**1 January 1841** Franz Liszt (29) departs Cork after giving three concerts.

**2 January 1841** Franz Liszt (29) arrives back in Dublin from Cork.

**3 January 1841** Herman Melville ships out of New Bedford on the maiden voyage of the *Acushnet*. He will jump ship in the South Pacific and not return until 1844.

**5 January 1841** The expedition of Captain James Clark Ross, RN enters the Antarctic pack ice, the first ships to do so.

**7 January 1841** With a furious bombardment from Royal Navy ships, British troops capture the Chinese fort at Chuenpi (Chuanbi), the outer defenses of Canton.

**8 January 1841** Franz Liszt (29) departs Dublin for Limerick.

**9 January 1841** Richard Wagner (27) dedicates his arrangement of the vocal score of Gaetano Donizetti’s (43) *La Favorita* to Giacomo Meyerbeer (49).

British explorer James Clark Ross, with his ships *Erebus* and *Terror*, reach the Ross Sea.

Franz Liszt (29) arrives in Limerick where he will give two concerts.

**11 January 1841** Franz Liszt (29) arrives back in Dublin from Limerick.

**12 January 1841** James Clark Ross and Francis Crozier plant the British flag on Possession Island and claim Victoria Land for Great Britain.

**15 January 1841** Franz Liszt (29) arrives in Belfast from Dublin where he performs in the evening.

**18 January 1841** Alexis-Emmanuel Chabrier is born at Ambert, Puy-de-Dôme, 90 km west of Lyon, only child of Jean Chabrier, a lawyer, and Marie-Anne-Evelina Durozay, daughter of a well-to-do family.

**19 January 1841** Franz Liszt (29) gives the first of five concerts in Edinburgh and Glasgow over the next five days.

**20 January 1841**  A protocol of peace is signed between representatives of China and Great Britain at Chuenpi (Chuanbi) after hostilities over opium in 1840. Hong Kong is ceded to Britain and the Chinese are forced to pay $6,000,000 indemnity. The island of Chou-shan is returned to China. Both the British and Chinese governments will reject the treaty.

**21 January 1841**  Owing to the new popularity of Baroque music, Felix Mendelssohn (31) directs an ambitious program of music by JS Bach (†90) and Handel (†81) in Leipzig. Mendelssohn himself plays Bach’s Chromatic Fantasia and Fugue and Handel’s Theme and Variations on “The Harmonious Blacksmith.”

*La guitarrero*, an opéra comique by Fromental Halévy (41) to words of Scribe, is performed for the first time, at the Théâtre Favart, Paris.

**25 January 1841** Franz Liszt (29) arrives in Newcastle where he will give the first of six concerts in northern England over the next four days.

*Tarantella* for reciter, chorus and orchestra by Mikhail Ivanovich Glinka (36) to words of Myatlov is performed for the first time, in the Alyeksandrinsky Theatre, St. Petersburg.

**26 January 1841** Great Britain formally takes possession Hong Kong Island.

**27 January 1841** Captain James Clark Ross, RN discovers an active volcano in Antarctica and names it for his ship, Mt. Erebus. Ross has sailed as far south as is possible.

**28 January 1841** Captain James Clark Ross, RN sights the largest ice shelf in the world for the first time. (Eventually, it will be named after him.)

**30 January 1841** El Salvador, the last remaining state of the Central American union, proclaims itself an independent republic.

**3 February 1841** Franz Liszt (29) gives his last concert on this tour of Britain, at the Hanover Square Rooms, London.

**5 February 1841** Great Britain creates the Province of Canada through the union of Upper Canada (Ontario) and Lower Canada (Quebec).

**8 February 1841** Henry Fox Talbot receives a British patent for his calotype photographic process which includes developing, fixing, and a negative.

**9 February 1841** Franz Liszt (29) is in Brussels for a series of concerts through Belgium over the next month.

**11 February 1841** The Act of Union goes into effect and Upper and Lower Canada (Ontario and Quebec) are merged into the Province of Canada.

