**1 January 1797** Publication of Jan Ladislav Dussek’s (36) piano piece *La Chasse* C.146 is announced in the *Music Journal*, London.

**2 January 1797** Jan Ladislav Dussek’s (36) two harp sonatas C.147-8 are entered at Stationers’ Hall, London.

**3 January 1797** An advertisement in *The Star* informs London readers of a new periodical, *Pleyel* (39)*, Corri & Dussek’s* (36) *Musical Journal*. It will run seven months.

**7 January 1797** The Cispadane Republic adopts a tricolor flag of green, white and red. It is flown today over Reggio Emilia.

**10 January 1797** *Lisbeth*, a drame lyrique by André-Ernest-Modeste Grétry (55) to words of de Favières after de Florian, is performed for the first time, at the Opéra-Comique, Paris.

**13 January 1797** The French ship-of-the-line *Droits de l’Homme* engages two British frigates off Penmarch. Both the *Droits de l’Homme* and *HMS Amazon* are forced aground in heavy seas near Plozévet*.* The crew of the *Amazon* are captured. Somewhere between 250 and 400 French sailors are lost.

**14 January 1797** French forces attack the Austrians north of Rivoli and achieve an almost complete victory.

**15 January 1797** The French complete their victory at Rivoli while the Austrians retreat up the Adige, the offensive halted.

**16 January 1797** *Telemaco nell’Isola di Calipso*, a dramma per musica by Johann Simon Mayr (33) to words of Sografi, is performed for the first time, in Teatro La Fenice, Venice.

**17 January 1797** André-Ernest-Modest Grétry’s (55) opéra *Anacréon chez Polycrate* to words of Guy is performed for the first time, at the Paris Opéra.

**20 January 1797** Joseph Haydn (64) receives a letter from the Tonkünstler-Societät, Vienna, signed by Antonio Salieri (46) and Paul Wranitzky, apologizing for the way they treated him in 1779. They grant him free admission to all their concerts for life. See 4 February 1779.

**26 January 1797** The final treaty of Polish partition is agreed to. Russia, Austria and Prussia agree to eliminate anything “which might retain the memory of the Polish Kingdom.” Polish leaders are arrested and exiled, some as far as Kamchatka.

**30 January 1797** Jean-François Reubell replaces Jean Nicolas Paul François Barras as President of the Executive Directory of France.

**31 January 1797** 13:30 Franz Peter Schubert is born in the Himmelpfortgrund section of Vienna, the twelfth of 14 children born to Franz Theodor Florian Schubert, a schoolteacher, and Maria Elisabet Katherina Vietz, a domestic servant, the daughter of a locksmith. Of the 14 children, only five will survive to maturity. Herr Schubert will produce five more children by a second marriage.

**2 February 1797** The Austrian garrison of 30,000 at Mantua surrenders to the French.

The name of the Théâtre des Arts (Paris Opéra) is changed to the Théâtre de la République et des Arts.

**3 February 1797** Elisabeth Demeul, daughter of a Parisian violinist, gives birth to a girl. The baby is the illegitimate daughter of Adrien Boieldieu (21).

**4 February 1797** An earthquake centered in Riobamba, New Granada (Ecuador), kills an estimated 41,000 people.

**5 February 1797** French forces enter Pesaro, home of Gioachino Rossini (4), without opposition.

**8 February 1797** *Achille all’assedio di Troja*, a dramma per music by Domenico Cimarosa (47), is performed for the first time, at Teatro Argentina, Rome.

**10 February 1797** An earthquake off the west coast of Sumatra and the subsequent tsunami kill hundreds of people.

**11 February 1797** Jan Ladislav Dussek’s three piano sonatas C.149-151 are entered at Stationers’ Hall, London on the eve of the composer’s 37th birthday.

*Der Ternengewinnst oder Der gedemütigte Stolz*, a singspiel by Carl Ditters von Dittersdorf (57) to his own words, is performed for the first time, in the Herzogliches Hoftheater, Oels.

*La famille suisse*, an opéra-comique by Adrien Boieldieu (21) to words of Saint-Just, is performed for the first time, in Théâtre Feydeau, Paris.

