**1 January 1840** A setting of Psalm 114 for chorus and orchestra by Felix Mendelssohn (30) is performed for the first time, in Leipzig.

**3 January 1840** Surveyors for the British New Zealand Company arrive aboard the *Cuba* at Port Nicholson (Wellington) to lay out a settlement.

The appeal by Nicolò Paganini (57) to the judgment of last 28 June is handed down. The verdict is confirmed and the penalty is raised to 50,000 francs.

**4 January 1840** A Leipzig court of appeals dismisses all of Friedrich Wieck’s objections to his daughter’s (20) marriage to Robert Schumann (29) save that Schumann is a heavy drinker. Wieck must provide proof of this within six weeks. Shortly, Wieck begins to circulate the official statement about Schumann’s drinking to theatre managers and critics.

In the densely packed Hungarian National Theatre in Pest, Franz Liszt (28) gives a solo concert in Hungarian national costume. It is the fourth of seven he will give in Pest. As in Pressburg (Bratislava) on 18 December, he plays his arrangement of the *Rákóczy March* as an encore. Again, the crowd is driven to patriotic frenzy. While they are still cheering, six Hungarian noblemen appear on stage with a jewel encrusted sabre. Count Leo Festetics draws the sword, gives a patriotic speech and presents Liszt with the sabre. Liszt, overcome with emotion responds (in French) with an impromptu patriotic speech of his own, calling on Hungary to seek itself in peaceful pursuits but, “should it be requisite, let our swords quit their scabbards--they are untarnished, and their blows will fall as heavily as heretofore--and let our blood flow even to the last drop for our rights, our king, and our country!” (Williams, 118) The response from the crowd is earth shattering. The audience streams into the street and joining others already there, forms a procession of 5,000 led by Liszt and Festetics to the Count’s home.

Felix Mendelssohn (30) writes from Leipzig to his sister Fanny Hensel (34) that he recently played her Caprices for piano to Ferdinand Hiller. “...and we were both astonished and wanted by all means to discover the club-foot in them (Pferdefuss), but there was nothing. They remained a genuine delight.”

**6 January 1840** *Le drapier*, an opéra by Fromental Halévy (40) to words of Scribe, is performed for the first time, in the Paris Opéra.

**10 January 1840** Penny Post is introduced in Britain thus creating uniform postal rates throughout the British Isles and the pre-paid postage stamp.

**11 January 1840** The expedition of Charles Wilkes, the first scientific expedition funded by the United States government, reaches the Antarctic ice cap. The voyage will determine that Antarctica is a continent.

Franz Liszt (28) gives a concert in Pest to raise money for the foundation of a national music conservatory. Instead of his usual place at the keyboard, he conducts publicly for the first time.

**13 January 1840** A federal judge in Hartford, Connecticut rules that the slaves of the *Amistad* were taken and transported illegally and therefore must be freed and returned to Africa. Spain and US President Van Buren will appeal.

The steamship *Lexington* catches fire in Long Island Sound. It will sink at 03:00 tomorrow with the loss of 139 passengers and crew. Only four survive.

**14 January 1840** Stephen Foster (13) departs Youngstown, Ohio in an open sleigh for Towanda, Pennsylvania. He travels with his older brother William, the chief engineer on the Pennsylvania Canal, with whom he will live.

**16 January 1840** The US expedition of Charles Wilkes sights the Antarctic continent at approximately 66°S and 160°W. (This sighting is somewhat controversial today)

**18 January 1840** Duke Ernst I of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha awards the Ritterkreuz des Sachsen-Ernestinischen Haus-Ordens to Giacomo Meyerbeer (48).

**19 January 1840** Clara Wieck (20) plays a concert in Berlin in a state of nervous exhaustion due to the court case with her father. “...my limbs were so weak that I could not lift my hand.” She fortifies herself with champagne and actually blacks out a few times during the performance. Nobody notices.

**20 January 1840** The French expedition of Captain Jules-Sébastien-César Dumont d’Urville sights the Antarctic continent at approximately 66°30’S and 138°21’E.

**22 January 1840** The *Aurora*, one year and four months out of London, arrives at Port Nicholson (Wellington) bringing the first British settlers to New Zealand.