*Adelia, o La figlia dell’arciere*, a melodramma serio by Gaetano Donizetti (43) to words of Romani and Marini after an anonymous French play, is performed for the first time, in Teatro Apollo, Rome. It is a fiasco. The theatre is oversold and those not admitted begin a riot. At one point, the performance has to be stopped. The impresario, Vincenzo Jacovacci, is arrested and detained overnight.

**16 February 1841** The Premiere grande symphonie of César Franck (18) is performed for the first time, at the Société d’Orléans, Paris.

**17 February 1841** Ferdinando Carulli dies in Paris at the age of 71.

**19 February 1841** Felipe Pedrell is born in Tortosa, 150 km southwest of Barcelona.

The Royal Commission on Handloom Weavers makes its last report.

**22 February 1841** The case of the *Amistad* is argued before the US Supreme Court. Congressman and former President John Quincy Adams is on the team representing the slaves.

**23 February 1841** Richard Wagner (27) writes an article from Paris to appear in the Dresden *Abendzeitung.* He announces the impending death of the Paris Opéra and that its savior will be Giacomo Meyerbeer (49).

**27 February 1841** Clara Schumann (21) finally receives her piano back from her father.

**2 March 1841** Gaetano Donizetti (43) arrives back in Paris from Rome.

**4 March 1841** William Henry Harrison replaces Martin Van Buren as President of the United States. The Twenty-seventh Congress of the United States convenes in Washington. President Harrison’s Whig Party has won a good majority in both houses.

**6 March 1841** *Les diamants de la couronne*, an opéra comique by Daniel-François-Esprit Auber (59) to words of Scribe and Saint-Georges, is performed for the first time, at Théâtre Favart, Paris.

**9 March 1841** The United States Supreme Court declares that the Africans who escaped off the Spanish slave ship *Amistad* and swam to New York are now free. With private help, they will return to Africa.

**13 March 1841** The British liner *SS President*, out of New York bound for Liverpool, is last seen in heavy weather off Nantucket. Neither the ship nor her complement of 136 are seen again.

*Il proscritto*, a melodramma tragico by Otto Nicolai (30) to words of Rossi, is performed for the first time, in Teatro alla Scala, Milan.

**18 March 1841** Giacomo Meyerbeer (49) writes from Baden to August Freiherr von Lüttichau, director of the Dresden Opera, recommending Richard Wagner (27) and *Rienzi*.

**20 March 1841** *The Murders in the Rue Morgue* by Edgar Allen Poe is published in *Graham’s Magazine* in Philadelphia.

*Essays* (*Essays: First Series*) by Ralph Waldo Emerson is published in Boston.

Albert Lortzing’s (39) *Kantate zur Säkularfeier der Loge ‘Minerva zu den drei Palmen’* to words of Mothes is performed for the first time, in Leipzig.

**23 March 1841** Anton Rubinstein (11) gives his first major performance in Paris, at the Salle Pleyel.

**25 March 1841** France annexes Mayotte in the Comoro Islands.

**27 March 1841** The wife of Mikhail Ivanovich Glinka (36), from whom he has separated but not divorced, marries Nikolay Nikolayevich Vasilchikov, nephew of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers.

In his first concert back from the British Isles, Franz Liszt (29) appears in the Salle Erard, Paris. One Russian audience member, Anton Rubinstein (11), is overwhelmed.

**31 March 1841** Symphony no.1 “Spring” by Robert Schumann (30) is performed for the first time, in the Leipzig Gewandhaus, directed by Felix Mendelssohn (32). Also premiered today is Mendelssohn’s Allegro brillant op.92 for piano duet, and a song by Clara Schumann, *Am Strande* to words of Burns. Overshadowing all the music is the return to the Leipzig stage of Clara Schumann (21) for the first time since her marriage. She receives thunderous and lasting applause after each piece. And she is four months pregnant.

**1 April 1841** This months issue of *Graham’s Magazine* sees the first publication of “Murders in the Rue Morgue” by one of its editors, Edgar Allan Poe. (It is considered by many to be the first detective story)

**2 April 1841** Gaspare Spontini (66), accused of insulting King Friedrich Wilhelm IV, appears to conduct a performance of Mozart’s (†49) *Don Giovanni* in Berlin. There is a riot in the hall and he is forced to withdraw after the overture.