**12 February 1797** Joseph Haydn’s (64) national hymn *Gott erhälte Franz den Kaiser* is performed for the first time, in all the theatres in Vienna for the birthday of Emperor Franz II.

**14 February 1797** British naval forces defeat the Spanish off Cape St. Vincent.

**18 February 1797** The Spanish island of Trinidad is occupied by British troops.

**19 February 1797** By the Treaty of Tolentino, Pope Pius VI cedes the Romagna, Bologna and Ferrara to France and gives up all claim to Avignon.

**22 February 1797** French ships flying British colors disembark 1,400 French troops at Fishguard in Wales in what will prove to be the last invasion of Britain. The invaders are dredged from the prisons of France, many still wearing leg irons. The French expect to foment revolution among the peasantry of Wales, similar to that in France.

**25 February 1797** After some widespread looting by the French invaders, they surrender to British troops at Goodwick, Wales. After three days, the last invasion of Britain is over.

**27 February 1797** Owing to fears of an invasion, a run on the Bank of England causes the bank to suspend cash payments and issue payments only in bank notes.

**2 March 1797** The French Directory decrees that property belonging to enemies of France carried on neutral ships are subject to confiscation.

Horace Walpole dies in London at the age of 79.

**4 March 1797** John Adams replaces George Washington as President of the United States.

**5 March 1797** After occupying it for a year and a half, Britain annexes the Cape Colony.

**12 March 1797** Bergamo proclaims independence from Venice.

**13 March 1797** US President John Adams learns that the French government has refused to receive the new ambassador to Paris, Charles Pinckney. Pinckney has gone to Amsterdam to wait for instructions.

*Médée*, an opéra comique by Luigi Cherubini (36) to words of Hoffman, is performed for the first time, in Théâtre Feydeau, Paris. It is fairly successful.

**16 March 1797** French troops cross the River Tagliamento into Austria and attack the Austrians who fall back to the Udine.

**17 March 1797** Brescia declares independence from Venice.

**20 March 1797** *The Oracle* of London announces the publication of Joseph Haydn’s (64) Piano Trios XV: 27-29.

**22 March 1797** A Council of War in Verona declares loyalty to Venice and vows never to be separated from Venice except by force.

**27 March 1797** Muzio Clementi’s (45) six piano sonatinas op.36 are entered at Stationers’ Hall, London.

**29 March 1797** The main French army enters Klagenfurt, 230 km southwest of Vienna.

Citizens in the area surrounding Bergamo rise up against the French.

**6 April 1797** The Quintet for piano, oboe, clarinet, bassoon and horn op.16 by Ludwig van Beethoven (26) is performed for the first time, in Vienna.

**7 April 1797** French forces occupy Leoben, 130 km southwest of Vienna. Austria agrees to a five-day truce.

**10 April 1797** French forces occupy Graz.

**12 April 1797** *A Practical View of the Prevailing Religious System of Professed Christians* by William Wilberforce is published in Britain.

**13 April 1797** France and Austria agree to five more days of truce.

**16 April 1797** Sailors of the Royal Navy aboard 16 ships at Spithead begin a general mutiny for better pay and conditions. They will be pardoned and their grievances addressed.

**17 April 1797** On Easter Monday, citizens of Verona begin an armed insurrection against the French who are firing on them from castles overlooking the city. The Veronese manage to take the city gates and allow thousands of reinforcements in. They begin killing as many French as they can find. They also free many Austrian prisoners who join the fight.

British ships begin a blockade of San Juan harbor.

**18 April 1797** Preliminary peace between France and Austria is agreed to at Leoben.

Carl Ditters von Dittersdorf’s (57) singspiel *Der Mädchenmarkt*, to words of Herklots after Saintfoix, is performed for the first time, in the Herzogliches Hoftheater, Oels.

Thousands of British and German troops land at Cangrejos Beach near San Juan, Puerto Rico. They move towards the city and stop at the San Antonio Bridge.

**20 April 1797** Philipp Franz Wilderich von Walderdorf becomes Prince-Bishop of Speyer.

**21 April 1797** Spanish artillery begins to destroy the British guns at San Antonio Bridge east of San Juan.

**25 April 1797** After eight days of fighting, with no help from Venice, Verona is forced to surrender to the invading French.