The French expedition of Captain Jules-Sébastien-César Dumont d’Urville sends a party ashore and plants the French flag on a small island a few hundred meters off the Antarctic continent. The captain names the area Terre Adélie after his wife.

**26 January 1840** Friedrich Wieck attempts to show a Leipzig court that Robert Schumann (29) is unfit to marry his daughter because of his financial instability.

**27 January 1840** Charles Gounod (21) arrives in Rome for his Prix de Rome year.

**30 January 1840** George Gipps becomes the first British governor of New Zealand.

**1 February 1840** Piano Trio no.1 op.49 by Felix Mendelssohn (30) is performed for the first time, in Leipzig, the composer at the piano.

**2 February 1840** Franz Liszt (28) gives the first of four concerts in Vienna.

**6 February 1840** In the Treaty of Waitangi, the Maoris cede sovereignty over New Zealand to the United Kingdom in return for British guarantees that the Maoris will retain control over their lands.

Hans Gabriel Trolle-Wachtmeister replaces Mathias Rosenblad as Prime Minister for Justice of Sweden.

**10 February 1840** Queen Victoria of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland marries Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha at St. James’ Palace, London.

**11 February 1840** Gaetano Donizetti’s (42) opéra comique *La fille du régiment* to words of Saint-Georges and Bayard is performed for the first time, by the Opéra-Comique, Paris. Donizetti’s French rivals, jealous of his Paris success, organize a hostile reception.

*Il templario*, a melodramma by Otto Nicolai (29) to words of Marini after Scott, is performed for the first time, in Regio Teatro, Turin. It is extremely successful.

**12 February 1840** *The Fortunate Isles, or The Triumphs of Britannia*, an allegorical and national masque with music by Henry R. Bishop (53) to words of Planché, is performed for the first time, in Covent Garden, London.

**13 February 1840** Robert Schumann (29) rebuts Friedrich Wieck’s charges about his financial instability before a Leipzig court. He uses inflated figures.

**16 February 1840** Hector Berlioz (36) publishes a scathing review of Donizetti’s (42) *La fille du régiment* in *Journal des Débats*.

**19 February 1840** Franz Liszt (28) returns to his birthplace of Raiding. He donates 100 ducats for a new organ in the town.

**21 February 1840** *L’écumeur de mer*, a ballet by Adolphe Adam (36), is performed for the first time, before the imperial court in St. Petersburg.

The US expedition of Charles Wilkes sights a massive area of ice which he calls Termination Land (Shackleton Ice Shelf).

**24 February 1840** *Carline*, an opéra comique by Ambroise Thomas (28) to words of de Leuven and Brunswick, is performed for the first time, at the Théâtre des Nouveautés, Paris.

**28 February 1840** In Leipzig, Robert Schumann (29) receives a Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Jena. It was awarded four days ago. He sought the degree to strengthen his court case against Friedrich Wieck.

**29 February 1840** String Quartet no.5 op.44/3 by Felix Mendelssohn (31) is performed for the first time, in Leipzig.

**1 March 1840** Marie Joseph Louis Adolphe Thiers replaces Nicolas Jean de Dieu Soult, duc de Dalmatie as Prime Minister of France.

**3 March 1840** Franz Liszt (28) arrives in Prague amidst confusion about when he is arriving and when he is performing. Here he will make the acquaintance of Jan Vaclav Tomásek (65).

**5 March 1840** Franz Liszt (28) gives the first of six very successful concerts in Prague.

**14 March 1840** Franz Liszt (28) and Robert Schumann (29) arrive in Dresden on the same day. Liszt is there to give some concerts, Schumann to meet Liszt and review his concert.

*The Pathfinder or, the Inland Sea* by James Fenimore Cooper is published in Philadelphia. To protect the British copyright, the book was published there last month.

**16 March 1840** Robert Schumann (29) hears Franz Liszt (28) perform in Dresden, then accompanies him to Leipzig. The concert takes place before several members of the royal family.

**17 March 1840** Mihailo Obrenovic III becomes Prince of Serbia, succeeding a regency council.

After months of dazzling successes in Vienna, Pest, Prague and Dresden, Franz Liszt (28) receives whistles from a Leipzig audience for his transcription of the Sixth Symphony of Beethoven (†12). Friedrich Wieck, who sees Liszt as a friend of Robert Schumann (29), has been savaging Liszt in the Leipzig newspapers. Clara (20) takes her father’s side. The Leipzigers also blame him for raising ticket prices and canceling complimentary tickets.

