He will recover. Rehearsals for the opera are cancelled until early September.

**August 3, 1779** The Royal Portuguese Naval Academy is founded.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (23) dates his *Serenade* K.320 in Salzburg.

**August 4, 1779** *Ino*, a *musikalisches Drama* by Johann Friedrich Reichardt (26) to words of Brandes, is performed for the first time, in Leipzig.

**August 21, 1779** *Il talismano*, a *dramma giocosa* by Antonio Salieri (29) to words of Goldoni, is performed for the first time, at the opening of the Teatro Cannobiana, Milan. Only Act I is performed today. Acts II and II, with music by G. Rust and words by da Ponte, will be first performed on September 10, 1788.

**August 22, 1779** Silahdar Seyyid Mehmed Pasha replaces Kalafat Mehmed Pasha as Grand Vizier of the Ottoman Empire.

**August 29, 1779** American forces defeat loyalists and Indians on the Chumung River (at Newton) New York. They will go on to destroy many Indian villages in the Genessee River valley.

*Höret alle die ihr--Deine Missethat* for soprano, chorus and strings by Johannes Herbst (44) is performed for the first time.

**September 14, 1779** The Spanish expedition to explore the Pacific coast reaches San Francisco Bay on its return journey. They are able to rest and resupply themselves. Here they will learn of the declaration of war between Great Britain and Spain.

**September 16, 1779** Combined American and French forces begin a blockade of Savannah, Georgia.

**September 20, 1779** *Pygmalion*, a *monodrama* by Georg Benda (57) to words of Rousseau, is performed for the first time, in Gotha.

**September 21, 1779** Spaniards from Louisiana capture the British garrison at Baton Rouge. The surrender includes Natchez and other British ports on the Mississippi.

**September 23, 1779** The USS *Bonhomme Richard* defeats HMS *Serapis* in a three-hour battle in the North Sea off Flamborough Head, Yorkshire.

**September 24, 1779** The USS *Bonhomme Richard* sinks.

Christoph Willibald Gluck's (65) drame lyrique *Echo et Narcisse* to words of Tschudi after Ovid, is performed for the first time, at the Paris Opéra. It will fail after only nine performances.

**September 28, 1779** Samuel Huntington replaces John Jay as president of the Congress of the United States.

**October 3, 1779** HMS *Serapis*, under an American crew from the USS *Bonhomme Richard*, limps into the Texel, Netherlands.

**October 6, 1779** *Resolution* and *Discovery*, ships of the third and last expedition of Captain James Cook, anchor at Deptford, England.

**October 9, 1779** A combined French and American force attack British troops in Savannah, Georgia. They are soundly repulsed. The French suffer ten times the casualties of their British counterparts.

**October 11, 1779** British forces begin a two-week evacuation of Rhode Island.

**October 18, 1779** American and French forces lift their siege of Savannah, Georgia.

**November 1, 1779** *Il matrimonio inaspettato*, a dramma giocoso by Giovanni Paisiello (39) to words after Chiari, is performed for the first time, in Kammeniy Ostrov, St. Petersburg.

**November 5, 1779** HMS *Quebec* and the French ship *La Surveillante* engage off Brest. After over six hours of close struggle the *Quebec* blows up but *La Surveillante*, completely demasted, has to be towed to port.

**November 11, 1779** *Les événements imprévus*, an opéra-comique by André-Ernest-Modeste Grétry (38) to words of d'Hèle, is performed for the first time, at Versailles.

**November 15, 1779** American missionary John Antes (39) is beaten by servants of Osman Bey in Cairo and transported to prison.

**November 18, 1779** A fire at Esterháza guts the "Chinese ballroom." The *Pressburger Zeitung* will report: "Two beautiful clocks; the magnificent theatrical costumes; all the music collected at great effort and expense; the musical instruments, including the beautiful harpsichord (Flieg) of the famous kapellmeister Haiden and the concert violin of the virtuoso Lotsch (Luigi Tomasini)-were all lost to the flames which reached their height at 8:00 a.m." Joseph Haydn (47) loses most of his marionette operas, some of his Italian operas and the orchestral parts of all his Esterhazy symphonies.

*Mirza*, a ballet by François-Joseph Gossec (45) to a story by Gardel, is performed for the first time, at the Paris Opéra.

**November 21, 1779** The Spanish expedition to explore the Pacific coast, led by Ignacio de Arteaga and Juan Francisco de la Bodega y Quadra, reaches its home port of San Blas, Mexico. In nine months they have explored and mapped the coast of North America as far north as Alaska.

**November 29, 1779** Domenico Cimarosa (29) is appointed organist for the Royal Chapel, Naples, with no salary.

**December 6, 1779** Joseph Haydn's (47) azione teatrale *L'isola disabitata* to words of Metastasio is performed for the first time, at Esterháza for the nameday of Prince Nicolas Esterházy. The production occurs in the marionette theater since the opera house burned down on November 18.