**4 April 1841** Felix Mendelssohn (32) is appointed Kapellmeister to King Friedrich August II of Saxony.

President William Henry Harrison of the United States dies of pneumonia in Washington and is succeeded by John Tyler.

**10 April 1841** Having merged to earlier publications, Horace Greeley prints the first issue of the *New York Tribune*.

**13 April 1841** Jean Baptiste Nothomb replaces Jean Louis Joseph Lebeau as head of government for Belgium.

The new Hoftheater in Dresden, designed by Gottfried Semper, opens with a performance of Goethe’s *Torquato Tasso*.

**16 April 1841** In Munich, Josephine Lang (26) receives a letter from Reinhold Köstlin in Tübingen, offering marriage. She will accept.

**19 April 1841** *Le comte de Carmagnola*, an opéra by Ambroise Thomas (29) to words of Scribe, is performed for the first time, at the Paris Opéra.

**21 April 1841** A benefit concert is given in the ballroom of the St. Louis Hotel, New Orleans to raise money to send Louis Moreau Gottschalk (11) to France for study.

**25 April 1841** Hector Berlioz (37) and Franz Liszt (29) produce an all-Beethoven (†14) concert at the Salle du Conservatoire to benefit the Beethoven monument in Bonn. Liszt plays various piano sonatas and the “Emperor” Concerto, conducted by Berlioz, along with the Sixth Symphony. Unfortunately, the receipts are barely enough to pay the musicians. The audience requires Liszt to play his own *Reminiscences on Meyerbeer’s Robert le Diable*, while Berlioz and the orchestra wait. Richard Wagner (27), reviewing the concert for the Dresden *Abendzeitung*, is offended. “Some day, Liszt in heaven will be summoned to play his Fantasy on *The Devil* before the assembled company of angels.” An aspiring cellist named Jacques Offenbach (21) joins forces with a visiting prodigy from Russia, Anton Rubinstein (11), to perform the second and third movements of Beethoven’s Cello Sonata in A.

**26 April 1841** Frédéric Chopin (31) is the featured artist at the Salle Pleyel, Paris performing mostly his own music including the Mazurkas op.41, the Ballade op.38, the Scherzo op.39 and the Polonaise op.40/1. The evening is an unequalled triumph. Eugène Delacroix has stayed in bed the last two days to get over a sore throat just so he can attend. Also present are Hector Belioz (37), Franz Liszt (29), Heinrich Heine and, of course, George Sand.

**29 April 1841** Richard Wagner (27) and his wife move to Meudon near Paris.

**1 May 1841** The first wagon train leaves Independence, Missouri for the Alta California district of Mexico.

Louis Moreau Gottschalk (11) departs New Orleans aboard the *SS Taglione* for study in France.

**2 May 1841** Franz Liszt’s (29) review of Frédéric Chopin’s (31) 26 April concert appears in the *Gazette musicale*. “All criticism of him is silenced, as though posterity had already spoken. And the glittering audience which flocked to the concert to hear the poet who for far too long had been silent showed no opposition, no reservations: unanimous praise was on everyone’s lips.”

**3 May 1841** New Zealand is separated from the New South Wales colony and becomes a separate possession of Great Britain.

**7 May 1841** Franz Liszt (29) arrives back in England from Paris and takes part in a concert in the evening.

**10 May 1841** Joaquín María Ferrer Cafranga replaces Joaquín Baldomero Fernández Espartero, duque de la Victoria as Prime Minister of Spain. Espartero is named regent for the eleven-year-old Queen Isabella II.

**20 May 1841** Antonio González y González replaces Joaquín María Ferrer Cafranga as Prime Minister of Spain.

**22 May 1841** Local residents in Guria (part of Georgia) revolt against the imposition of new taxes by Russia.

**24 May 1841** A British force lands near Canton and captures its western forts.

**25 May 1841** Canton surrenders to the British who receive payment for not destroying the city.

**27 May 1841** Mikhail Ivanovich Glinka (36) submits a formal petition for divorce. His wife has already remarried.

**29 May 1841** As British forces move out of Canton are attacked by thousands of Chinese civilians. Foreign businesses in the city are destroyed by Chinese troops. The British continue their withdrawal.

