**1 January 1754** Niccolò Jommelli (39) assumes the position of Musikdirektor und Oberkapellmeister to Duke Carl Eugen of Württemberg in Stuttgart.

*Hail! Hail! auspicious rising year*, an ode by Maurice Greene (57) to words of Cibber, is performed for the first time, in the Great Council Chamber of St. James’ Palace, London.

**15 January 1754** At the funeral of moderate porcelain merchant Daniel Raap in Amsterdam, radical democrats stage a riot, desecrating the coffin.

**16 January 1754** *Chacun à son tour*, a pantomime by Ignaz Holzbauer (42) to a story of d’Inzeo, is performed for the first time, in the Mannheim Hoftheater.

**20 January 1754** A second version of *Alessandro nelle Indie*, an opera seria by Baldassare Galuppi (47) to words of Metastasio, is performed for the first time, in Teatro San Carlo, Naples.

**22 January 1754** *Don Falcone*, an intermezzo by Niccolò Jommelli (39) is performed for the first time, in Teatro Rossi, Bologna.

**26 January 1754** Empress Maria Theresia extends the ban on trumpets and timpani of last 24 December throughout the lands over which she rules.

**28 January 1754** In a letter to Horace Mann, Horace Walpole first uses the word “serendipity.” He says the word comes from a fairy tale, *The Three Princes of Serendip* (an older name for Sri Lanka). “…as their highnesses travelled, they were always making discoveries, by accidents and sagacity, of things which they were not in quest of…”

Norwegian writer Ludvig Holberg dies in Copenhagen at the age of 69.

**31 January 1754** François-André Danican-Philidor’s (27) ode *A Hymn to Harmony*, to words of Congreve, is performed for the first time, in the Little Theatre in the Haymarket, London, “in order to justify himself of the calumny spread about the town that he was not the author of the Latin music he gave last year...” Present at the concert is George Frideric Handel (68) who finds “the choruses well put together, and only said that that the airs lacked taste.”

**6 February 1754** *Artemisia*, an opera by Johann Adolf Hasse (54) to words of Migliavacca, is performed for the first time, at the Dresden Court Opera.

**10 February 1754** *Siroe*, an opera by Baldassare Galuppi (47) to words of Metastasio, is performed for the first time, in Teatro Argentina, Rome.

**12 February 1754** During the Querelle des Bouffons, the intermezzo *Il viatiatori* by Leonardo Leo (†9) to words of Palomba, is performed in Paris by the opera company of Eustachio Bambini.

**6 March 1754** Prime Minister Henry Pelham of Great Britain dies in London.

**16 March 1754** Thomas Pelham-Holles, Duke of Newcastle replaces his brother Henry Pelham as Prime Minister of Great Britain.

**22 March 1754** In a coffee shop in Covent Garden, eleven eminent English gentlemen found the Royal Society of Arts, “for the encouragement of arts, manufactures, and commerce in Great Britain.” (Wood, 11-12)

**23 March 1754** Thomas Chippendale publishes one of the most influential books on furniture design, *Gentleman and Cabinet-Maker’s Directory*.

**27 March 1754** *Semiramide*, an opera by Karl Heinrich Graun (50) to words of Tagliazucchi after Voltaire, is performed for the first time, at the Berlin Opera.

**31 March 1754** *La forêt enchantée*, a pantomime by Francesco Geminiani (66), is performed for the first time, in the Salle des Machines, Paris.

**6 April 1754** The last performance of *Admeto, re di Tessaglia* takes place today in London. It is the last staging of an opera by George Frideric Handel (69) until the 20th Century.

**9 April 1754** Fernando de Silva y Alvarez Toledo, duque de Huéscar replaces José de Carvajal y Lancáster as First Secretary of State of Spain ad interim.

**17 April 1754** A force of 600 French and Indians reaches the confluence of the Allegheny and the Monongahela rivers. They encounter a small British advance force trying to erect defensive positions. They destroy these works and begin building a larger, stronger edifice: Ft. Duquesne (Pittsburgh).

**29 April 1754** Elizabeth Canning goes on trial for perjury at the Old Bailey in London.

**8 May 1754** After a trial lasting eleven days (lengthy for the 18th century), Elizabeth Canning is found “Guilty of Wilful and Corrupt Perjury.”

**9 May 1754** The first newspaper cartoon appears in the *Pennsylvania Gazette*. It shows a divided snake with each of eight sections identified as a colony. The caption reads “Join or Die.” It was designed by Benjamin Franklin to foster unity in the anticipated war against France.

