**1 January 1790** Muzio Clementi’s (37) three keyboard sonatas op.23 are entered at Stationers’ Hall, London.

Cezayirli Gazi Hasan Pasha replaces Kethuda Çerkes Hasan Pasha as Grand Vizier of the Ottoman Empire.

**11 January 1790** An assembly of Belgian revolutionaries from eleven states declares the independence of the United States of Belgium from Austria. They also institute a constitution calling for considerable decentralization.

*L’armonia*, a cantata by Pasquale Anfossi (62) to words of Butturini, is performed for the first time, in Teatro San Benedetto, Venice.

**12 January 1790** Having been removed from the Tuileries Palace by the presence of the royal family, the Théâtre de Monsieur gives its first performance in the much smaller, and more remote, Foire Saint-Germain.

**13 January 1790** *Pierre le Grand*, a comédie mêlée de chants by André-Ernest-Modeste Grétry (48) to words of Bouilly after Voltaire, is performed for the first time, at the Comédie-Italienne, Paris.

**15 January 1790** After attempting settlements on other islands, the *Bounty* mutineers, accompanied by several Polynesians, discover Pitcairn Island, which is positioned incorrectly on all Royal Navy maps.

**22 January 1790** Hundreds of troops are used to seal off the district near the Théâtre-Français to catch the Jacobin leader Marat.

**23 January 1790** After removing everything of value, *HMS Bounty* is burned by the mutineers who begin a colony on Pitcairn Island.

**26 January 1790** *Cosi fan tutte, ossia La scuola degli amanti* K.588, an opera buffa by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart to words of da Ponte, is performed for the first time, in the Vienna Burgtheater on the eve of the composer’s 34th birthday. It is a hit. Among the audience is Franz Joseph Haydn (57).

**28 January 1790** Emperor Joseph II revokes almost all reforms he has established in Hungary. He decides to convene the Hungarian Diet (something he has never done), directed that the Hungarian crown be returned to Hungary from Vienna, and agrees to be crowned King of Hungary.

Sephardic Jews with required financial holdings, are granted citizenship by the French Constituent Assembly.

**29 January 1790** Due to his worsening illness, Emperor Joseph II hands power over to a regency council.

**1 February 1790** The Supreme Court of the United States convenes for the first time, in New York.

**4 February 1790** King Louis XVI appears before the National Assembly and pledges to “defend and maintain constitutional liberty...”

**18 February 1790** Three Piano Sonatas op.30 by Leopold Kozeluch (42) are entered at Stationers’ Hall, London.

Princess Elizabeth of Württemberg, the wife of Archduke Franz, dies in Vienna during childbirth.

**20 February 1790** Emperor Joseph II, Archduke of Austria, King of the Romans, King József II of Hungary, King of Bohemia dies in Vienna. He is succeeded by his brother Grand Duke Leopold of Tuscany as Archduke of Austria and King Lipót II of Hungary. All theatres are closed, thus interrupting the successful run of *Cosi fan tutte* by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (34).

Publication of an aria for voice and piano, *Du Engel du liebst nur mich* B.704 by Ignaz Pleyel (32), is announced in the *Wiener Zeitung*.

**23 February 1790** The *Journal Général de France* reports that recently, while walking through London, Joseph Boulogne, Chevalier de Saint Georges (44) was attacked by four unidentified armed men. He managed to drive them off with a stick.

**26 February 1790** The British Foreign Minister, the Duke of Leeds, tells the Spanish minister in London that Spain must release the ships seized in Nootka Sound last year and give satisfaction for the offense.

**1 March 1790** Joseph Konrad Count von Schroffenberg-Mös replaces Maximilian Procop Count von Töring-Jettenbach as Prince-Bishop of Freising and Prince-Bishop of Regensburg.

**4 March 1790** The new structure of local government goes into effect. France is divided into 83 départements.

**13 March 1790** Emperor Leopold II arrives in Vienna to take up his throne.

**17 March 1790** A meeting of the Lesergesellschaft in Bonn decides that the music they commissioned for a memorial to the late Emperor Joseph II will not be performed. The *Funeral Cantata for Joseph* WoO 87 by Ludwig van Beethoven (19) is not finished, and what is already composed can not be played by the available musicians.

**22 March 1790** Returning from his post in France, Thomas Jefferson enters upon duties as the first Secretary of State of the United States, in New York.