**18 March 1840** Franz Liszt (28) cancels his second concert in Leipzig scheduled for today. He suffers an attack of “violent shuddering” in the afternoon. He is attended by Felix Mendelssohn (31), Robert Schumann (29) and Ferdinand Hiller.

**21 March 1840** Felix Mendelssohn (31) gives a large musical soiree in honor of the visiting Franz Liszt (28) in the main hall of the Gewandhaus, Leipzig. There are 350 guests, 200 of which are chorus members and 40 instrumentalists.

**22 March 1840** Clara Wieck (20) writes to Robert Schumann (29) from Berlin, “When I heard Liszt (28) for the first time, at Graf’s in Vienna, I was overwhelmed and sobbed aloud, it so shook me. Don’t you feel the same, that it is as though he wanted to be absorbed by the piano? And then again, how heavenly it is when he plays tenderly...” (Williams, 126)

**23 March 1840** British-born American scientist John William Draper tells the New York Lyceum of Natural History that he has successfully made a photographic image of the moon.

**28 March 1840** Arvid Posse replaces Hans Gabriel Trolle-Wachtmeister as Prime Minister for Justice of Sweden.

A higher court in Dresden upholds the ruling of 4 January in the Schumann-Wieck case. But it also gives Friedrich Wieck an extension to prove Robert Schumann’s (29) drunkenness.

**30 March 1840** Franz Liszt (28) gives the last concert on his current visit to Leipzig. To honor his hosts he plays music of Mendelssohn (31), Ferdinand Hiller and Schumann (29).

**31 March 1840** US President Martin van Buren decrees a ten-hour day for federal workers.

Franz Liszt (28) departs Leipzig for Paris. He has not seen Marie d’Agoult for six months.

**4 April 1840** Serialization of *Master Humphrey’s Clock* by Charles Dickens begins.

**6 April 1840** At the first London performance of Louis Spohr’s (56) Symphony no.5, the work is hissed by the audience. See 1 March 1838.

**8 April 1840** Felix Mendelssohn (31) writes to Minister Baron Johann Paul von Falkenstein asking that the estate left by the lawyer Heinrich Blümner to be disposed of by the King of Saxony, be used to found a music school. It will become Leipzig Conservatory.

**10 April 1840** *Les Martyrs*, a grand opéra by Gaetano Donizetti (42) to words of Scribe, is performed for the first time, in the Paris Opéra. The work, which is a second version of the composer’s *Poliuto*, is given a lukewarm reception.

**13 April 1840** The Piano Quintet no.1 op.30 by Louise Farrenc (35) is performed completely for the first time, in Paris.

**15 April 1840** Daniel O’Connell founds the Loyal National Repeal Association to work for Home Rule for Ireland, in a meeting at the Corn Exchange, Dublin.

**16 April 1840** Duke Wilhelm of Brunswick awards the Ritterkreuz des Ordens Heinrich des Löwen to Giacomo Meyerbeer (48).

**18 April 1840** Jean Louis Joseph Lebeau replaces Barthélemy Théodore, Comte de Theux de Meylandt as head of government for Belgium.

**27 April 1840** The foundation stone is laid for the new Palace at Westminster to house the British Parliament.

**28 April 1840** *Die Hamadryaden*, an opera-ballet by Adolphe Adam (36) to words of Pernot de Colombey, is performed for the first time, at the Berlin Court Opera.

**5 May 1840** Thomas Carlyle gives the first of six lectures this month on the hero. Next year, they will be published under the title *On Heroes, Hero-Worship, and The Heroic in History*.

**6 May 1840** The first adhesive postage stamp goes on sale today in Great Britain.

Franz Liszt (28) arrives in England from Paris for a series of concerts across the British Isles through the end of the year.

From Paris, Richard Wagner (26) sends the scenario to an opera to Eugène Scribe, hoping the poet will create a libretto which he could set to music. It is based on the story of the Flying Dutchman which Wagner read in a book by Heinrich Heine. Scribe will not write a libretto.

