**8 January 1796** The French Directory orders that theatre owners and directors are required to have their orchestras play patriotic revolutionary songs before the curtain goes up each day.

**12 January 1796** Three Piano Sonatas with flute, violin or cello accompaniment op.40 by Leopold Kozeluch (48) are entered at Stationers’ Hall, London.

**26 January 1796** Courland is fully incorporated into Russia.

*La Lodoiska*, a dramma per musica by Johann Simon Mayr (32) to words of Gonella, is performed for the first time, in Teatro La Fenice, Venice.

**28 January 1796** Pilten is fully incorporated into Russia.

**31 January 1796** Étienne François Louis Honoré Letourneur replaces Jean-François Reubell as President of the Executive Directory of France.

**1 February 1796** The capital of Upper Canada is transferred to York (Toronto).

**7 February 1796** Franz Joseph Haydn (63) signs a document granting all rights to his Symphonies nos.99-104 to Johann Peter Salomon.

**9 February 1796** Emperor Hung Li of China abdicates his throne and is succeeded by his son, Yung Yen.

**12 February 1796** British forces land at Negombo, Ceylon. The Dutch garrison surrenders.

**15 February 1796** The Dutch city of Colombo, Ceylon, surrenders to the invading British.

**27 February 1796** Believing it to be a center of reactionary opposition, the Directory orders the closing of the Théâtre Feydeau.

**29 February 1796** The Jay Treaty of November 1794 between the US and Great Britain goes into effect.

**1 March 1796** The National Assembly of the Batavian Republic meets for the first time, at The Hague.

**2 March 1796** Napoléon Bonaparte is named commander of the French forces in the south.

**9 March 1796** Publication of Ludwig van Beethoven’s (25) three piano sonatas op.2 is advertised in the *Wiener* *Zeitung*.

General Napoléon Bonaparte marries Josephine Tascher de Beauharnais, widow of a general, before leaving Paris to take up his command in Italy.

**11 March 1796** Ludwig van Beethoven (25) gives a performance in Prague.

**12 March 1796** Matthew Lewis’ gothic novel *The Monk* is published in Britain.

**17 March 1796** 38-year-old Gaetana Pallante Cimarosa, wife of Domenico (46), dies of unknown causes at their home in Naples. He is left to raise two children.

**19 March 1796** The French Directorate declares freedom of the press.

**24 March 1796** An Insurrection Act for Ireland is given Royal Assent. It is an attempt to give local authorities more powers to deal with unrest.

**26 March 1796** A new version of *Die sieben letzten Worte unseres Erlösers am Kreuze*, an oratorio by Joseph Haydn (63) to words possibly by Friebert and van Swieten, is performed for the first time, in the Vienna palace of Prince Joseph Schwarzenberg.

**27 March 1796** Friedrich Karl replaces Johann Ludwig as Count of Sayn-Wittgenstein-Hohenstein.

**30 March 1796** At the University of Göttingen, 18-year-old Carl Friedrich Gauss proves that a regular heptagon can not be constructed by ruler and compass. He discovers how to create a 17-sided regular polygon with just a ruler and compass.

**1 April 1796** After being closed for a month, the Théâtre Feydeau reopens with the approval of the Directory.

**2 April 1796** The French Army of Italy departs Nice for Piedmont, led by Major General Napoléon Bonaparte.

**7 April 1796** Joseph Priestley leaves England for the United States.

**9 April 1796** Alexius replaces Friedrich Albrecht as Prince of Anhalt-Bernburg.

**10 April 1796** As General Bonaparte is preparing his offensive into Italy, the Austrians unexpectedly attack at Votri.

Joseph Haydn (64) writes to Prince Nicholas Esterházy from England, offering his services again.

**12 April 1796** French forces rout the Austrians at Montenotte.

**13 April 1796** 1,500 Austrians halt the French offensive at the castle of Cosseria, inflicting heavy losses.

**14 April 1796** Out of ammunition, the defenders of Cosseria are forced to surrender to the French, 70 km west of Genoa.

**16 April 1796** The French legislature passes the Law of 27 Germinal. Any criticism of the Constitution of 1795 is punishable by death.