**29 March 1790** Poland cedes Thorn and Danzig (Gdansk) to Prussia.

**3 April 1790** The Earl of Buckinghamshire lays the foundation stone of a new opera house to be built on the site of the King’s Theatre in London which burned down last July.

**6 April 1790** Ludwig X replaces Ludwig IX as Landgrave of Hesse.

**16 April 1790** Rusçuklu Cezayirli Hasan Serif Pasha replaces Cezayirli Gazi Hasan Pasha as Grand Vizier of the Ottoman Empire.

**17 April 1790** Benjamin Franklin dies in Philadelphia at the age of 84.

**22 April 1790** Owing to the large number of complaints, Royal Kapellmeister Antonio Salieri (39) is ordered to tell the musicians of the theatre orchestra that they must carry out their duties with greater diligence, and not allow substitutions by unqualified players.

**29 April 1790** A Russian land offensive against the Swedes in Finland begins but is repulsed with heavy losses.

**8 May 1790** The French National Assembly adopts Talleyrand’s proposal that members of the French Academy of Sciences involve themselves in reforming the system of weights and meaures. In four years they will produce the metric system.

**13 May 1790** Russian and Swedish ships battle off Reval (Tallinn, Estonia). The Swedes lose two ships and are forced to retreat.

Publication of Jan Ladislav Dussek’s (30) three keyboard sonatas C.64-66 is announced in the *Journal de Paris.*

Due to the general disorder and political upheaval, the Concerts spirituel, a Parisian institution since 1725, come to an end.

*The Bird and the Lark* by William Billings (43) is reported as “just published” by the *Independent Chronicle*, Boston.

**19 May 1790** *Twelve Italian Arietts* accompanied by harp or piano by Leopold Kozeluch (42) are entered at Stationers’ Hall, London.

**21 May 1790** Paris is divided into 48 administrative sections.

**22 May 1790** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (34) performs his String Quartets K.575 and 589 at his home in Vienna.

**26 May 1790** The United States government organizes the “Territory Southwest of the River Ohio.”

**29 May 1790** The Rhode Island ratifying convention approves the Constitution of the United States by a vote of 34-32, the thirteenth state to do so. The measure passes only because of the absence of four anti-Federalists.

Two arias for Guglielmi’s *Le due gemelle* by Luigi Cherubini (29) are performed for the first time, in Paris.

**30 May 1790** *Zenobia in Palmira*, a dramma per musica by Giovanni Paisiello (50) to words of Sertor, is performed for the first time, in Teatro San Carlo, Naples.

**31 May 1790** Muzio Clementi (38) appears as piano soloist for the last time, playing one of his own sonatas, in London.

President George Washington signs the first copyright law in the United States.

**1 June 1790** An alliance is concluded between Great Britain and the Marathas in India.

**3 June 1790** *Cantata per la sollenità del SS Corpo di Cristo* by Giovanni Paisiello (50) is performed for the first time, in Naples.

**6 June 1790** Mozart’s (34) *Cosi fan tutte* resumes production after the reopening of theatres in Vienna. It will have five more performances.

**8 June 1790** Muzio Clementi’s (38) six piano sonatas op.25 are entered at Stationers’ Hall, London.

**15 June 1790** Jan Ladislav Dussek’s (30) three piano sonatas C.67-69 are entered in Stationers’ Hall, London.

**19 June 1790** A delegation from the “oppressed nations of the universe” appears before the National Assembly and thanks them for having “restored primitive equality among men... encouraged by the glorious example of the French, all the peoples of the universe sighing equally for liberty will soon break the yoke of the tyrants who oppress them.”

**20 June 1790** At Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson’s residence in New York, Congressman James Madison, Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton and Jefferson agree to the Compromise of 1790 over dinner. Hamilton agrees to support the placing of the federal capital on the Potomac in return for Madison’s support for the assumption of Revolutionary War debts of the states by the federal government.

**21 June 1790** The City of Avignon requests that it be reintegrated into France.

**30 June 1790** Three pieces for Pasquale Anfossi’s (63) *I Viaggiatori felici* by Luigi Cherubini (29) are performed for the first time, in Paris.

**1 July 1790** An agreement is signed in Geneva to create the firm of Schweppe, Paul and Gosse to make carbonated water.