**7 May 1840** Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky is born in Kamsko-Votkinsk, Vyatka Province, 1,000 km east of Moscow, the second of six children born to Ilya Petrovich Tchaikovsky, chief inspector of the Kamsko-Votkinsk mines, and Alyeksandra Andreyevna Assier, granddaughter of a French emigre. The father also has one child by a previous marriage.

The paper “On the Odour accompanying Electricity, and on the probability of its dependence on the presence of a new substance” by German chemist Christian Friedrich Schönbein is read to the Royal Society in London. Since Schönbein discovered the new gas by smelling it, he uses the Greek word for smell (ozein) and calls it “ozone.”

Caspar David Friedrich dies in Dresden at the age of 65.

A tornado hits Natchez, Mississippi, destroying 60 vessels on the Mississippi River and destroying parts of the city. The official death toll is put at 317 but many more may have been killed in rural areas. Also, slaves are not usually included in death tolls.

**8 May 1840** Franz Liszt (28) gives his first performance in London, at the Queen’s Concert Room, Hanover Square.

**10 May 1840** Publication of the March from the Piano Sonata op.35, Impromptu op.36 and Nocturnes op.37 by Frédéric Chopin (30) is advertised in *La France Musicale*, Paris.

**11 May 1840** The London and Southampton Railway is opened.

**16 May 1840** The Opéra-Comique opens the new Salle Favart constructed on the ruins of the old.

The Chapter of Exeter Cathedral forbids their organist, Samuel Sebastian Wesley (29) to give lessons on the cathedral organ.

**18 May 1840** *Zanetta, ou Jouer avec le feu*, an opéra comique by Daniel-François-Esprit Auber (58) to words of Scribe and Saint-Georges, is performed for the first time, at Théâtre Favart, Paris.

**20 May 1840** Fire does considerable damage to the York Minster, destroying the South West belfry and the roof of the nave.

**21 May 1840** Great Britain formally annexes New Zealand and moves its capital to Auckland.

Louis Moreau Gottschalk (11) performs in a concert given by the violinist Felix Miolan, in the new St. Charles Hotel in New Orleans.

**22 May 1840** An Order-in-Council ends the practice of sending British convicts to the colony of New South Wales.

**25 May 1840** Nicolò Paganini (57) receives the last rites of the Roman Catholic Church, in Nice.

Franz Liszt (28) is one of several musicians performing at Buckingham Palace for the 21st birthday of Queen Victoria.

**27 May 1840** 17:20 Nicolò Paganini dies in Nice, aged 57 years and seven months. According to Paolo Agostino he dies “in the arms of his son who was alone in the apartment with him.”

**28 May 1840** The Bishop of Nice refuses a church burial and tolling of the bell for the remains of Nicolò Paganini because of the deceased’s attitude toward the Church.

**1 June 1840** Robert Schumann (29) files charges with the court in Dresden, charging Friedrich Wieck with defamation of character for his document of last 14 December and suing him for all the money that Clara (20) has earned on tour. The suit for the money will be settled out of court, but next April Wieck will be found guilty of slander, sentenced to 18 days in jail required to pay damages and court costs. (It is not known whether Wieck spends any time in jail.)

Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel (34) and her family depart Rome for Naples on their year-long visit to Italy.

**4 June 1840** While awaiting instructions of the king, the Governor of Genoa prohibits the entry of the mortal remains of Nicolò Paganini (†0).

**5 June 1840** After nine months of living with her mother in Berlin, Clara Wieck (20) returns to Leipzig.

Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel (34) and her family arrive in Naples.

**7 June 1840** King Friedrich Wilhelm III of Prussia dies in Berlin and is succeeded by his son Friedrich Wilhelm IV.

Marie d’Agoult joins Franz Liszt (28) in London.

**8 June 1840** Franz Liszt (28) gives the last of two performances with the Philharmonic Society in London. While he and Ole Bull play the *Kreutzer Sonata*, some hissing is heard from certain quarters of the audience. The performers stop and glare in the direction of the sound. Other audience members demonstrate their disapproval of the objections and Liszt and Bull complete the work.

**9 June 1840** A third British warship arrives off Canton and a threatened British blockade now begins.

Franz Liszt (28) uses the word “recital” for the first time, to describe his solo performance today in the Hanover Square Rooms, London. The word implies the absence of supporting musicians.

