**1 January 1753** *What Warrior King*, an ode by Maurice Greene (56) to words of Cibber, is performed for the first time, in the Great Council Chamber of St. James’ Palace, London.

**8 January 1753** *Attilio Regolo*, an opera seria by Niccolò Jommelli (38) to words of Metastasio, is performed for the first time, in the Teatro Delle Dame, Rome.

**9 January 1753** The pamphlet *Le correcteur des bouffons à l'écolier de Prague* by Jean Baptiste Jourdan is published in Paris as part of the Querelle des Bouffons.

*Titon et l’Aurore*, a pastorale-heroique by Jean-Joseph Cassanea de Mondonville (41) to words of de La Marre, de Voisenon and de Lamotte, is performed for the first time, at the Paris Opéra. Its success is seen as a victory for the proponents of French opera in the Querelle des Bouffons.

**10 January 1753** King Louis XV issues an edict which orders the opera company of Eutachio Bambini out of Paris. They have been the champions of Italian opera in the Querelle des Bouffons. Both Bambini and the Opéra will ignore the order.

**11 January 1753** Johann Joachim Quantz, in Berlin, writes to Georg Philipp Telemann in Hamburg. He thanks Telemann for his kind words about Quantz’s *Versuch einer Anweisung die Flöte traversiere zu spielen*. Quantz acknowledges the great value of the music of Telemann and Handel.

Physician and naturalist Hans Sloane dies in Chelsea. He bequeathed his substantial collection of books, coins, antiquities and other articles to the nation. They will be the beginnings of the British Museum.

In a concordat with Spain, Pope Benedict XIV gives up the right to appoint bishops and other church positions in European Spain to the king.

**14 January 1753** George Berkeley, Bishop of Cloyne, dies at Oxford.

**25 January 1753** The pamphlet *Réponse du Coin du Roi au Coin de la Reine* is published in Paris as part of the Querelle des Bouffons.

During the Querelle des Bouffons, the dramma giocoso *La scaltra governatrice* by Cocchi to words of Palomba, is performed in Paris by the opera company of Eustachio Bambini.

**27 January 1753** A London newspaper reports that George Frideric Handel (67) has “quite lost his sight.”

A second version of *Demofoonte*, an opera seria by Niccolò Jommelli (38) to words of Metastasio, is performed for the first time, Ducal Palace, Milan. See 11 February 1764 and 4 November 1770.

**29 January 1753** 18-year-old Elizabeth Canning appears at the home of her mother in St. Giles Cripplegate in a disheveled condition, four weeks after she disappeared. Her mother and the neighborhood have been searching for her since 1 January. The legal actions which follow from those four weeks will be among the longest and most contentious in British history.

**31 January 1753** Elizabeth Canning appears before Alderman Thomas Chitty in the Guildhall and gives an account of her story.

**5 February 1753** *Solimano*, an opera by Johann Adolf Hasse (53) to words of Migliavacca, is performed for the first time, at the Dresden Court Opera. The gigantic production includes mobs of people along with many farm and circus animals.

**7 February 1753** Elizabeth Canning swears an affidavit before magistrate Henry Fielding (the author) in London. Canning claims that on 1 January she was beaten, robbed, and abducted by two men and taken to a brothel in Enfield Wash, Middlesex. There, the madam of the house (a “Gipsy Woman”) locked her in a room with nothing but bread and water until 29 January when she was able to break a window and escape to her home. The tale is somewhat at variance with earlier versions of her story. Fielding issues a warrant for the appearance against anyone “who should be found resident in the House…that they might appear before me.” (Moore, 65) Vertue Hall and Judith Natus are seized and produced.

“When Damon languish’d at my feet”, a song by William Boyce (41) appears in the first performance of *The Gamester*, a tragedy by Moore, in Drury Lane Theatre, London.

**10 February 1753** Baldassare Galuppi’s (46) dramma giocoso *I bagni d’Albano* to words of Goldoni, is performed for the first time, in Teatro San Samuele, Venice.

**11 February 1753** *Fetonte*, a pasticcio containing the music of Niccolò Jommelli (38), to words of Villati, is performed for the first time, at the Ducal Theatre, Stuttgart, to celebrate the birthday of Duke Carl Eugen of Württemberg.

**13 February 1753** Virtue Hall is deposed by magistrate Henry Fielding and largely substantiates the claims of Elizabeth Canning, implicating Susannah Wells, the owner of the brothel, and Mary Squires, the “Gipsy Woman” and mother of the two men who abducted Canning.