**4 July 1790** An alliance is concluded between Great Britain and the Nizam of Hyderabad.

After a two-day battle Swedish ships manage to break out of Viborg Bay as King Gustaf III escapes with his life. The Russians inflict heavy losses. Fifty ships are sunk.

**5 July 1790** British Foreign Minister, the Duke of Leeds sends an ultimatum to Spain, demanding satisfaction for the Nootka Sound incidents of last year. Spain must acknowledge that the seizures were illegal.

**8 July 1790** After 22 years of construction, the Forth and Clyde canal is completed in Scotland.

**9 July 1790** Swedish naval forces give a crushing defeat to the Russians at the Second Battle of Svensksund (Ruotsinsalmi) (off Kotka, Finland). The Russians lose eight ships and 6,000 men.

**12 July 1790** The French National Assembly adopts the Constitution of the Clergy. All church officials are henceforth employees of the state.

The US Congress votes to move the national capital from New York to Philadelphia for ten years, at which time it would be moved to a new, permanent site on the Potomac.

*La revanche, ou Les deux frères*, a comédie by Giuseppe Cambini (44) to words of Dubuisson, is performed for the first time, at Théâtre du Comte de Beaujolais, Paris.

**14 July 1790** In the Fête de la Fédération, the first anniversary of the fall of the Bastille is celebrated by a march of 50,000 National Guardsmen (through a driving rain) from the Boulevard du Temple to the Champ de Mars where a great ceremonial mass takes place conducted by Talleyrand. Lafayette, for all guardsmen, swears allegiance to France, and the King swears to “employ all the powers delegated to me by the Constitution to uphold the decrees of the National Assembly.” A *Te Deum* for male chorus and band by François-Joseph Gossec (56) is performed for the first time.

**16 July 1790** President George Washington signs legislation making the District of Columbia the permanent capital of the United States.

**17 July 1790** Adam Smith dies in Edinburgh at the age of 63.

**19 July 1790** The French National Assembly votes to abolish titles of nobility.

**21 July 1790** Grand Duke Leopoldo I of Tuscany, soon to become Holy Roman Emperor, gives up his title to his son, Ferdinando III.

**24 July 1790** Not desirous of a war over Nootka Sound without French support, Spanish Prime Minister Floridablanca signs the British ultimatum of 5 July.

**27 July 1790** The Empire and Prussia come to an understanding in the Convention of Reichenbach (Dzierzoniów, Poland). Emperor Leopold II agrees to remove the Empire from the Russia-Ottoman war and return all lands gained from the Ottoman Empire. He further pledges to restore the constitution of the Austrian Netherlands and grant an amnesty. Prussia is forced to postpone any plans for expansion.

**28 July 1790** Six weeks of voting conclude in the British general election. Prime Minister William Pitt and his coalition are confirmed by the electorate.

**31 July 1790** The first United States Patent Office opens. The first patent is issued to Samuel Hopkins of Vermont for a method of making pearlash and potash. The patent is signed by President George Washington.

**2 August 1790** The first census in the United States reveals a population of 3,929,214.

**4 August 1790** The US government creates the Revenue-Marine to enforce tariff and trade laws. They will later be known as the Revenue Cutter Service, and later, the Coast Guard.

President Washington signs the Funding Act. The government of the United States takes on the Revolutionary War debt of the states. It is part of the compromise of 1790.

**5 August 1790** Great Britain celebrates the aversion of war by the Spanish capitulation of 24 July.

**6 August 1790** Alyeksandr Nikolayevich Radishchev is sentenced to death for publishing his book *A Journey from St. Petersburg to Moscow*. It decries the condition of the serfs and attacks absolutism. According to the practice of the day, Empress Yekaterina II commutes his sentence to ten years in Siberia.

**14 August 1790** After a war lasting two years, peace is signed between Sweden and the allies of Russia and Denmark at Värälää. The war was concocted by King Gustaf III of Sweden to help him politically. The border in Finland is left unchanged.

**17 August 1790** The British government spells out the “punishment” to Spain for the Nootka Sound incidents. Spain must make restitution for property losses by British subjects at Nootka, Britain recognizes a Spanish exclusion zone between 31° N and 43° S, Britain may make settlements and trade north of this.

*Il genio poetico appagato*, a cantata by Giovanni Paisiello (50) to words of Pagliuca is performed for the first time, in San Ferdinando, Naples.