**10 June 1840** A young bartender named Edward Oxford fires two pistol shots into a carriage carrying Queen Victoria and Prince Albert near Buckingham Palace. Neither royal is injured. Oxford will be judged insane.

**12 June 1840** The World Anti-Slavery Convention meets for two days in London. During the meeting, JMW Turner exhibits his painting *The Slave Ship* at the Royal Academy.

**13 June 1840** Josephine Lang (25), ill with pleurisy, arrives in Kreuth (Wildbad Kreuth) for a whey cure. She was sent there by Caroline, Queen Mother of Bavaria.

**16 June 1840** Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel (34) and her family ascend to the summit of Mt. Vesuvius, first on horseback, then by means of sedan chairs. They are able to look down into the crater.

**18 June 1840** Margherita Barezzi Verdi (27), wife of Giuseppe Verdi (26) dies in Milan of encephalitis. Verdi has lost his wife and two young children in less than two years.

**20 June 1840** Samuel FB Morse receives a US patent for the telegraph.

**21 June 1840** An expeditionary force of 15 British warships reaches Macao.

**23 June 1840** *Hans Sachs*, a Fest-Oper mit Tanz by Albert Lortzing (38) to words of Reger after Deinhardstein, is performed for the first time, in Leipzig Stadttheater.

**25 June 1840** *Der Maikäfer*, a journal for “non-Philistines” is founded by the Maikäferbund, an organization of poets and art historians in Bonn, including Johanna Mockel Mathieux (Kinkel) (29).

Felix Mendelssohn (31) conducts music for the Leipzig Festival commemorating the 400th anniversary of the invention of the printing press. Mendelssohn, who was commissioned to compose music for the festival, directs the premieres of his Symphony no.2 “Lobgesang” for solo voices, chorus, organ and orchestra, and the *Festgesang* for male chorus to words of Prölss. The second section of this last work will later be adapted as *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*.

**28 June 1840** The Bishop of Nice rejects an appeal by the executors of Nicolò Paganini’s (†0) estate for a Catholic burial. The body will spend the summer in the cellar of Count de Cessole. In September it will be transferred to a leper house.

**30 June 1840** Law scholar and poet Christian Reinhold Köstlin arrives in Kreuth (Wildbad Kreuth) for the cure. This evening, he hears Josephine Lang (25) performing one of her own songs. Fascinated, he asks to be introduced to her.

The transcendentalist magazine *The Dial* is first published in Boston. Most important in its creation is Ralph Waldo Emerson.

**1 July 1840** King Friedrich August II of Saxony offers Felix Mendelssohn (31) the post of Kapellmeister. The composer will decline.

Josephine Lang (25) is introduced to her future husband, Christian Reinhold Köstlin at Kreuth (Wildbad Kreuth). They are both there for the cure. They are immediately attracted to each other.

**5 July 1840** 15 British warships bombard Tin-hai, the capital of Chou-shan Island. The town is utterly destroyed and soldiers sent ashore to invest the town run amok with looting and vandalism. Some 2,000 Chinese are killed.

**6 July 1840** Carlist leader Rafael Cabrera and several thousand of his followers cross defeated into France.

**7 July 1840** Friedrich Wieck files a declaration with the court which concedes that he can not substantiate his charge of drunkeness against Robert Schumann (30).

**12 July 1840** The first of Richard Wagner’s (27) essays entitled “German Music” appears in the Paris periodical *Gazette musicale*.

**13 July 1840** Josephine Lang (25) departs Kreuth (Wildbad Kreuth) to continue her cure in nearby Tegernsee. As she leaves, her future husband, the poet Reinhold Köstlin, hands her a new poem. Two days from now she will set it to music. He will write 54 poems this summer. 38 of these he gives to Lang. Over the next two years, she will set only four songs to poets other than Köstlin.

**14 July 1840** The *Musical Journal* of London notes, “Liszt (28) has been presented by the Philharmonic Society with an elegant Breakfast service, for doing that which would cause every young student to receive a severe reprimand, *viz*. thumping and partially destroying two very fine pianofortes.” (Williams, 132)

**15 July 1840** Great Britain, Russia, Austria, and Prussia sign an alliance in London which imposes terms on the Egyptian Mohammed Ali and supports Ottoman Sultan Abdülmecit I against him. The terms state that if Mohammed Ali will withdraw his troops from Syria and return the Turkish fleet, he will be recognized as Pasha of Egypt and Syria.