**30 April 1797** Étienne François Louis Honoré Letourneur replaces Jean-François Reubell as President of the Executive Directory of France.

British ships end the blockade of San Juan harbor, Puerto Rico.

**1 May 1797** British and German troops are loaded onto ships and depart Puerto Rico.

*La jeunesse de Henri IV*, a drame lyrique by Étienne-Nicolas Méhul (33) to words of Bouilly, is performed for the first time, in Théâtre Favart, Paris. It will later be called *Le jeune Henri.* The work was composed in 1791 but was never produced owing to the increasingly anti-monarchical mood of the country that year.

**6 May 1797** *Le barbier du village, ou Le revenant*, an opéra-comique by André-Ernest-Modeste Grétry (56) to words of AJ Grétry, is performed for the first time, in Théâtre Feydeau, Paris.

**9 May 1797** Dmitry Stepanovich Bortnyansky (46) is promoted by Tsar Pavel to the rank of State Counsellor (equal to a brigadier general).

**10 May 1797** The first ship of the United States navy, the frigate USS *United States*, is launched at Philadelphia.

**12 May 1797** By a vote of the Council (512-20), Luigi Manin, the Doge of Venice, is deposed, ending the Venetian Republic. Sovereignty is handed over to Napoléon.

Seamen aboard *HMS Sandwich* begin a mutiny at the Nore, at the mouth of the Thames, inspired by the Spithead rebellion.

**13 May 1797** The Royal Library is founded in Lisbon.

**15 May 1797** The Fifth Congress of the United States convenes in Philadelphia. Voting for the House of Representatives started August 1796 and will conclude in October. The Federalists gain ten seats and a majority. They also retain a healthy majority in the Senate.

**16 May 1797** Napoléon makes a triumphal entry into Venice.

**19 May 1797** The Duchy of Massa and the Principality of Carrara are attached to the Cispadane Republic.

**20 May 1797** Representatives of the several ships involved in the Nore mutiny formulate a list of demands, mostly having to do with pay and conditions.

**21 May 1797** Having experienced the use of non-canonical texts in several churches between St. Petersburg and Moscow, Tsar Pavel orders that the Russian Orthodox bishops ban new music from the churches. Only established, approved music will be allowed.

**26 May 1797** Jean-François Reubell replaces Étienne François Louis Honoré Letourneur as President of the Executive Directory of France.

**27 May 1797** Gracchus Babeuf and Augustin Alexandre Darthé, extreme Jacobins, are executed for conspiring to overthrow the Directory.

**31 May 1797** President Adams dispatches three commissioners to Paris to seek a settlement of differences with France.

**4 June 1797** Publication of Six romances nouvelles oeuvre IX for voice and piano by Adrien Boieldieu (21) is announced in *Le miroir*, Paris.

**9 June 1797** The Nore mutiny effectively collapses when the rebellious crews refuse to obey their leader Richard Parker.

**13 June 1797** Leader of the Nore mutiny Richard Parker is arrested and transported to Sheerness.

**14 June 1797** French forces occupy Genoa.

**15 June 1797** The Ligurian Republic is established in Genoa.

**22 June 1797** Christian Gunther, greve von Bernstorff replaces Andreas Peter, greve von Bernstorff til Sartow as Minister of State of Denmark.

**23 June 1797** Frédéric-Guillaume Joachim demonstrates the world’s first diving suit by sawing a tree trunk in half on the bed of the Oder River.

**25 June 1797** 01:30 British troops under Admiral Horatio Nelson attempt an amphibious assault at Santa Cruz de Tenerife in the Canary Islands. As they reach the shore they are discovered by Spanish defenders who open fire. Although they make some headway, the attack ultimately fails. Over 100 British troops are lost. Admiral Nelson loses an arm.

*Artemisia regina di Caria*, a dramma serio per musica by Domenico Cimarosa (47) to words of Marchesini, is performed for the first time, in Teatro San Carlo, Naples. This is a royal commission for the wedding of Francesco Borbone, Prince of Naples to Maria Ferdinando, Archduchess of Austria. King Ferdinando, unhappy with the opera but reluctant to act against a popular composer, places the theatre director and six of his staff in prison for 24 hours.