Mehmed Emin Rauf Pasha replaces Mehmed Hüsrev Pasha as Grand Vizier of the Ottoman Empire.

**31 May 1841** Ennemond Marius Darmès is put to death by guillotine for attempting to kill King Louis-Philippe of France last October.

After a private performance for the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, Franz Liszt (29) is involved in accident where his coach is overturned. He and his three companions are largely unhurt, but Liszt sprains his wrist.

**1 June 1841** Ottoman Sultan Abdul Mejid accepts the Treaty of London and names Mohammed Ali governor for life of Egypt. The title will be hereditary.

**3 June 1841** *The Musical World* announces that Samuel Sebastian Wesley (30) is a candidate for Reid Professor of Music at the University of Edinburgh. He will not get it.

**14 June 1841** The first session of the Parliament of the Province of Canada is opened by Lord Sydenham in Kingston.

Gaetano Donizetti’s (43) cantata *Dalla Francia un saluto t’invia* for solo voices, chorus, orchestra and piano is performed for the first time, in Bergamo for the 78th birthday of Simon Mayr.

**18 June 1841** Frédéric Chopin (31) and George Sand travel from Paris to her chateau in Berry to spend the summer. It is the first time they have been there in almost two years.

**19 June 1841** Anton Rubinstein (11) performs before King Willem II and the Dutch court in the Palace of Paauw in Wassenaar.

**24 June 1841** Anton Rubinstein (11) performs before King Willem II and the Dutch court in the Palace of Soesdyk in Baarn.

**28 June 1841** *Giselle, ou Les Wilis*, a ballet fantastique by Adolphe Adam (37) to a story by Gautier and St.-Georges, is performed for the first time, at the Paris Opéra.

**29 June 1841** The new House of Commons opens in London with the Conservative Party of Sir Robert Peel having won a strong majority over Viscount Melbourne and the Whigs.

Franz Liszt (29) makes his last appearance in London as a professional pianist.

**30 June 1841** The Great Western Railway is completed from London to Bristol.

**2 July 1841** Franz Liszt (29) departs London for Hamburg.

**5 July 1841** Cabinet maker and temperance advocate Thomas Cook organizes a special train to take 500 people from Leicester to Loughborough for a temperance meeting. He goes on to organize several other such trips and eventually turns it into a business.

**6 July 1841** Alexandros Nikolaou Mavrokordatos replaces King Othon as President of the Council of Ministers of Greece.

**9 July 1841** Joaquim António de Aguiar replaces José Lúcio Travassos Valdez, conde e barão de Bonfim as Prime Minister of Portugal.

Franz Liszt (29) gives a solo recital at the festival of the North German Music Society in Hamburg.

**13 July 1841** The Straits Convention is agreed to by Great Britain, France, Austria, Prussia, Russia and Turkey. The European powers are forbidden from the Dardanelles.

**15 July 1841** Franz Liszt (29) arrives in Copenhagen for nine days of concertizing. He will play before King Christian VIII.

**17 July 1841** The satirical journal *Punch* is launched in England.

**18 July 1841** 15-year-old Emperor Pedro II of Brazil is crowned in Rio de Janeiro.

**19 July 1841** Anton Rubinstein (11) gives his first performance in Germany, in Cologne.

**21 July 1841** César Franck (18) wins the Second Prize in organ at the Paris Conservatoire.

**22 July 1841** A month of voting concludes in elections for the British House of Commons. The Conservatives of Robert Peel gain over 50 seats and a majority.

**27 July 1841** Mikhail Yuryevich Lermontov is killed in a duel at Pyatigorsk, Russia.

**30 July 1841** Anton Bruckner (16) passes an examination in Linz qualifying him to be an assistant teacher.

**1 August 1841** Felix Mendelssohn (32) and his family move to Berlin where he is to take up nebulous duties given to him by King Friedrich Wilhelm for the reestablishment of musical culture in the city.

**2 August 1841** In a presentation before the British Association in Plymouth entitled “Report on British Fossil Reptiles”, Richard Owen first uses the term “dinosaur.”

**9 August 1841** Rebels in Guria (Georgia), now armed and organized, battle Russian troops at Gogoreti, forcing them to retreat.