**17 July 1840** The first regular transatlantic mail service is inaugurated as the steam ship *Britannia* arrives in Halifax, twelve days out of Liverpool. The service is run by Nova Scotian Samuel Cunard.

**20 July 1840** 23 delegates form the National Charter Association of Great Britain at a meeting in Manchester.

Antonio González y González replaces Evaristo Pérez de Castro Brito as Prime Minister of Spain.

Samuel FB Morse receives a US patent for his telegraph.

**21 July 1840** A competition takes place on the Berlin-Jüterbog railroad between a British Stephenson locomotive and one built by the new foundry of August Borsig of Berlin. The German locomotive wins by ten minutes.

**23 July 1840** By the Act of Union, Upper and Lower Canada are unified into the Province of Canada.

The General Assembly of Brazil declares 14-year-old Emperor Pedro II of age.

**26 July 1840** The second of Richard Wagner’s (27) essays entitled “German Music” appears in the Paris periodical *Gazette musicale*.

**28 July 1840** During the tenth anniversary of the Revolution of 1830, Hector Berlioz (36) leads a 200-man band down the streets of Paris playing the premiere of his *Grande symphonie funèbre et triomphale*. The work is greeted with great enthusiasm.

**1 August 1840** As Friedrich Wieck is unable to substantiate Robert Schumann’s (30) drunkeness, legal consent to the marriage of Schumann to Clara Wieck (20) is granted by a Leipzig court. Wieck is given ten days to appeal.

Camille Saint-Saëns (4) gives his first public performance as he accompanies a Beethoven (†13) violin sonata before a small drawing-room audience in Paris.

**6 August 1840** Louis Napoleon attempts a rising in Boulogne against the French monarchy but fails. He will be sentenced to life imprisonment.

King Ernst August of Hannover imposes a new constitution providing for increased power for the monarchy.

**10 August 1840** The Municipal Corporations Act for Ireland receives Royal Assent by Queen Victoria. It brings a greater measure of democracy to the island.

**11 August 1840** Since Friedrich Wieck has failed to appeal the decision of the Leipzig court of 1 August, Robert Schumann (30) declares this his “happiest of days.” He and Clara Wieck (20) are now free to marry.

Clara Wieck (20) performs at the Grand Ducal Court in Weimar. Among the guests are the Empress of Russia and several foreign dignitaries. Unfortunately, the royals talk through the entire program, and allow their dogs to bark at will.

Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel (34) and her family depart Naples on a steamboat for Genoa on their year long visit to Italy.

**12 August 1840** Valentin Ferraz y Barrau replaces Antonio González y González as Prime Minister of Spain.

**13 August 1840** At Tegernsee, Josephine Lang (25) performs her setting of Goethe’s *Sie liebt mich* for Reinhold Köstlin. The two openly declare love for each other.

**14 August 1840** Reinhold Köstlin departs Tegernsee without saying goodbye to Josephine Lang (25). He will write not poetry for five days, when he is in Innsbruck. He will travel to Italy until the academic year begins in September.

**16 August 1840** Franz Liszt (28) crosses the Channel again for a tour of southern England.

**18 August 1840** Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel (34) and her family reach Milan from Genoa on their year long visit to Italy.

**23 August 1840** A tribute to Nicolò Paganini (†0) written by Franz Liszt (28) appears in the *Revue et gazette musicale*.

**26 August 1840** Stanislaw Moniuszko (21) marries Aleksandra Müller in the Church of Jesus Our Lord in Wilno (Vilnius).

**29 August 1840** Modesto Cortázar replaces Valentin Ferraz y Barrau as Prime Minister of Spain.

**30 August 1840** Yohannes III Tekle Giyorgis replaces Sahle Dengel Gebre Mesay as Emperor of Ethiopia.

**1 September 1840** The Madrid Junta declares against the regent Maria Cristina in favor of Espartero. Their extreme demands will cause her to abdicate.

**5 September 1840** Carl Törnebladh replaces Arvid Posse as Prime Minister for Justice of Sweden. Albrecht Ihre becomes acting Prime Minister for Foreign Affairs for Gustaf Stierneld.