**13 May 1754** Elizabeth Canning is sentenced to one month’s imprisonment and then deportation to the colonies for seven years. Since her perjury almost resulted in an innocent woman being hanged, the judge allows that this sentence is “in no degree adequate to the greatness of [your] offense.” (Moore, 164)

**14 May 1754** The St. Andrew’s Society of Golfers is organized in Scotland.

**15 May 1754** Anton Fils (20) is appointed cellist to the electoral court of Mannheim. The appointment is retroactive to 1 February.

*Messiah* by George Frideric Handel (69) is performed at the Foundling Hospital, London. This is probably the last time that the work is performed under the direction of the composer.

**17 May 1754** Ricardo Wall y Devreux replaces Fernando de Silva y Alvarez Toledo, duque de Huéscar as First Secretary of State of Spain.

**20 May 1754** Five weeks of voting conclude in the British general election. Although no real party structure exists, supporters of the present government appear to be in the majority.

**28 May 1754** A party of Virginia militiamen commanded by George Washington surprise a slightly smaller French party south of Ft. Duquesne (Pittsburgh). Ten French are killed and most of the rest captured by the English.

**29 May 1754** Thomas Augustine Arne’s (44) patriotic opera *Eliza*, to words of Rolt, is performed for the first time, in the Little Theatre, Haymarket, London.

**30 May 1754** Virginia militia commanded by Lt. Col. George Washington start building Ft. Necessity near the Ohio River 80 km southeast of Fort Duquesne (Pittsburgh).

**2 June 1754** In spite of the ban of last 26 January, Archduke Ferdinand, son of Empress Maria Theresia, is baptized in Vienna to the sound of trumpets and timpani.

**3 June 1754** Aziz ad-Din Abu’l-Adl Mohammad Alamgir Padshah-e Ghazi replaces Mojahed ad-Din Abu’n Nasr Ahmad Shah Bahadur Padshah-e Ghazi as Emperor of India.

**8 June 1754** Giovanni Paisiello (14) enrolls in the Conservatorio di Sant’Onofrio a Capuano in Naples.

**11 June 1754** Joseph Black offers his thesis *De Humore Acido a Cibis orto, et Magnesia Alba* (On the acid Humor rising from Food, and Magnesia Alba) in Edinburgh. He explains how he created carbon dioxide in the laboratory.

**12 June 1754** Dorothea Erxleben is awarded a medical degree from the University of Halle. It is the first medical degree granted to a woman in Germany.

**16 June 1754** *L’isola disabitata*, an azione comica per musica by Ignaz Holzbauer (42) to words of Metastasio, is performed for the first time, at Schwetzingen.

**19 June 1754** Delegates from the British colonies in North America meet in Albany to discuss concerted action against the French.

**23 June 1754** Giovanni Giacomo Stefano Veneroso replaces Giovanni Battista Grimaldi as Doge of Genoa.

**26 June 1754** Anthony Henday of the Hudson’s Bay Company departs York Fort (York Factory) with a group of Plains Crees heading west.

700 Canadian and Indian reinforcements arrive at Fort Duquesne (Pittsburgh).

**27 June 1754** After rumors are about town that Elizabeth Canning has been offered a pardon if she will confess and name names, notices appears in London newspapers over her name. “…I am compelled to declare, and do in the most serious manner, and with the strictest regard to truth, hereby declare, that I remain at this instant of time fully persuaded, and well assured, that Mary Squires was the person who robbed me, that the house of Susannah Wells was the place in which I was confined twenty-eight days; and that I did not in my several informations or examinations before the different magistrates, or in my evidence on the trial of the said Mary Squires and Susannah Wells, knowingly, in any material or even in the most minute circumstance, deviate from the truth.” (Moore, 171-172)

**3 July 1754** A force of French and Indians attack the recently built Ft. Necessity 80 km southeast of Ft. Duquesne (Pittsburgh).

**4 July 1754** British forces under Colonel George Washington at Ft. Necessity surrender and are allowed to withdraw back to Virginia, by the French.

**8 July 1754** Sir Crisp Gascoyne publishes his perspective of the Elizabeth Canning case in *Address to the Liverymen of the City of London*.

**22 July 1754** Anthony Henday’s party reaches the French settlement at Paskoya (The Pas, Manitoba). They allow him to proceed unmolested.

**24 July 1754** Antoine Louis Rouillé replaces François Dominique de Barberie de Saint-Contest as Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (chief minister) of France.