**December 14, 1779** *Amadis de Gaule*, a tragédie lyrique by Johann Christian Bach (44) to words of de Vismes du Valgay after Quinault, is performed for the first time, at the Paris Opéra, before Queen Marie Antoinette. It is his last complete opera, and a failure.

**December 16, 1779** Jan Ladislav Dussek (19) appears in public for the first time as a pianist in Malines (Mechelen).

**December 18, 1779** A ceremony lays the foundation stone for a new Esterházy Theater. The *Symphony no.70* of Joseph Haydn (47) is performed for the occasion.

**December 22, 1779** *La partenza inaspettata*, an opera by Antonio Salieri (29) to words of Petrosellini, is performed for the first time, in Teatro alle Valle, Rome. It is a complete triumph.

**December 23, 1779** The court martial of Benedict Arnold begins.

**December 24, 1779** With the approval of the King, the Royal Academy of Sciences is founded in Lisbon.

**December 28, 1779** *L'italiana in Londra*, an intermezzo by Domenico Cimarosa (30) to words possibly by Petrosellini, is performed for the first time, in Teatro alla Valle, Rome, the composer directing from the harpsichord. It is a triumph.

**December 29, 1779** British forces capture Savannah.

**December 30, 1779** *Aucassin et Nicolette, ou Les moeurs de bon vieux tems*, an opéra-comique by André-Ernest-Modeste Grétry (38) to words of Sedaine after de la Curne de Sainte-Palaye, is performed for the first time, at Versailles.

**December 31, 1779** A British squadron fires on a Dutch convoy bound for France and arrests the captain. This causes the Dutch States-General to vote for unlimited support of France.

**January 1, 1780** Tomohito replaces Hidehito as Emperor of Japan.

*And dares insulting France pretend*, an ode by John Stanley (67) to words of Whitehead, is performed for the first time.

**January 17, 1780** British naval forces defeat Spaniards off Cape St. Vincent, thus relieving Gibraltar. Six Spanish warships are captured, three run aground. Admiral Don Juan de Langara is captured.

**January 26, 1780** Benedict Arnold is found guilty of abuse of authority.

**February 11, 1780** A British expedition lands at John's Island, near Charleston, South Carolina.

**February 22, 1780** Francesco III, Duke of Modena, Reggio and Ferrara dies and is succeeded by his son Ercole III.

*Atys*, a tragédie lyrique by Niccolò Piccinni (52) to words of Marmontel after Quinault, is performed for the first time, at the Paris Opéra. The premiere is performed badly but by the second night it will be very successful, which is a comfort to the anti-Gluckists.

**February 29, 1780** Publication of six accompanied keyboard sonatas op.4 by Muzio Clementi (28) is announced in the *Morning Post*, London.

**March 1, 1780** Pennsylvania bars the enslavement of any person born after this date.

**March 8, 1780** *L'amant anonyme*, a comédie mêlée de ballets by Joseph Boulogne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges (34) after de Genlis, is performed for the first time, in Paris.

**March 10, 1780** Russia declares armed neutrality in the war between Great Britain and the United States.

**March 14, 1780** Spanish forces capture the British garrison at Mobile, West Florida (Alabama).

**March 18, 1780** After two years in Italy, Antonio Salieri (29) departs Naples for Vienna.

**March 26, 1780** Karl Wilhelm Ferdinand replaces Karl I as Duke of Brunswick.

**March 28, 1780** *Das tartarische Gesetz*, a singspiel by Johann Rudolf Zumsteeg (20) to words of Gotter, is performed for the first time, in Stuttgart.

**March 30, 1780** *String Quartet in C* by Samuel Wesley (14) is performed for the first time, at a Wesley family concert at their London home.

**March 31, 1780** King Louis XVI bans Italian comic opera from the Théâtre Italien, recognizing French works and composers as the true voice of comic opera in the country.

**April 1, 1780** *Le sacrifice d'Abraham*, an oratorio by Giuseppe Cambini (34), is performed for the first time, at a concert spirituel, Paris.

William Billings (33) finds himself in a financial situation sufficiently comfortable to buy a house in Boston.

**April 8, 1780** Antonio Salieri (29) returns to Vienna after two years of travel in Italy, fearful that Emperor Joseph is unhappy with him.

**April 11, 1780** British forces begin a siege of Charleston, South Carolina.

**April 14, 1780** King Friedrich II of Prussia issues the Allgemeines Landrecht, directing that there be a unified code of law for all the Prussian states.