*Un giorno di regno*, a melodramma giocoso by Giuseppe Verdi (26) to words of Romani after Pineu-Duval, is performed for the first time, in Teatro alla Scala, Milan directed by the composer. It is not successful and is not repeated.

Clara Wieck (20) gives her last concert before her marriage, in Weimar.

**11 September 1840** British naval forces bombard Beirut and Sidon, attempting to force Mohammed Ali to submit to the Quadruple Alliance.

Vicente Sancho replaces Modesto Cortázar as Prime Minister of Spain. Sancho will never take office.

After more than a year away, traveling mostly in Italy, Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel (34) and her family arrive home in Berlin.

In Leipzig, Robert Schumann (30) presents Clara Wieck (20) with a volume of his songs, *Myrthen*, op.24, bound in red velvet as a wedding present.

**12 September 1840** 10:00 After more than a year of legal wrangling with Friedrich Wieck, Robert Schumann (30) and Clara Wieck are married at the village church of Schönefeld, near Leipzig, before a small group of family and friends. Today is the eve of Clara’s 21st birthday, at which time she will not require her father’s consent to marry.

**16 September 1840**  Joaquín Baldomero Fernández Espartero, duque de la Victoria replaces Vicente Sancho as Prime Minister of Spain.

**18 September 1840** Felix Mendelssohn (31) arrives in London on his sixth trip to Britain. His shortest visit there, he will spend a week in Birmingham and a week in London conducting and performing on the piano and organ.

**26 September 1840** The organist of Exeter Cathedral, Samuel Sebastian Wesley (30) severely beats two of the cathedral choristers for practicing with the men.

Franz Liszt (28) gives the last of several concerts in his tour of southern England, in Brighton. He has been at it for six weeks.

**1 October 1840** Anton Bruckner (16) passes an entrance examination to teacher-training college in Linz.

**2 October 1840** *Farewell to St. Petersburg*, a cycle for voice and piano by Mikhail Ivanovich Glinka (36) to words of Kukolnik, is reviewed in *Northern Bee*. The songs were first performed last summer.

**7 October 1840** King Willem I of the Netherlands and Grand Duke of Luxembourg abdicates his thrones in favor of his son, Willem II. He refused to grant constitutional reforms.

**8 October 1840** The first constitution for Hawaii goes into effect.

**9 October 1840** A combined Turkish (partly Albanian) and British force defeats the Egyptians at Beirut.

Felix Mendelssohn (31) arrives back in Leipzig after his shortest trip to England.

**10 October 1840** Direct Turkish rule over Syria is reinstated. It was annexed by Egypt in 1832.

**12 October 1840** Amidst calls for more liberal reforms, Queen María Cristina is removed as Spanish regent and replaced by Prime Minister Joaquín Baldomero Fernández Espartero, duque de la Victoria.

**14 October 1840** Maronite Christian leader Bashir Chehab II, Emir of Mount Lebanon and an ally of Mohammed Ali, surrenders to the British and goes into exile.

**15 October 1840** As King Louis-Philippe rides to his palace at St. Cloud on the Quai des Tuileries, Ennemond Marius Darmès aims a rifle at him and fires. The gun goes off in the would-be assassins hand. No one, except the shooter, is hurt.

Anton Bruckner (16) begins teacher training at the Normalhauptschule in Linz.

**20 October 1840** Samuel Sebastian Wesley (30) is called before the Chapter of Exeter Cathedral to explain his actions of 26 September. He claims he had a right to punish the boys and offers no apology. The chapter recommends that he be suspended from his duties. This will never be carried out.

**24 October 1840** Texas paramilitaries destroy a Commanche village on the Colorado River in Runnels County. 130 people are killed.

**25 October 1840** Franz Liszt (29) arrives in Hamburg from Paris where he will give three concerts.

**28 October 1840** Piano Quintet no.2 op.31 by Louise Farrenc (36) is performed for the first time, in Paris.

**29 October 1840** Nicolas Jean de Dieu Soult, duc de Dalmatie replaces Marie Joseph Louis Adolphe Thiers as Prime Minister of France. Thiers resigned after attempting to get more aid for Egyptian Viceroy Mohammed Ali.