The side paddle-wheeler *Erie* catches fire in Lake Erie near Buffalo. 254 people are lost, 89 survive.

**11 August 1841** Escaped slave Frederick Douglass tells his story for the first time, at an anti-slavery convention on Nantucket.

**13 August 1841** The Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra plays through Robert Schumann’s (31) *Phantasie* for piano and orchestra, Clara Schumann (21) at the keyboard at a rehearsal, two weeks before going into labor. He will make revisions in the music.

**16 August 1841** Members of President Tyler’s own Whig Party riot outside the White House after he vetoes a bill to reestablish a Bank of the United States. Rocks are thrown, guns are fired in the air, and the President is hanged in effigy.

**18 August 1841** Civil and ecclesiastical courts reject yet another appeal by the executors of Nicolò Paganini’s (†1) estate for the burial of his remains.

**22 August 1841** King Othon I replaces Alexandros Nikolaou Mavrokordatos President of the Council of Ministers of Greece.

**23 August 1841** Franz Liszt (29) gives a concert to benefit the construction of the Cologne Cathedral.

**27 August 1841** *The Deerslayer or, the First War-Path* by James Fenimore Cooper is published in Philadelphia.

**30 August 1841** Otto Nicolai (31) becomes engaged to the singer Ermina Frezzolini.

Sir Robert Peel replaces William Lamb, Viscount Melbourne as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.

**1 September 1841** A first child is born to Robert (31) and Clara (21) Schumann. She is named Marie.

**2 September 1841** Achille Paganini appeals to Pope Gregory XVI in Rome for resolution of the matter of his late father’s (†1) remains. The Pope orders the Archbishop of Turin to look into it.

**3 September 1841** Major race riots erupt in Cincinnati after three days of street clashes between whites and blacks. The violence will continue until 5 September. Dozens of people are killed and 300 blacks are placed in protective custody.

**5 September 1841** Russian forces finally defeat the rebellion in Guria (Georgia).

**8 September 1841** Antonín Leopold Dvorák is born in Gasthaus-Metzgerei (Proti Nadrazi 12) in Nelahozeves, near Kralupy, Bohemia, 20 km north of Prague, first of 14 children (eight surviving) born to Frantisek Dvorák, an innkeeper, and Anna Zdenková, daughter of a steward.

Frederick Douglass, traveling by train from Newburyport, Massachusetts to Providence, Rhode Island is beaten by railroad workers who drag him to a car reserved for blacks.

**11 September 1841** Protesting his veto of the Banking Bill, President Tyler’s entire cabinet, except for Secretary of State Daniel Webster, resigns.

**13 September 1841** A young sawyer named François Quenisset fires at a military parade in Paris attempting to kill any of three of the sons of King Louis-Philippe. He manages only to kill a horse and is seized by the crowd. Officials whisk him away.

**18 September 1841** Franz Liszt (29) signs a document enrolling him in a Freemason Lodge in Frankfurt-am-Main.

**20 September 1841** Mohammed Ali is recognized by the European powers as Pasha of Egypt but he is stripped of all other offices, forced to pay one-fourth of Egypt’s annual revenue to the Sultan as tribute, remove his troops from Syria and limit the size of the army.

**24 September 1841** Local chiefs in Sarawak ask Englishman James Brooke to set up a state. He is named Rajah by Sultan Omar Ali Saifuddin of Brunei.

**28 September 1841** Frederick Douglass and two white abolitionists are beaten by eight white men on a train between Lynn and Newburyport, Massachusetts. They are then thrown off the train for sitting together in a whites only car.

**30 September 1841** Samuel Slocum of Poughkeepsie, New York receives a US patent for a “machine for sticking pins in paper” thought to be the first stapler.

**1 October 1841** British forces retake Chou-shan Island.

**2 October 1841** Moderates revolt in Barcelona against the regency of Baldomero Espartero. Within a week the city will be bombarded and surrender.

Prince Honoré V of Monaco dies in Paris and is succeeded by his brother Florestan.

**3 October 1841** Anton Bruckner (17) begins duties as assistant schoolmaster in Windhaag.

The String Quartet in C W.6 by Peter Cornelius (16) is performed for the first time, in Wiesbaden.