**21 August 1790** The *Wiener* *Zeitung* announces Artaria’s publication of Joseph Haydn’s (58) *Arianna a Naxos* XXVIb: 2, and the publication of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart’s (34) String Quintet K.516.

**24 August 1790** King Louis XVI grants royal assent to the Civil Constitution of the Clergy.

**27 August 1790** Publication of the Concerto for viola or cello in D B.105 by Ignaz Pleyel (33) is announced in the *Frankfurter Ristretto*.

**29 August 1790** Friedrich Karl replaces Ludwig Günther IV as Prince of Schwarzburg-Rudolstadt.

**4 September 1790** *Euphrosine, ou Le tyran corrigé*, a comédie mise en musique by Étienne-Nicolas Méhul (27) to words of Hoffman, is performed for the first time, in the Théâtre Favart, Paris.

**11 September 1790** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart’s (34) duet for soprano and bass, *Nun liebes Weibchen, ziehst mit mir* K.625 to words of Schikaneder is performed for the first time, in Theater-auf-der-Wieden, Vienna.

**12 September 1790** Pursuant to the request of 21 June, the French government annexes Avignon.

**13 September 1790** Spanish Prime Minister Floridablanca tells the British minister in Madrid of his favorable disposition towards the statement of 17 August.

**16 September 1790** *Høstgildet*, a singspiel by Johann Abraham Peter Schulz (43) to words of Thaarup, is performed for the first time, at the Copenhagen Royal Theatre.

**18 September 1790** President George Washington lays the cornerstone of the Capitol Building in the District of Columbia.

**19 September 1790** Three royal weddings take place in Vienna: Archduchess Marie Clementine marries Prince Francesco of Naples (by proxy), Princess Maria Teresa of Naples marries Archduke Franz of Austria and Princess Lodovica Louisa marries Grand Duke Ferdinando of Tuscany. In the evening, Antonio Salieri (40) conducts a concert in the Redoutensaal during the public banquet, including a symphony by Joseph Haydn (58).

**20 September 1790** Three Piano Sonataswith violin or cello accompaniment B.437-439 by Ignaz Pleyel (33) are entered at Stationers’ Hall, London. Publication of his Serenade B.216 is announced in the *Frankfurter Ristretto*.

**21 September 1790** Joseph Count von Stubenberg replaces Johann Anton III von Zehmen as Prince-Bishop of Eichstätt.

**23 September 1790** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (34) and violinist Franz de Paula Hofer, brother-in-law of his wife, depart Vienna for Frankfurt-am-Main and the coronation of Emperor Leopold II.

**25 September 1790** Celebrations take place for the 80th birthday of Chinese Emperor Hung-li (Hongli). For the occasion four companies come to Peking to present Anhui opera. This is seen as the beginning of the Peking (Beijing) Opera.

**28 September 1790** Prince Nikolaus Esterházy dies in Vienna and is succeeded by his son Anton. The younger Esterházy will have little need for music and will dismiss most of his father’s musical establishment, including Joseph Haydn (58).

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (34) and his brother-in-law, Franz de Paula Hofer, arrive in Frankfurt-am-Main. He hopes to gain from the festivities surrounding the coronation of the new Emperor.

**30 September 1790** By this date, Prince Anton Esterházy has given all the members of his father’s orchestra their notices.

Leopold II, Archduke of Austria, King of Hungary is elected Holy Roman Emperor.

**2 October 1790** Publication of a Symphony in c minor B.142 and a Symphony in C B.143 by Ignaz Pleyel (33) is announced in the *Frankfurter Ristretto*.

British Prime Minister Pitt tells the Spanish government that he rejects their counterproposals and demands that they accept the requirements of 17 August within ten days or war will ensue.

**4 October 1790** Leopold II makes a ceremonial entry into Frankfurt for his coronation.

**9 October 1790** Leopold II is crowned Holy Roman Emperor in Frankfurt-am-Main.

**11 October 1790** The County of Reuss-Lobenstein becomes a principality.

**15 October 1790** 11:00 Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (34) gives a concert in the Municipal Playhouse, Frankfurt. It is not well attended.

**16 October 1790** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (34) travels to Mainz from Frankfurt.

**20 October 1790** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (34) performs before Elector Friedrich Karl Joseph Freiherr von Erthal in Mainz.