**April 16, 1780** The University of Münster is founded by Franz Freiherr von Fürstenberg.

**April 17, 1780** British and French fleets meet in a muddled engagement off Martinique. Much damage is done but no advantage is gained by either side.

**April 22, 1780** Ercole III Reinald replaces Francesco III Maria as Duke of Modena and Reggio. Antonio Sacchini's (49) *Armida* is revived at the King's Theater, London as *Rinaldo*. It is the hit of the London season.

**May 2, 1780** A large French convoy carrying 6,000 men sets sail from France for America.

William Herschel discovers Xi Ursae Majoris, the first identified binary star.

**May 4, 1780** The American Academy of Arts and Sciences is chartered in Boston "to cultivate every art and science which may tend to advance the interest, dignity, honor and happiness of a free, independent and virtuous people." It is the first scientific society in the United States. The first president is John Bowdoin.

**May 7, 1780** Americans surrender Fort Moultrie, South Carolina to the British.

**May 12, 1780** After a siege of six weeks, US forces in Charleston, South Carolina surrender unconditionally to the British.

**May 14, 1780** This is the date of a diploma awarded to Joseph Haydn (48) upon being given membership in the Philharmonic Society of Modena.

**May 19, 1780** *Symphonie concertante* in Bb, C48 by Johann Christian Bach (44) is performed, possibly for the first time, in the Tottenham Street Rooms, London.

Darkness covers New England and parts of Canada during the day. It has never been explained.

**May 22, 1780** François-Joseph Gossec (46) is appointed sous-directeur of the Paris Opéra under Dauvergne.

**May 25, 1780** Two regiments of the United States Army mutiny at Morristown, New Jersey over unpaid wages and dwindling rations. The mutiny is put down.

**May 26, 1780** Spanish defenders repulse a British attack on St. Louis (Missouri).

**May 29, 1780** A meeting of the Protestant Association takes place in London. The group, founded by Lord George Gordon, opposes the Roman Catholic Relief Act removing disabilities of Catholics. They resolve to present a petition to Parliament.

British forces defeat Americans at Waxhaws Creek, South Carolina.

**June 2, 1780** Members of the Protestant Association, numbering 20,000 to 40,000 march on Parliament in London to petition against the Roman Catholic Relief Act. Along the way, their numbers swell to as much as 60,000. At the Houses their entrance is forbidden except for their leader, Lord George Gordon. While he is inside, the crowd begins to riot and attack Catholics and their property. Churches are a particular target. Parliament flees.

**June 4, 1780** After a lull yesterday, anti-Catholic rioting resumes in London.

*Still o'er the deep does Britain reign*, an ode by John Stanley (68) to words of Whitehead, is performed for the first time, to honor the birthday of King George III.

**June 5, 1780** *La finta amante*, an opera buffa by Giovanni Paisiello (40), is performed for the first time, in Mogilev, Poland.

**June 6, 1780** As Parliament meets for the first time since June 2, the anti-Catholic mob attacks again and forces them to flee. They turn their attention to attacks on the home of the Lord Chief Justice, Newgate and Clerkenwell Prisons, where the prisoners are freed, the Bank of England and foreign

embassies which have Catholic chapels on their premises, particularly Sardinia and Bavaria. Over 30 fires are started.

*Andromaque*, a tragédie lyrique by André-Ernest-Modeste Grétry (39) to words of Pitra after Racine, is performed for the first time, at the Paris Opéra.

**June 7, 1780** After dithering for several days, the British government calls out troops to halt anti-Catholic rioting in London. They are given shoot-to-kill orders against those who refuse to disperse. 285 people are killed, 173 wounded, 139 arrested.

A constitution for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is ratified by plebiscite. It includes a prohibition of slavery.

**June 9, 1780** The anti-Catholic riots in London are brought under control. 25 people will be hanged for their part in the insurrection, but the leader, Lord George Gordon, will be found not guilty of treason.

**June 22, 1780** Canadians and Indians capture Riddle's Station on the South Fork of the Licking River (Harrison County, Kentucky).

**June 30, 1780** Ludwig I Wilhelm Geldricus Ernst replaces Karl Paul Ernst as Dount of Bentheim and Steinfurt.

**July 9, 1780** Denmark declares armed neutrality in the war between Great Britain and the United States.

**July 10, 1780** *L'italian in Londra* becomes the first opera by Domenico Cimarosa (30) to be performed in Teatro alla Scala, Milan, the first of many.

**July 11, 1780** Count de Rochambeau, commander of a large force of French troops and ships, comes ashore with a retinue at Newport, Rhode Island to help the revolutionary cause. As no one is there to greet him, he spends the night in a hotel. General Washinton's emissary will arrive tomorrow.