**26 June 1797** Giacomo Maria Brignole, Doge of Genoa, becomes President of the provisional government of the Ligurian Republic.

**27 June 1797** Napoléon orders that the Principality of Torriglia be annexed to the Ligurian Republic (Genoa).

**28 June 1797** French troops occupy the Ionian Islands.

**29 June 1797** Napoléon merges the Cispadane and Transpadane Republics into a new entity called the Cisalpine Republic.

Publication of Six romances nouvelles oeuvre X for voice and piano by Adrien Boieldieu (21) is announced in the *Journal de Paris*.

**30 June 1797** Seaman Richard Parker, leader of the Nore mutiny, is hanged aboard *HMS Sandwich*.

**9 July 1797** Napoléon adds Reggio, Modena, Massa and Carrara to the Cisalpine Republic.

Edmund Burke dies in Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire at the age of 68.

**10 July 1797** Edward Jenner submits his first paper on vaccination to the Royal Society. They reject it.

William Crotch (22) marries Martha Bliss, the daughter of a bookseller, in Oxford.

**8 August 1797** Voters in the Netherlands strongly reject a draft constitution for the Batavian Republic.

**18 August 1797** Yonas Letezum replaces Salomon III Tekle Haymanot as Emperor of Ethiopia.

**24 August 1797** Louis Marie de La Revellière, dit La Revellière-Lépeaux replaces Jean-François Reubell as President of the Executive Directory of France.

**1 September 1797** Prince Alyeksandr Andreyevich Bezborodko becomes State Chancellor of Russia.

**4 September 1797** The French Directory purges the legislature, annulling about 200 elections in the Coup of 18 Fructidor. Those removed are royalists. Troops and artillery are brought into the city to protect bridges and important buildings.

**10 September 1797** Mary Wollstonecraft dies in London of complications from childbirth at the age of 38.

**24 September 1797** Johann Simon Mayr’s (34) farsa giocosa *Il segreto* to words of Foppa is performed for the first time, in Teatro San Moisè, Venice. On the same program is the premiere of his farsa giocosa *L’intrigo della lettera*, also to words of Foppa.

**27 September 1797** Joseph Haydn’s (65) String Quartet op.76/3 “Emperor” is performed for the first time, at a mid-day banquet honoring the visiting Palatine Archduke Joseph, Viceroy of Hungary, at Eisenstadt.

**1 October 1797** *Hymne et marche funèbre* for three solo voices, chorus and orchestra by Luigi Cherubini (37) to words of Chénier is performed for the first time, on the Champ de Mars, Paris for a celebration in memory of General Louis Lazare Hoche. The very popular General Hoche died two weeks ago of natural causes while with the army in Germany.

**7 October 1797** Publication of Ludwig van Beethoven’s (26) Piano Sonata op.7 and Serenade for string trio op.8 is announced in the *Wiener Zeitung* along with Three Grandes Sonates for piano with violin and cello accompaniment B.468-470 by Ignaz Pleyel (41).

**10 October 1797** *Adelina Senese, o sia L’amore secreto*, a dramma giocoso by Gaspare Spontini (22) to words of Bertati, is performed for the first time, in Teatro San Samuele, Venice.

**11 October 1797** British naval forces defeat the Dutch off Camperdown. Less than half of the Dutch ships return to port.

**16 October 1797** Incidental music to *Angelica liberata oder Der Sturz des Ungeheuers* by Johann Friedrich Reichardt (44) is performed for the first time, in the Stadttheater, Leipzig.

**17 October 1797** The Peace of Campo Formio is signed between Austria and France. France receives Belgium and is allowed to occupy the left bank of the Rhine and the Ionian Islands. Austria recognizes the Cisalpine Republic formed of Milan, Bologna and Modena and receives Venice, Istria, Dalmatia and the Frioul.

**18 October 1797** Three commissioners sent by US President John Adams to France to avoid war, are told by three representatives of Foreign Minister Talleyrand that the US must be prepared to pay a bribe of $250,000 before any discussions can begin.

**22 October 1797** After ascending in a balloon, André Jacques Garnerin cuts the basket loose from the balloon, deploys a parachute and drops from about 2,000 meters over Monieau Park, Paris. The parachute is made of white canvas seven meters in diameter.