**18 April 1796** *The Archers, or Mountaineers of Switzerland* with music by Benjamin Carr and words by William Dunlap is produced at John Street Theatre, New York. It is, perhaps, the first American opera.

**21 April 1796** French forces defeat the Austrians at Mondovi, 80 km west of Genoa, taking possession of the town and its arsenal.

Three Grand Sonatas for piano with violin and cello accompaniment B.455-457 by Ignaz Pleyel (38) are entered at Stationers’ Hall, London.

**23 April 1796** Austrian forces ask for a truce with the French but General Bonaparte refuses and presses on into Italy.

British forces take the Dutch settlements of Demerara and Essequibo (Guyana).

**25 April 1796** French forces capture Cherasco and Alba, 80 km northwest of Genoa.

Incidental music to Goethe’s play *Egmont* by Johann Friedrich Reichardt (43) is performed for the first time, in the Hoftheater, Weimar.

**27 April 1796** Five men attack and rob the mail between Paris and Lyon, hacking the courier and post boy to death. They make off with 5,000,000 francs.

**28 April 1796** France and Sardinia reach a peace at Cherasco. Sardinia cedes Savoy and Nice to France.

**29 April 1796** Ludwig van Beethoven (25) plays before Elector Friedrich August III of Saxony at Dresden.

**30 April 1796** Lazare Nicolas Marguerite Carnot replaces Étienne François Louis Honoré Letourneur as President of the Executive Directory of France.

**2 May 1796** British forces take the Dutch possession of Berbice (Guyana).

**10 May 1796** Russian forces capture Derbent (now in Dagestan) from the Persians.

French troops force their way across the River Adda at Lodi, 30 km southeast of Milan, as the Austrians retreat before them.

**11 May 1796** Joseph Boulogne de Saint Georges (50) arrives in St. Domingue (Haiti) with commissioners sent by the French government.

**14 May 1796** In Berkeley, England, Edward Jenner inoculates eight-year-old James Phipps with matter from cowpox lesions taken from milkmaid Sarah Nelmes.

**15 May 1796** General Bonaparte enters Milan with his troops, who promptly sack the city.

The Treaty of Paris, confirms the Peace of Cherasco. King Vittorio Amadeo III of Sardinia cedes Nice and Savoy to France.

**16 May 1796** The Lombardic Republic is established around Milan.

**20 May 1796** Salomon III Tekle Haymanot replaces Tekle Giyorgis I Yohannes as Emperor of Ethiopia.

**26 May 1796** After a month-long resistance, the French surrender St. Lucia to the British.

**28 May 1796** French troops force their way across the Mincio at Borghetto, compelling the Austrians to flee back across the Adige into Venetian territory.

**29 May 1796** *Hymne à la victoire* for chorus by Luigi Cherubini (35) to words of Carbon de Flins is performed for the first time, in Paris.

**31 May 1796** French attempts to storm Mantua fail and they settle in for a siege.

**1 June 1796** French troops occupy Verona.

Tennessee becomes the 16th state of the United States.

**4 June 1796** French forces defeat the Austrians at Altenkirchen.

**8 June 1796** An advertisement in *The Morning Post and Fashionable World* informs the London public that Corri, Dussek (36), and Co. have opened a new warehouse in Haymarket for “Musical Publications, Piano Fortes, and other Instruments.” (Illiano, 90)

**11 June 1796** *Ugolino*, a serious singspiel by Carl Ditters von Dittersdorf (56) to the words of the composer and Duke Friedrich August von Braunschweig-Oels after Dante, is performed for the first time, in the Herzogliches Hoftheater, Oels.

British forces retake St. Vincent from the French.

**12 June 1796** French troops invade the Papal States.

**14 June 1796** The French surrender Grenada to the British.

**15 June 1796** Trio for piano, flute or violin and cello B.461 by Ignaz Pleyel (38) is entered at Stationers’ Hall, London.

**16 June 1796** Muzio Clementi’s (44) three piano trios op.35 are entered at Stationers’ Hall, London.

**19 June 1796** French troops capture Bologna.

**23 June 1796** An armistice is concluded between France and Pope Pius VI at Bologna.

**24 June 1796** Karl Joachim replaces Joseph Maria Benedict as Prince of Fürstenberg.

**25 June 1796** Carl Ditters von Dittersdorf’s (56) singspiel *Die lustigen Weiber von Windsor* to words of Römer and the composer after Shakespeare is performed for the first time, in the Herzogliches Hoftheater, Oels.