**August 1, 1780** Sweden declares armed neutrality in the war between Great Britain and the United States.

**August 9, 1780** Benjamin Franklin writes from Paris to the Continental Congress telling them that John Adams is hindering his relationship with the French court.

**August 16, 1780** British and American troops blunder into each other in the dark near Camden, South Carolina, 175 km northwest of Charleston. There is a brief fire fight. After dawn, fighting resumes. The Americans are demolished, suffering three times the casualties of the British. Many units run away, along with their commander, Horatio Gates.

**August 29, 1780** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (24) completes his Symphony K.338 in Salzburg.

**September 2, 1780** One of the nights September 2-4 probably sees the premiere of Symphony K.338 by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (24) in Salzburg.

**September 3, 1780** Henry Laurens, United States representative to the Netherlands, is arrested off a merchant ship by a British man-of-war off Newfoundland. He will remain in the Tower of London for the duration of the war.

**September 7, 1780** *Der Herr segne euch* for chorus and strings by Johannes Herbst (45) is performed for the first time.

**September 8, 1780** After a successful campaign in South Carolina, British forces march into North Carolina.

**September 10, 1780** Haider Ali of Mysore completes his conquest of the Carnatic by reaching the British garrison at Madras.

**September 14, 1780** Near Augusta, Georgia, American troops assault a Creek village. They inflict heavy losses but are beaten back. This is the largest engagement of the revolution involving Indians.

**September 16, 1780** In Amsterdam, John Adams learns that he has been empowered by Congress to negotiate a loan from the Dutch.

**September 20, 1780** A French force under Admiral de Ternay and General Jean Baptiste Rochambeau, having marched from Rhode Island, meets Washington in Hartford.

**September 23, 1780** Friedrich replaces Ernst Friedrich III as Duke of Saxe-Hildburghausen.

A bust of André-Ernest-Modeste Grétry (39) is installed in the Liège City Theater.

*Adelheit von Veltheim*, a Schauspiel mit Gesang by Christian Gottlob Neefe (32) to words of Grossmann, is performed for the first time, in Frankfurt-am-Main.

British Major John Andre is captured in disguise near Tarrytown, New York. He carries papers betraying the American garrison at West Point, signed by Benedict Arnold.

**September 25, 1780** Hearing of the capture of Major John Andre, Benedict Arnold flees to a British ship in the Hudson River where he is awarded a commission and the rank of Brigadier General in the British army.

**October 2, 1780** British Major John Andre is hanged as a spy by the Americans at Tappan, New York.

**October 7, 1780** Americans demolish a loyalist force at King's Mountain, North Carolina, 300 km northwest of Charleston. They kill, injure or capture the entire force of 1,100 men. Some loyalists are killed after the surrender.

**October 10, 1780** What may be the most powerful hurricane to hit the Caribbean makes landfall on Barbados. Over the next week it will strike every island in the Lesser Antilles and Santo Domingo. 22,000 people are killed including many British and French naval vessels carrying thousands of soldiers.

**October 27, 1780** *Persée*, a tragédie lyrique by François-André Danican-Philidor (54) to words of Marmontel after Quinault, is performed for the first time, at the Paris Opéra. The public response is frigid.

A party of four professors and six students from Harvard College view a solar eclipse from Penobscot Bay, Maine. It is the first American expedition to view an eclipse. The British commander of the area allows the expedition to land, view the eclipse and depart in peace.

**November 5, 1780** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (24) departs Salzburg for Munich to produce *Idomeneo*.

**November 6, 1780** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (24) arrives in Munich to produce *Idomeneo*.

**November 13, 1780** *Wir haben ein Fest des Herrn* for chorus and strings by Johannes Herbst (45) is performed for the first time.

**November 29, 1780** Empress Maria-Theresa, Archduchess of Austria, Queen Mária Terézia of Hungary, Queen of Bohemia, dies, probably of a heart ailment, in the Schönbrunn Palace, Vienna. She is succeeded by her son Emperor Joseph II, King of the Romans, King of Bohemia, Archduke of Austria, King József II of Hungary.

**December 6, 1780** *Alcide al bivio*, a festa teatrale by Giovanni Paisiello (40) to words of Metastasio, is performed for the first time, at the Hermitage, St. Petersburg.

**December 16, 1780** The Netherlands declares armed neutrality in the war between Great Britain and the United States.

**December 18, 1780** Incidental music to Blumauer's play *Erwine von Steinheim* by Johann Schenk (27) is performed for the first time, in the Vienna Burgtheater. (It is possible that Schenk's music was not used at the first performance)

**December 20, 1780** Great Britain declares war on the Netherlands.

**December 25, 1780** Luigi Galvani records his conclusion, after a series of experiments in Bologna, that muscles are operated by electrical stimulation of nerves.

**December 30, 1780** The Netherlands declares war on Great Britain.