**16 February 1753** Susannah Wells and Mary Squires appear before magistrate Henry Fielding and deny any knowledge of Elizabeth Canning or her troubles.

**17 February 1753** An article in *Scots Magazine* suggests that information could be sent over long distances by sending electricity through wires.

**21 February 1753** *Au petit prophète*, a pamphlet by Denis Diderot is published in Paris as part of the Querelle des Bouffons.

Mary Squires and Susannah Wells are tried in the Old Bailey before Sir Crisp Gascoyne, the Lord Mayor of London. Squires is found guilty of assault and theft of Elizabeth Canning and sentenced to death. Wells is found guilty of knowing of the crime and then imprisoning Canning for almost a month. She is sentenced to branding on the hand and six months imprisonment. The branding is immediately carried out.

**22 February 1753** Charles Avison (44) dates his *A Reply to the Author of Remarks On the Essay on Musical Expression.* William Hayes, a professor at Oxford University, strongly criticized Avison’s less than laudatory remarks about Handel (67) in his *Essay*, and his preference for church music of the Italian school rather than the English. Avsion calls Hayes a “tasteless pedant.” Sales of the original *Essay* increase.

**1 March 1753** Sweden and Finland adopt the Gregorian calendar. Yesterday was 17 February.

*Le Devin du village*, an intermède by Jean-Jacques Rousseau, is performed publicly for the first time, at the Paris Opéra. It is enormously successful. See 18 October 1752.

**6 March 1753** About this time, Denis Diderot’s pamphlet *Les trois chapitres* is published in Paris as part of the Querelle des Bouffons.

**9 March 1753** Dr. John Hill begins a series of essays on the Canning case in the *London Daily Advertiser*. He is an enemy of Henry Fielding. The paper is sold out today.

**13 March 1753** *La reggia de’ Fati*, a serenata by Niccolò Jommelli (38) to words of Pascali, is performed for the first time, in the Royal Ducal Palace, Milan, to celebrate the birth of Prince Joseph of Austria. Two arias are composed by Giovanni Battista Sammartini (52).

**18 March 1753** Henry Fielding dates the postscript to his *A Clear State of the Case of Elizabeth Canning*, the first defense of Canning in print.

**19 March 1753** *La pastorale offerta*, a serenata by Niccolò Jommelli (38) and Giovanni Battista Sammartini (52) to words of Pascali, is performed for the first time, in the Royal Ducal Palace, Milan, to celebrate the birth of Prince Joseph of Austria.

**23 March 1753** Three goldsmiths, Gawen Nash, Edward Aldridge, and John Hague, who inspected the place where Elizabeth Canning said she was held, make a joint deposition before Sir Crisp Gascoyne, Lord Mayor of London. Based on their inspection, they believe that Canning’s story can not be true.

**25 March 1753** One Andrew Wake is deposed by the Lord Mayor of London in the Elizabeth Canning case. He swears that he saw Mary Squires (now sentenced to death) in Abbotsbury, Dorset in January, helping her alibi.

**26 March 1753** After three years and causing much controversy in Prussia, Voltaire departs the court of Friedrich II in Potsdam, heading west.

**27 March 1753** *Silla*, an opera by Karl Heinrich Graun (49) to words of King Friedrich II, translated by Tagliazucchi, is performed for the first time, in the Berlin Opera House.

**3 April 1753** The Countess of Shaftesbury writes that, in spite of his blindness, “Handel’s (68) playing is beyond what even *he* ever did.” (Harris, 329)

**5 April 1753** The British Museum is founded by an act of Parliament.

**9 April 1753** The Parlement of Paris issues the Grandes Remonstrances asserting its right to be the defender of the fundamental laws of France, even in the face of opposition from the king.

**10 April 1753** Based on an investigation and several depositions overseen by Sir Crisp Gascoyne, Lord Mayor of London, who presided at the trial of Mary Squires in February, she is given a stay of execution for six weeks. Gascoyne is convinced she is innocent and has written as much to King George.

**11 April 1753** The Lord chamberlain, Charles, Duke of Grafton, informs theatre owners that no theatrical productions may take place during Lent, whether sacred or secular. Thomas Arne (43) has been trying to pass off an unstaged revival of his *Alfred* as an oratorio.

**15 April 1753** Mr. Justice Le Diard, along with a constable, arrives at a rehearsal of Thomas Arne’s (43) *Alfred* in Hart Street opposite Covent Garden. He requires the proceedings to end because the advertised performance on 21 April is in violation of the Lord Chamberlain’s order of 11 April.