Great Britain manages to end the French blockade of Buenos Aires by mediating an agreement whereby Argentina agrees to periodically pay French claims.

**30 October 1840** Josias von Bunsen, advisor to King Friedrich Wilhelm IV of Prussia, recommends to the king that Felix Mendelssohn (31) be called upon to help make Berlin the cultural center of Germany. He desires a musical educational institution, appropriate sacred music, and encouragement of old and new oratorios.

**3 November 1840** British forces bombard and capture Acre (Akko) forcing the Egyptians to quit Syria. British, Austrian, and Turkish troops land and invest the citadel and the city. The Egyptians will evacuate Syria.

**5 November 1840** By the Convention of Alexandria, Mohammed Ali agrees to the terms of the Treaty of London of 15 July.

Afghan forces surrender to the British ending the first Afghan War.

**6 November 1840** Hans Christian Andersen notes in his diary after a concert in Hamburg, “I was seeing Liszt (29) face to face! How great men resemble mountains--they look best at a distance, when there is still an atmosphere about them....There was something so spider like, so demonic about him! And as he sat there at the piano, pale and with his face full of passion, he seemed to me like a devil trying to play his soul free! Every tone flowed from his heart and soul--he looked to me to be on the rack.” (Celenza, 139-140)

**13 November 1840** Hector Berlioz (36) is imprisoned for 24 hours in the prison on the quai d’Austerlitz for failing to report for National Guard duty on 30 July. See 28 July 1840.

**14 November 1840** *Grande scène espagnole* for cello and orchestra by Jacques Offenbach (21) is performed for the first time, in Cologne.

**18 November 1840** Panama secedes from New Granada.

Papers read today and 2 December by Louis Agassiz, William Buckland, and Charles Lyell before the Geological Society in London establish the Ice Age model. It will not be widely accepted until the 1860s.

**24 November 1840** Franz Liszt (29) begins his second tour of provincial England, at Oxford.

**30 November 1840** The *Belle-Poule* arrives in Cherbourg from St. Helena carrying the body of Emperor Napoléon I for reburial in Paris.

**2 December 1840** *La favorite*, an opéra by Gaetano Donizetti (43) to words of Royer and Vaëz after d’Arnaud, is performed for the first time, in the Paris Opéra. The initial response of the audience is a trifle frosty.

A month of voting in the United States presidential election concluding today ensures the victory of former Senator William Henry Harrison over President Martin Van Buren.

**4 December 1840** Richard Wagner (27) sends the score of *Rienzi* to August von Lüttichau, the director of the Dresden Opera.

The Prussian army adopts the “needle-gun” breech loading rifle of Johann Nikolaus von Dreyse as standard issue.

**11 December 1840** King Wilhelm IV of Prussia offers the directorship of a proposed Berlin music academy to Felix Mendelssohn (31).

**12 December 1840** *La rose de Péronne*, an opera by Adolphe Adam (37) to words of Leuven and d’Ennery (pseud. of Philippe), is performed for the first time, at the Opéra-Comique, Paris.

**13 December 1840** *Sara la Baigneuse* for solo voices, chorus and orchestra by Hector Berlioz (37) to words of Hugo is performed for the first time, in the Paris Conservatoire. See 7 November 1834 and 22 October 1850.

**14 December 1840** Gaetano Donizetti (43) leaves Paris for Rome.

**15 December 1840** The remains of Emperor Napoléon I, having been retrieved from St. Helena by the Prince de Joinville (son of King Louis-Philippe), arrive in Paris. The remains are paraded through the city in a four-story high vehicle, viewed by an estimated 800,000 people. In the presence of the royal family and many others (including Frédéric Chopin (30)), the *Requiem* of Mozart (†49) is performed in the chapel of Les Invalides. The remains are then are lowered into the vault.

**16 December 1840** In the midst of a tour of provincial Britain, Franz Liszt (29) crosses from Liverpool to Ireland.

**18 December 1840** Franz Liszt (29) gives the first of three concerts in Dublin.

**26 December 1840** Otto Nicolai’s (30) melodramma *Gildippe ed Odoardo* to words of Solera after Tasso, is performed for the first time, in Teatro Carlo Felice, Genoa.

**28 December 1840** Franz Liszt (29) arrives in Cork and gives a concert in the afternoon.

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9 April 2016