**7 October 1841** Izzet Mehmed Pasha replaces Mehmed Emin Rauf Pasha as Grand Vizier of the Ottoman Empire.

**9 October 1841** A Father Opolsky files a complaint with the Metropolitan and Chief Procurator in St. Petersburg. He says that Mikhail Ivanovich Glinka (37) has been telling everyone that he married Glinka’s estranged wife to Nikolay Nikolayevich Vasilchikov. He says he told Glinka that because he suffers from “obscured judgment.”

**10 October 1841** A British campaign towards Nanking begins with the assault on and capture of the fortified town of Chen-hai near Ningpo.

Antonio López de Santa Anna y Pérez de Lebrón replaces Anastasio Bustamante y Osegera as President of Mexico.

**12 October 1841** Incidental music to Kukolnik’s play *Prince Kholmsky* by Mikhail Ivanovich Glinka (37) is performed for the first time, in St. Petersburg. The play is too long and not well received.

**13 October 1841** British forces capture Ningpo.

Felix Mendelssohn (32) is appointed Royal Kapellmeister by King Friedrich Wilhelm IV of Prussia.

**18 October 1841** Samuel Sebastian Wesley (31) performs on the new organ at the parish church in Leeds. He is so impressed by the town and its citizens that he will accept an offer to become organist there.

Giacomo Meyerbeer (50) moves to Berlin.

**26 October 1841**  *La main de fer, ou Le marriage secret*, an opera by Adolphe Adam (39) to words of Scribe and Leuven, is performed for the first time, at the Opéra-Comique, Paris.

**28 October 1841** Incidental music to Sophocles’ play *Antigone* by Felix Mendelssohn (32) is performed for the first time, before King Friedrich Wilhelm IV of Prussia and invited guests at the Potsdam Court Theatre, including Giacomo Meyerbeer (50) and Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel (35). See 13 April 1842.

A large fire breaks out at the Tower of London and goes on to destroy a significant part of the building. Only through the bravery of police and firefighters are the crowned jewels saved.

**31 October 1841** Six numbers of the revised *Stabat mater* by Gioachino Rossini (49) are performed in the salon of Henri Herz (38) in Paris, the press in attendance. See 7 January 1842.

**2 November 1841** An Afghan revolt against British occupation begins with the murder of British envoy Alexander Burnes in Kabul.

Frédéric Chopin (31) and George Sand arrive in Paris from Nohant, where they have been since June.

**4 November 1841** After a trip of six months from Independence, Missouri, the first wagon train reaches the Stanislaus River in the Alta California district of Mexico.

**5 November 1841** The Principality of Anhalt-Köthen-Pless, separated since 1765, is rejoined to the Duchy of Anhalt-Köthen.

**7 November 1841** Slaves mutiny on board merchant ship *Creole* between Hampton Roads and New Orleans. They force the ship to Nassau.

**9 November 1841** The *Creole* reaches Nassau, Bahamas. There the British authorities arrest the ringleaders but bowing to demands of local citizens free all other slaves on board and send the ship on to New Orleans. Those arrested eventually will be released.

**20 November 1841** Samuel Sebastian Wesley (31) tells the Chapter of Exeter Cathedral of his intention to resign.

Bolivian troops defeat Paraguayans at Ingavi, south of La Paz, ending a Paraguayan invasion of Bolivia.

**21 November 1841** At his second concert in Kassel, Franz Liszt (30) has his head circled with a wreath by Louis Spohr (57). The audience approves.

**23 November 1841** Giacomo Meyerbeer and his family move into a new house in Berlin.

**25 November 1841** Franz Liszt (30) first arrives in Weimar, which will be so important in his later life. By chance, he runs into Robert (31) and Clara Schumann (22).

**27 November 1841** 17 Variations sérieuses for piano by Felix Mendelssohn (32) are performed for the first time, in the Gewandhaus, Leipzig by the composer.

By decree of Emperor Pedro II of Brazil, the Conservatório de Música is established in Rio de Janeiro.

**29 November 1841** Franz Liszt (30) performs publicly in Weimar for the first time, at the Court Theatre. Weimar will become very important in his life. He played privately on the 26th and before the court on the 28th.