**1 May 1753** George Frideric Handel (68) plays a voluntary on the organ at a performance of *Messiah* at the Foundling Hospital, London. This is the last reported instance of Handel (68) performing on the organ in public.

*Species Plantarum* (Species of Plants) by the Swedish scientist Carl Linnaeus is published. It describes around 6,000 plants from all around the known world.

During the Querelle des Bouffons, the intermezzo *Tracollo, medico ignorante* by Giovanni Battista Pergolesi (†16) to words of Mariani, is performed in Paris by the opera company of Eustachio Bambini.

**4 May 1753** The pamphlet *Seconde lettre* by Jean Baptiste Jourdan is published in Paris as part of the Querelle des Bouffons.

**5 May 1753** The Parlement of Paris suspends all of its services. They are in dispute with King Louis over billets de confession. The Church has been denying Last Rites to those who do not support it politically.

**21 May 1753** Mary Squires is pardoned of any wrongdoing in the case of Elizabeth Canning by King George II.

**22 May 1753** The Jewish Naturalization Act passes the House of Commons. It allows foreign Jews to be naturalized in Britain without becoming Christians. Passed with little controversy, it will be repealed due to popular outcry.

The French aristocrat René-Louis D’Argenson writes, “A learned but pedantic cabal with bad taste is forcing the public to hear nothing except Italian music, or new operas sprinkled with Italian…There has been talk of starting an Italian opera company here; personally, I should like someone to form a French company, to which I would willingly subscribe.” (Charlton, 199)

**29 May 1753** *Der krumme Teufel*, a singspiel by Franz Joseph Haydn (21) to words of Kurz, is performed for the first time, in Vienna.

**30 May 1753** Mary Squires, having been pardoned by King George II, is released from confinement.

**2 June 1753** A mutual defense treaty is agreed to by Austria, Great Britain and Modena.

**7 June 1753** King George II gives royal assent to the British Museum Act, accepting the bequest of the collection of Sir Hans Sloane, to begin the British Museum.

**9 June 1753** The grand jury returns two bills as true, a bill against Elizabeth Canning and one brought by her friends against John Gibbons, William Clarke, and Thomas Greville, alibi witnesses for Mary Squires.

**15 June 1753** *Il Figlio delle selve*, a favola pastorale by Ignaz Holzbauer (41) to words of Capece, is performed for the first time, at Schwetzingen. It is staged to celebrate the birthday of Princess Maria Franziska of Pfalz-Sulzbach. Its success will secure for him the position of Kapellmeister in Mannheim.

**19 June 1753** During the Querelle des Bouffons, *La zingara,* an intermezzo by Rinaldo di Capua (c.48), is performed for the first time, at the Académie royale de musique, Paris by the opera company of Eustachio Bambini.

**7 July 1753** The Jewish Naturalization Act receives royal assent, despite opposition by conservatives. Jews may now become full British citizens on application to Parliament. It will be repealed next year due to widespread opposition.

**10 July 1753** *L’eroe cinese*, an opera seria by Baldassare Galuppi (46) to words of Metastasio, is performed for the first time, in Teatro San Carlo, Naples.

**11 July 1753** By decree of Duke Carl Eugen of Württemberg, Ignaz Holzbauer (41) is released from his service.

**15 July 1753** The grand motet *In exitu Israel* by Jean-Joseph Cassanea de Mondonville (41) to words of the Psalms, is performed for the first time, at Versailles before the court.

**23 July 1753** Franz Konrad von Stadion-Thannhausen replaces Johann Philip Anton von Frankenstein as Prince-Bishop of Bamberg.

**26 July 1753** Count Carl Theodor decrees that Ignaz Holzbauer (41) is henceforth his Kapellmeister in Mannheim.

**4 August 1753** Gottfried Silbermann dies in Dresden, aged 70 years, six months and 21 days.

**12 August 1753** Joseph Boulogne (7) arrives in Bordeaux with his stepmother to attend school.

**21 August 1753** Susannah Wells is released from Newgate Prison after completing her entire six month term, even though the woman she supposedly assisted has been pardoned by King George.

**30 August 1753** *La clemenza di Tito*, an opera seria by Niccolò Jommelli (38) to words of Metastasio, is performed for the first time, in the Ducal Theatre, Stuttgart, under the direction of the composer, for the birthday of Duchess Frederike of Württemberg.

Two works by Georg Philipp Telemann (72) to words of Dreyer are performed for the first time, in Hamburg: the oratorio *Fürchtet den Herrn und dienet ihm treulich*, and the serenade *Die Zeiten, die so schnell verfliessen*.