**21 October 1790** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (34) departs Mainz for Mannheim.

**22 October 1790** United States troops battle Miamis in a series of engagements through the day (in Allen County, Indiana). 118 people are killed.

**24 October 1790** Austrian troops capture the city of Namur from Belgian revolutionaries.

**25 October 1790** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (34) departs Mannheim for Vienna.

**26 October 1790** One of the revolutionary Belgian states, West Flanders, surrenders to the Austrians.

**28 October 1790** Spain agrees to pay reparations for a Spanish attack on British fishing ships at Nootka Sound (British Columbia) and it gives up claims to Vancouver Island.

**29 October 1790** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (34) arrives in Munich from Mannheim.

**30 October 1790** King Ferdinando of Naples orders that Giovanni Paisiello (50) continue to receive his pension without the requirement of an annual opera.

**1 November 1790** Edmund Burke’s *Reflections on the Revolution in France* is published in Britain.

**4 November 1790** The news reaches London that Spain has acceded to all British demands in the Nootka Sound incidents.

*Das Singspiel ohne Titel*, an operetta by Johann Schenk (36) to words of Hiesberger, is performed for the first time, in the Freihaus, Vienna.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (34) takes part in a concert in Munich organized by Karl Theodor, Elector of Bavaria for the visiting King Ferdinando IV of Naples and Queen Maria Carolina, sister of Emperor Leopold II.

**10 November 1790** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (34) arrives in Vienna from Munich.

**15 November 1790** Emperor Leopold II is crowned King of Hungary at Pressburg (Bratislava).

**27 November 1790** The French National Assembly decides to require an oath of loyalty from individual members of the clergy, rather than letting the Church act as a group.

**3 December 1790** Austrian troops enter Brussels, putting an end to the United States of Belgium.

**4 December 1790** King Louis XVI assents to a law requiring all French clergy to swear allegiance to the civil constitution.

**6 December 1790** The US Congress convenes in Philadelphia, having moved from New York.

**7 December 1790** Austrian power is reimposed in the Austrian Netherlands (Belgium).

**8 December 1790** Johann Peter Salomon and Franz Joseph Haydn (58) sign an agreement in Vienna which will produce several works and concerts in London by Haydn.

**14 December 1790** A farewell dinner is given for Franz Joseph Haydn (58) in Vienna. Among those present is Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (34).

**15 December 1790** Joseph Haydn (58) and Johann Peter Salomon depart Vienna for London. As Haydn and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (34) share a tearful farewell, Mozart says “We are probably saying our last adieu in this life.” Haydn takes this to refer to his own age.

**17 December 1790** During repairs to the Cathedral of Mexico City, workers unearth the Aztec Calendar Stone (Stone of the Sun), almost four meters across.

**20 December 1790** The first mill in the United States capable of spinning cotton yarn begins operation in Pawtucket, Rhode Island. It was built by Samuel Slater, a recent immigrant from England, and backed by Moses Brown. The industrial revolution in North America begins.

**21 December 1790** A concert of sacred music takes place at the Stone Chapel for the benefit of William Billings (44) “whose distress is real.” Since the mid-1780s he has been trade inspector, street cleaner, coal inspector, hogreeve and sealer of leather for the Town of Boston.

**22 December 1790** Russian forces storm and overwhelm the “impregnable” Turkish fortress of Ismail (Ismayil, Ukraine) at the mouth of the Danube.

**25 December 1790** With the death of Maria-Theresa, Duchess of Massa and Princess of Carrara, the throne is taken jointly by Maria Beatrice Ricciarda III and Ercole III.

On his way to London, Franz Joseph Haydn (58) and Johann Peter Solomon spend Christmas in Bonn.

**26 December 1790** On St. Stephen’s Day, Franz Joseph Haydn (58) and Johann Peter Solomon attend mass in Bonn where one of his masses is performed by the musicians Elector Maximilian Franz. Afterwards, the Elector introduces Haydn to his musicians, including Ludwig van Beethoven (20). He then provides all of them with a dinner.

**27 December 1790** Publication of a Symphony in E flat B.144by Ignaz Pleyel (33) is announced in the *Frankfurter Ristretto*.

**28 December 1790** Three String Quartets by Leopold Kozeluch (43) are entered at Stationers’ Hall, London.

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