**28 June 1796** Frances Burney dates the dedication of her book *Camilla; or, a Picture of Youth*.

**29 June 1796** Publication of Jan Ladislav Dussek’s (36) two rondos C.139-140 is announced in *The Times* of London.

A month of voting concludes in the British general election. Prime Minister William Pitt’s coalition is broadly supported.

**1 July 1796** Jan Ladislav Dussek’s (36) three keyboard sonatas C.141-3 are entered at Stationers’ Hall, London.

Eight-year-old James Phipps, who was inoculated by Edward Jenner on 14 May with matter from cowpox lesions, is variolated with live smallpox and shows no response, indicating that he is immune to the disease.

**2 July 1796** Three Piano Sonatas B.462-464 with violin and bass accompaniment by Ignaz Pleyel (39) are entered at Stationers’ Hall, London.

**9 July 1796** French forces defeat the Austrians at Ettlingen, near Karlsruhe.

British forces occupy Elba.

**10 July 1796** 19-year-old Carl Friedrich Gauss writes in his diary in Göttingen that every positive integer is the sum of no more than three triangular numbers.

**11 July 1796** Under the terms of the treaty of 19 November 1794 (Jay Treaty), Great Britain turns over Detroit to the United States.

**12 July 1796** Ignace Pleyel (39) advertises in the London and Edinburgh *Gazettes* that he has entered into a publishing relationship with Corri and Dussek (36).

**17 July 1796** A second attempt by the French to storm Mantua fails.

**21 July 1796** Traveling overland from Gambia, British explorer Mungo Park reaches the Niger River at Ségou (presently in Mali), the capital of the Bamana Empire, the first European to do so.

Robert Burns dies in Dumfries at the age of 37.

**22 July 1796** Some surveyors from the Connecticut Land Company reach the southern shore of Lake Erie. They name the area after the leader of the surveying party, Moses Cleaveland.

**29 July 1796** Austrian advance units sent to relieve the siege of Mantua engage French troops and force them back across the Mincio.

Louis Marie de La Revellière, dit La Revellière-Lépeaux replaces Lazare Nicolas Marguerite Carnot as President of the Executive Directory of France.

**30 July 1796** At Silla (presently in Mali), the furthest east he will attain on the current expedition, British explorer Mungo Park is forced to turn back.

**31 July 1796** Robert Burns dies in Dumfries, Scotland at the age of 37.

**1 August 1796** French troops check the Austrian advance at Brescia.

**2 August 1796** Austrian forces raise the French siege of Mantua.

**5 August 1796** French forces attack the Austrians at Castiglione delle Stiviere, 30 km northwest of Mantua. The Austrians are forced to retreat but the French are too exhausted to pursue.

A treaty is signed between Prussia and France. Prussia gives up all territory on the left bank of the Rhine in return for ecclesiastical lands.

**7 August 1796** French forces reconquer Verona.

*Il moro*, a commedia per musica by Antonio Salieri (45) to words of De Gamerra, is performed for the first time, in the Burgtheater, Vienna. It is among his least successful operas.

**9 August 1796** Prince William, the Duke of Gloucester officially opens the Wearmouth Bridge at Sunderland. Designed by Thomas Paine, it is made of iron and is the longest single span bridge yet built (72 meters).

**10 August 1796** Joseph Haydn (64) signs a publishing contract in Vienna with Frederick Augustus Hyde. Hyde has already signed the contract in London.

**11 August 1796** French forces defeat the Austrians at Neresheim, 115 km northwest of Munich.

**17 August 1796** A Dutch squadron of nine ships surrenders to a superior British force at Saldanha Bay, South Africa.

**19 August 1796** France and Spain sign an alliance at San Ildefonso.

**24 August 1796** Austrians force the French into retreat at Amberg.

French forces defeat the Austrians at Friedburg, 230 km west of Vienna.

