**1 January 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, in the Great Council Chamber of St. James’ Palace, London.

**2 January 1772** *Missa pro defunctis Archespiscopo* 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.

**9 January 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.

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

**17 January 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.

**24 January 1772** A riot breaks out amongst Cossacks in Yaitsk (Oral). 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.

**27 January 1772** The Pantheon, designed by James Wyatt after the Hagia Sophia in Istanbul, is opened in London.

**29 January 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.

**6 February 1772** The Feathers Tavern Petition is introduced in the British Parliament. It is a request by about 250 clergymen that they not be bound by the 39 Articles of Religion. After a long debate, it is rejected.

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

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

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

**17 February 1772** The partition of Poland is agreed to secretly by ministers of Russia and Prussia in St. Petersburg.

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

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

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

**23 February 1772** The Society for the Discharge and Relief of Persons Imprisoned for Small Debts is founded in London.

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

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

**4 March 1772** Prussia and Austria agree to a partition of Poland, in Vienna.

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

**11 March 1772** Niccolò Piccinni (44) returns to Naples from Rome where he produced an intermezzo.

**13 March 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.

**14 March 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).

**16 March 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.

**29 March 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*.

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

**1 April 1772** King George III of Great Britain give royal assent to the Royal Marriages Act. It requires that no descendant of George II (except for women married to foreign royalty) may marry without the consent of the reigning monarch.

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

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

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

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

**28 April 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 in Copenhagen. 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.

Wawel Castle in Kraków, held by the Bar Confederation, falls to the Russians.

**29 April 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.

**2 May 1772** The last Bach (36)-Abel (48) concert takes place at Mr. Almack’s Room, King Street. The two split amicably.

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

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

**11 May 1772** During a performance of *Le Déserteur* by Pierre-Alexandre Monsigny (42) in the Amsterdam Schouwburg, fire breaks out on stage. Eighteen people are killed and the building is a total loss.

**12 May 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.

**27 May 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.

**1 June 1772** King Louis approves a patent of 1,000 livres to be paid to Jean-Joseph Cassanea de Mondonville (60) by the directors of the Académie de Musique.

**4 June 1772** *From scenes of death and deep distress*, an ode by William Boyce (60) to words of Whitehead, is performed for the first time, in the Great Council Chamber of St. James’ Palace, London, to celebrate the birthday of King George III.

**8 June 1772** The London banking house of Neal, James, Fordyce, and Down collapses as Alexander Fordyce leaves the country to avoid debts. This begins a major bank run which will result in twenty banks either closing or stopping payments.

**9 June 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 9-10 June.

**10 June 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. It is moderately successful.

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

**22 June 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.

**23 June 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.

**24 June 1772** Stagecoach service begins from Boston to New York. The trip takes one week.

**26 June 1772** *The Nabob*, a comedy by Samuel Foote, is premiered at the Haymarket Theatre, London.

**30 June 1772** Samuel Hearne returns to Prince of Wales Fort after a 19-month journey of over 5,600 km.

**13 July 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*.

The Fortress of Tyniec near Kraków, held by the Bar Confederation, falls to the Russians.

**14 July 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.

**5 August 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.

**8 August 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.

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

**11 August 1772** Mount Papandayan in Java erupts, destroying 40 villages and killing around 3,000 people.

**13 August 1772** Jasna Góra, held by the Bar Confederation, is captured by the Russian army after a siege.

**17 August 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.

**18 August 1772** Czestochowa, held by the Bar Confederation, falls to the Russians.

**19 August 1772** King Gustaf III of Sweden effects a coup d’etat 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.

**21 August 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.

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

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

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

**12 September 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.

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

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

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

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

**21 October 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.

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

**1 November 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.

**2 November 1772** In Faneuil Hall, the Boston Town Meeting approves a motion by Samuel Adams to set up a Committee of Correspondence to communicate with other towns throughout Massachusetts and with the outside world.

**4 November 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.

**5 November 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.

**8 November 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.

**11 November 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.

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

**21 November 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. Its success will exceed that of Goldsmith’s *She Stoops to Conquer*.

**22 November 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.

**28 November 1772** The Monastery of Zagórz, the last major holding of the Bar Confederation, falls to the Russians.

**2 December 1772** Benjamin Franklin in London writes to Thomas Cushing in Boston, enclosing six letters from Thomas Hutchinson that were given to him by a member of Parliament. He does so in the hope that it will diffuse tensions and show that the British do not dislike Americans, but are being badly advised by a few misinformed individuals. When they are published, against Franklin’s instructions, they will have the opposite effect.

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

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

**12 December 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.

**26 December 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, 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 Theatre, London.

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