**24 October 1797** France annexes Valtelline and Chiavenna, Switzerland, to the Cisalpine Republic.

The first award ceremony for the Conservatoire National takes place in the presence of the executive members of the Directory, ministers, diplomatic corps and the National Institute of Science and Art, in the Théâtre de l’Odéon, Paris.

**26 October 1797** The Directory ratifies the wildly popular Treaty of Campo Formio and recalls its author, General Napoléon Bonaparte, to organize an army on the Channel coast for the invasion of Great Britain.

**28 October 1797** Publication of Jan Ladislav Dussek’s (37) Piano Sonata C.152 is announced in *The Times* of London. The work is entitled “The Naval Battle and Total Defeat of the Grand Dutch Fleet by Admiral Duncan on the 11. of October 1797.”

**1 November 1797** “The Naval Battle and Total Defeat of the Grand Dutch Fleet by Admiral Duncan on the 11. of October 1797” for piano by Jan Ladislav Dussek (37) is entered at Stationers’ Hall, London.

**7 November 1797** Adrien Boieldieu’s (21) opéra-comique *L’heureuse nouvelle* to words of Saint-Just and Longchamps is performed for the first time, in Théâtre Feydeau, Paris.

**16 November 1797** King Friedrich Wilhelm II of Prussia dies in Berlin and is succeeded by his son, Friedrich Wilhelm III.

The frigate *HMS Tribune* strikes ground as it enters the harbor of Halifax, Nova Scotia. Managing to free herself, it finally goes down in a gale near Herring Cove. Almost all the 244 aboard survive the sinking but are then lost in the rough waters. Twelve men are the only survivors.

**18 November 1797** The Spanish crown opens all Spanish ports to neutral shipping.

*Andromaca*, a dramma per musica by Giovanni Paisiello (57), is performed for the first time, in Teatro San Carlo, Naples.

**20 November 1797** The first issue of the weekly *The Anti-Jacobin* is published by George Canning. It is designed to attack the ideals of the French Revolution.

**27 November 1797** Jean Nicolas Paul François Barras replaces Louis Marie de La Revellière, dit La Revellière-Lépeaux as President of the Executive Directory of France.

**29 November 1797** Domenico Gaetano Maria Donizetti is born into abject poverty, at Via Borgo Canale 10 (now 14) in Bergamo, Cisalpine Republic, the fifth of six children born to Andrea Donizetti, a porter in a pawnshop, and Domenico Nava, a weaver.

**5 December 1797** As General Bonaparte returns to Paris from his victories in Italy, he is afforded a hero’s welcome. Hundreds of notables attend a reception at the Luxembourg Palace.

**10 December 1797** General Napoléon Bonaparte is given an official welcome home to Paris by Étienne Nicolas Méhul’s (34) *Le chant du retour* performed by 200 musicians and various officials, including the executive of the Directory.

**11 December 1797** Joseph Haydn (65) is admitted into the Tonkünstler-Societät, Vienna with “all formalities waived” because of his “extraordinary merit.” See 4 February 1779.

**12 December 1797** Friedrich Ferdinand replaces Friedrich Erdmann as Prince of Anhalt-Köthen-Pless.

**15 December 1797** *Le pari ou Mombreuil et Merville*, an opéra-comique by Adrien Boieldieu to words of Longchamps, is performed for the first time, in the Salle Favart, Paris on the eve of the composer’s 22nd birthday.

Étienne-Nicolas Méhul’s (34) fait historique *La prise du pont de Lody* to words of Delrieu is performed for the first time, in the Théâtre Feydeau, Paris. It will later be called *Le pont de Lody.*

**22 December 1797** British explorer Mungo Park returns home to Scotland with word of his discovery of the Niger River last year.

**23 December 1797** Duke Friedrich Eugen of Württemberg dies in Hohenheim, succeeded by his son Friedrich II.

The Variations on *La ci darem la mano* WoO28 for two oboes and english horn by Ludwig van Beethoven (27) are performed for the first time, in Vienna.

**27 December 1797** General Napoléon Bonaparte is welcomed into the Institut de France.

**29 December 1797** French forces capture Mainz.

©2004-2015 Paul Scharfenberger

5 September 2015