William Crotch (21) contributes the first of 104 entries into the manuscript collection of the Harmonic Society of Oxford. The group is formed this month by several eminent English musical figures. The society will never actually meet nor give official concerts, but the manuscripts will be circulated among the members for their use.

**26 August 1796** Reggio declares independence from Modena and creates the Republic of Reggio.

**2 September 1796** The National Assembly of the Batavian Republic votes full citizenship rights to Jews.

**3 September 1796** Austrian forces defeat the French at Würzburg.

**4 September 1796** French forces rout the Austrians at Rovereto, 20 km south of Trento.

**5 September 1796** French troops occupy Trento.

French commissioner Antoine Christophe Saliceti decrees full citizenship rights for the Jews of Bologna.

Publication of Three Duets for violin and viola B.529-531 by Ignaz Pleyel (39) is announced in the *Frankfurter Ristretto*.

**6 September 1796** French troops reach Cismona having covered 100 km in two days.

**8 September 1796** French forces rout the Austrians at Bassano, 55 km northwest of Venice, capturing the town.

**9 September 1796 I**ncidental music to Cowmeadow’s play (after Bicknell) *Alfred, König der Angelsachsen, oder Der patriotische König* by Joseph Haydn (64) is performed for the first time, in Eisenstadt, under the name *Haldane, König der Danen*.

**11 September 1796** *Missa Sancti Bernardi d’Offida* by Franz Joseph Haydn (64) is performed for the first time, in the Bergkirche, Eisenstadt, to celebrate the name day of Princess Marie Hermenegild Esterházy.

**12 September 1796** Austrian forces again fight through the French to relieve Mantua but are unable to raise the siege.

**16 September 1796** Government agents raid the offices of the *Northern Star* in Belfast, the journal of the United Irishmen. Several pro-French Irish are arrested.

**19 September 1796** President George Washington delivers his farewell address, warning his countrymen against “foreign entanglements.”

**22 September 1796** The 32-gun *HMS Amphion* blows up in Plymouth Harbor. It is scheduled to go to sea tomorrow so it is full of visitors and family of the crew. Of the 312 aboard, only ten survive.

**3 October 1796** *Bélisaire*, an opéra-comique by François-André Danican-Philidor (†1) to words of Bertin d’Antilly after Marmontel, is performed for the first time, in Théâtre Favart, Paris. The work was left incomplete at the composer’s death and was finished by his student, Henri Berton.

**5 October 1796** Because of the British invasion of Hispaniola and the perceived threat to Spanish colonies in America, Spain declares war on Great Britain.

**6 October 1796** French troops occupy Modena and Reggio, setting up a republic in Modena.

**8 October 1796** Johann Simon Mayr’s (33) dramma giocosa *Un pazzo ne fa cento* to words of Foppa after Somigli, is performed for the first time, in Teatro San Samuele, Venice.

**10 October 1796**  Napoléon concludes a treaty with Naples, thus denying Neapolitan aid to the Pope.

**16 October 1796** The Cispadane Confederation is established by Napoléon from Bologna, Ferrara, Modena and Reggio.

King Vittorio Amadeo III of Sardinia dies at Moncalieri near Turin and is succeeded by his son Carlo Emanuele IV.

**19 October 1796** French forces capture Bastia from the British, causing the British to abandon Corsica.

**29 October 1796** *Die schöne Herbsttag*, a dialogue by Carl Ditters von Dittersdorf (56) to words after Metastasio, is performed for the first time, in the Herzogliches Hoftheater, Oels.

**30 October 1796** Joseph Lesurques is executed for robbing the Lyon mail and killing a courier last April. He was convicted on the eyewitness testimony of several women. It will be proven that Lesurques is innocent and the deed was carried out by one Duboscq, who bears a striking resemblance to Lesurques. One of the real gang is also executed today, claiming consistently for the last six months that Lesurques was not part of the crime.

*Der Dorfbarbier*, a singspiel by Johann Baptist Schenk (42) to words of Weidmann, is performed for the first time, in the Kärntnertortheater, Vienna.

**1 November 1796** *Instructions on the Art of Playing the Piano Forte or Harpsichord* by Jan Ladislav Dussek (36) and Ignaz Pleyel (39) is entered at Stationers’ Hall, London. Also entered is Pleyel’s Six Progressive Sonatinas with violin accompaniment B.574-579.