**10 September 1753** After three separate trials, the three alibi witnesses for Mary Squires, John Gibbons, William Clarke, and Thomas Greville, are discharged.

**12 September 1753** The Convention of Vienna standardizes the Austrian currency into Ducats, Marks, Thaler, Gulden and Groschen.

**23 September 1753** During the Querelle des Bouffons, the opera company of Eustachio Bambini produces two intermezzi in Paris: *Gli artigiani arricchiti* by Gaetano Latilla to words of Barlocci, and *Il paratajo* by Niccolò Jommelli (39) to anonymous words.

**29 September 1753** Antonio Soler (23) receives Holy Orders at El Escorial, in a ceremony for which he composed a *Veni creator*.

**1 October 1753** *Oden mit Melodien* is published in Berlin. It is a very influential collection of songs by some of the foremost composers in Germany, including Georg Philipp Telemann (72), Johann Gottlieb Graun (50), Carl Heinrich Graun (49), and CPE Bach (39).

**3 October 1753** Pope Benedict XIV grants Domenico Scarlatti (67) a plenary indulgence for himself and his family.

Robert Dinwiddie, British governor of Virginia, sends 21-year-old George Washington into the region of the Ohio Valley to observe French movements and encroachments in the area.

**7 October 1753** Johann Adolf Hasse’s (54) opera *L’eroe cinese*, to words of Metastasio, is performed for the first time, at the Hubertusburg Court.

**29 October 1753** *Daphnis et Eglé*, a pastorale-heroïque by Jean-Philippe Rameau (70) to words of Collé, is performed for the first time, at Fontainebleau. The premiere was originally planned for tomorrow but was cancelled for some reason. The open rehearsal today becomes the effective premiere.

**4 November 1753** The second version of *Ricimero, re dei goti*, an opera seria by Baldassare Galuppi (47), is performed for the first time, in Teatro San Carlo, Naples.

**9 November 1753** Karl Christian replaces Karl August as Prince of Nassau-Weilburg.

During the Querelle des Bouffons, the intermezzo *Bertoldo in corte* by Ciampi to words of Goldoni, is performed in Paris by the opera company of Eustachio Bambini.

**13 November 1753** Jean-Philippe Rameau’s (70) acte de ballet *Les Sibarites*, to a scenario by Marmontel, is performed for the first time, at Fontainebleau.

**21 November 1753** Niccolò Jommelli (39) signs a contract to become Musikdirektor und Oberkapellmeister for Duke Carl Eugen of Württemberg in Stuttgart. The contract becomes effective on 1 January 1754.

**22 November 1753** About this time, the pamphlet *Lettre sur la musique françoise* by Jean-Jacques Rousseau is published in Paris as part of the Querelle des Bouffons. “I believe I have shown that there is neither measure nor melody in French music, because the language is not suitable for it…” (Darlow, 40)

**28 November 1753** Due to popular opposition, the Jewish Naturalization Act, which passed the Commons last 22 May, is repealed.

**30 November 1753** Johann Baptist Schenk is born in Wiener Neustadt, the son of an employee at the Wiener Neustadt military academy.

In London, the Earl of Macclesfield announces that the Royal Society’s Copley gold medal is awarded to Benjamin Franklin for his discoveries in the field of electricity. Franklin is the first person living outside Britain to receive the medal.

**1 December 1753** Incidental music to Glover’s play *Boadicea* by William Boyce (42) is performed for the first time, in Drury Lane Theatre, London. The play is well received and will see ten performances.

**14 December 1753** Gaetano Latilla (42) is hired as maestro di coro at the Ospedale della Pietà, Venice.

**18 December 1753** *Ifigenia in Aulide*, a pasticcio with some music by Tommaso Traetta (26) to words of Verazi after Zeno, is performed for the first time, in Teatro San Carlo, Naples.

**20 December 1753** Due to popular opposition, the Jewish Naturalization Act, passed last May, is repealed by the British government.

**24 December 1753** Pursuant to the papal encyclical *Annus qui* of 1749, the Konsistorium of Vienna bans trumpets and timpani in all churches and sacred processions.

**26 December 1753** *Ciro in Armenia* by Agnesi-Pinottini, with ballet music by Giovanni Battista Sammartini (52), is performed for the first time, in the Royal Ducal Palace, Milan.

Niccolò Jommelli’s (39) opera seria *Bajazette*, to words of Piovene, is performed for the first time, in the Royal Theatre, Turin.

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