**7 August 1754** Elizabeth Canning boards the *Myrtilla* heading for New England.

**14 August 1754** *La Soubrette maîtresse* (later *La Servante maîtresse*), a translation of Pergolesi’s (†17) *La Serva padrona* by Pierre Baurans, is performed at Foire St-Germain. It will see 167 performances over the next eight years. It is seen as a reconciliation of the warring French and Italian operatic camps.

**29 August 1754** Two works by Georg Philipp Telemann (73) with words possibly by Bueck, are performed for the first time, in Hamburg: the oratorio *Sing Ehre!* and the serenata *Wirbelt, ihr Trommeln*.

**30 August 1754** *Catone in Utica*, an opera seria by Niccolò Jommelli (39) to words of Metastasio, is performed for the first time, in the Ducal Theatre, Stuttgart.

**2 September 1754** King Louis XV recalls the Parlement of Paris after negotiations by the Prince de Conti. He orders all factions to refrain from discussing the refusal of sacraments.

**8 September 1754** The name of Johann Stamitz (37) appears in a program of the Concert spirituel, Paris.

**9 September 1754** The cantata *Nun ist das Heil* TWV 1: 1171 by Georg Philipp Telemann (73) to words of Mayer, is performed for the first time, in Hamburg.

**20 September 1754** George Frideric Handel (69) writes to Georg Philipp Telemann (73) that the rumors of his death are untrue.

**24 September 1754** *Le cinesi*, a componimento drammatico by Christoph Willibald Gluck (40) to words of Metastasio, is performed for the first time, in the Schlosshof, near Vienna for a visit by Empress Maria Theresia to the summer home of Prince Joseph Friedrich von Sachsen-Hildburghausen.

**8 October 1754** Georg Philipp Telemann’s (73) cantata *Habe acht auf dich selbst* is performed for the first time, at the consecration of Joachim Lütken as preacher in St. Maria Magdalena, Hamburg.

Henry Fielding dies in Lisbon at the age of 47.

**12 October 1754** Jean-Philippe Rameau’s (71) acte de ballet *La naissance d’Osiris ou La fête Pamilie*, to a scenario by Cahusac, is performed for the first time, in Fontainebleau to celebrate the birth of the Duc de Berry (later King Louis XVI).

The *Wienerisches Diarum* refers to Christoph Willibald Gluck (40) as “Fürstl. Capell-meister” to Prince Joseph Friedrich von Sachsen-Hildburghausen.

**14 October 1754** The Anthony Henday expedition reaches the main Blackfoot camp, about 29 km southeast of present Red Deer, Alberta.

**18 October 1754** Empress Maria Theresia appoints Christoph Willibald Gluck (40) as Imperial and Royal Chamber Composer.

**23 October 1754** *Anacreon*(i), an acte de ballet by Jean-Philippe Rameau (71) to a scenario by Cahusac, is performed for the first time, in Fontainebleau.

**26 October 1754** Baldassare Galuppi’s (48) dramma giocoso *Il filosofo di campagna* to words of Goldoni, is performed for the first time, in Teatro San Samuele, Venice.

**29 October 1754** *Daphnis et Alcimadure*, a pastorale languedocienne by Jean-Joseph Cassanea de Mondonville (42) to his own words, is performed for the first time, at Fontainebleau. The work is well received and will open at the Paris Opéra 5 January 1755.

**30 October 1754** *When glory with refulgent wings*, an ode by Maurice Greene (58) to words of Cibber, is performed for the first time, in honor of the birthday of King George II, in the Great Council Chamber of St. James’ Palace, London.

**31 October 1754** Through the efforts of acting Governor James DeLancy of New York, King’s College is chartered by King George II. Classes have been held since July. It will later be known as Columbia University.

**4 November 1754** *L’Issipile*, a dramma per musica by Ignaz Holzbauer (43) to words of Metastasio, is performed for the first time, at the Mannheim Hoftheater.

**14 December 1754** Ottoman Sultan Mahmud I dies in Constantinople and is succeeded by his brother Osman III.

**16 December 1754** *L’allégresse du jour*, a pantomime by Ignaz Holzbauer (43), is performed for the first time, in the Mannheim Komödiensaal.

**23 December 1754** *Lauda Jerusalem*, a motet by François André Danican-Philidor (28) is performed for the first time, in the Chapel at Versailles during a mass attended by the King and Queen. The Queen dispproves, finding it “too Italian.”

**25 December 1754** The cantata *Was frag ich nach der Welt* TWV I: 508 by Georg Philipp Telemann (73) is performed for the first time, in Hamburg.

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