Jean Nicolas Paul François Barras replaces Louis Marie de La Revellière, dit La Revellière-Lépeaux as President of the Executive Directory of France.

**4 November 1796** Austrian forces rout the French, capturing Trento and Rovereto. French troops flee as far as Rivoli.

Representatives of the Bey of Tripoli and the United States sign a treaty of peace and friendship at Tripoli.

**8 November 1796** Domenico Cimarosa (46) is promoted to the post of First Organist at the Royal Chapel, Naples. He has served as Second Organist for the last eleven years.

**13 November 1796** Leopold Leonhard Raimund II von Thun replaces Thomas Johann Nepomuk Graf von Thun as Prince-Bishop of Passau.

**15 November 1796** French troops halt the Austrian advance on Verona at Arcola.

The French create the Transpadane Republic by joining Lombardy, Mantua, Modena, Valtellia and part of Venetia.

In an attempt to win the presidency for Thomas Jefferson, French minister to the US Pierre Adet announces the suspension of relations with the US. He says that if Jefferson wins, relations could resume.

**16 November 1796** A day of French counterattacks fails to dislodge the Austrians from Arcola.

**17 November 1796** Empress Yekaterina II of Russia suffers a stroke in her closet at Tsarskoye Selo. It takes six men to drag her into her bedroom. She dies in the evening without regaining consciousness and is succeeded by her son Pavel.

French troops attack and gain the upper hand at Arcola. During the night, the Austrians retreat to Vicenza.

**18 November 1796** Now studying with Antonio Salieri (46) and Johann Georg Albrechtsberger (60) in Vienna, Johann Nepomuk Hummel (18) gives a concert in Pressburg (Bratislava).

**21 November 1796** *Ah! Perfido* for soprano and orchestra by Ludwig van Beethoven (25) to words of Metastasio is performed for the first time, in Leipzig.

**22 November 1796** Five days after taking the throne, Tsar Pavel of Russia delivers an imperial ukaz appointing Dmitry Stepanovich Bortnyansky (45) to the post of Director of Music and Adminstrator of the Imperial Court Kapella. He also promotes Bortnyansky to the rank of Collegiate Councillor.

**23 November 1796** Ludwig van Beethoven (25) performs in Pressburg (Bratislava).

**30 November 1796** Johann Carl Gottfried Loewe is born in Löbejün, near Halle, Kingdom of Prussia, the youngest of twelve children born to a Adam Loewe, a cantor and schoolmaster.

**12 December 1796** Jan Ladislav Dussek’s (36) Overture for piano-four hands C.144 is entered at Stationers’ Hall, London.

**15 December 1796** 43 French ships carrying an invasion force of 15,000 men depart Brest for an invasion of Ireland. To avoid the British blockade, they sail south at night. At the Pointe du Raz, one ship of the line, the *Séduisant*, founders on rocks with the loss of 1,150 of 1,210 aboard. All the ships are scattered. By morning, only 17 ships remain together.

In a letter to Ludwig van Beethoven (25), Johann Georg Albrechtsberger (60) mentions that Joseph Haydn (64) spoke to him yesterday about a big oratorio to be called *The Creation*. He even played a little of it for him.

**17 December 1796** Publication of Three Grandes Sonates for piano with violin and cello accompaniment B.465-467 by Ignaz Pleyel (41) is announced in the *Wiener Zeitung*.

**22 December 1796** 16 ships of the French invasion force enter Bantry Bay. 19 remain outside. At night, these ships are scattered by a driving gale.

**25 December 1796** In the face of terrible weather, wind, snow and hail, the French invasion force begins to depart Bantry Bay.

**26 December 1796** *Missa in tempore belli* by Joseph Haydn (64) is performed for the first time, in the Piaristenkirche, Josephstadt, a suburb of Vienna, directed by the composer.

*Gli Orazi ed i curiazi*, a tragedia per musica by Domenico Cimarosa (47) to words of Sografi, is performed for the first time, in Teatro La Fenice, Venice.

**27 December 1796** The Cispadane Confederation, formed from Bologna, Ferrara, Modena and Reggio, becomes the Cispadane Republic.

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