**30 November 1841** *Rheinweinlied* for male chorus and piano by Franz Liszt (30) to words of Herwegh is performed for the first time, in Jena.

**2 December 1841** Frédéric Chopin (31) performs at a musical soiree given by the king’s son, the Duc d’Orleans at his residence, the Pavillon de Marsan. 500 people attend, including the King Louis Philippe and Queen Marie Amalie, three other of their children, Queen Maria Cristina of Spain, the ambassadors of Prussia, Sweden and Saxony, former French Prime Minister Adolphe Thiers and Eugène Delacroix. The program is conducted by Fromental Halévy (42), the duke’s music director. The featured work is Chopin’s Ballade op.47.

**6 December 1841** Because she has refused for five months to come to court to be questioned in divorce proceedings, Maria Petrovna, estranged wife of Mikhail Ivanovich Glinka (37), is questioned at home. She denies that she has married Nikolay Nikolayevich Vasilchikov.

Two orchestral works by Robert Schumann (31) are performed for the first time, in Leipzig: Symphony no.4 (first performed as Symphony no.2) and Overture, Scherzo and Finale op.52. Franz Liszt’s (30) *Studentenlied aus Goethes Faust* for male chorus is performed for the first time on the same program. Clara Schumann (22) plays duets with Liszt, who is the star of the evening.

**14 December 1841** While in Paris, Richard Wagner (28) learns that through the intercession of Giacomo Meyerbeer (50), *Der fliegende Holländer* has been approved by the intendant of the Berlin Court Opera.

**15 December 1841** Felix Mendelssohn (32) writes to Reinhold Köstlin, the fiancé of Josephine Lang (26), “For heaven’s sake, keep her composing diligently. Truly it is your responsibility towards us all, seeking and thirsting as we constantly are for what is good and new.” (Porter, 88)

*Barnaby Rudge: A tale of the riots of ‘eighty* and *The Old Curiosity Shop*, both by Charles Dickens, are published in London.

**17 December 1841** Robert (31) and Clara Schumann (22) give a small party in Leipzig. “Liszt (30) came--as always, very late! He seems to love making people wait for him, which displeases me. I find him just like a spoilt child, good-natured, masterful, kind, arrogant, noble, and generous, often severe towards others--a strange mixture. We have become very fond of him, however, and towards us he has never behaved in any but the friendliest way.”

**20 December 1841** A treaty to suppress the African slave trade is signed in London by representatives of Austria, France, Great Britain, Prussia and Russia.

**22 December 1841** Giuseppe Verdi (28) meets with the soprano Giuseppina Strepponi and shows her the score to *Nabucco* in an attempt to enlist her aid in having it produced in Milan.

Fromental Halévy’s (42) opéra *La reine de Chypre* to words of Saint-Georges is performed for the first time, at the Paris Opéra. Despite the fact that George Sand does not approve, it is a success and will see 130 performances in the next 15 years.

**23 December 1841** While attempting to negotiate with Afghan leaders in Kabul, Sir William Hay Macnaghten is shot to death by Akbar Khan, the son of the Amir of Kabul, Dost Mohammed.

Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel (36) completes *Das Jahr*, a cycle of 12 piano pieces in honor of the months of the year. Only one will be published during her lifetime. (The entire cycle will finally be edited and published in 1989.)

**26 December 1841** *Maria Padilla*, a melodramma by Gaetano Donizetti (44) to words of Rossi and the composer after Ancelot, is performed for the first time, in Teatro alla Scala, Milan.

**27 December 1841** Franz Liszt (30) plays his first concert in Berlin, before King Friedrich Wilhelm IV. It is here where “Lisztomania” first occurs (a word coined by Heinrich Heine). He is so successful that he stays in Berlin for ten weeks playing 21 concerts. Liszt will receive the Ordre pour le Mérite from the King and be elected to the Prussian Academy of Fine Arts.

**31 December 1841** *Casanova*, a komische Oper by Albert Lortzing (40) to his own words after Varin and Desvergers (tr.Lebrun), is performed for the first time, in Leipzig Stadttheater.

The State of the Isthmus (Panama) is reincorporated into New Granada (Colombia).

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