**1 January 1861** The victorious liberal army enters Mexico City in tumultuous triumph.

*Verbum nobile*, an opera by Stanislaw Moniuszko (41) to words of Checinski, is performed for the first time, in Warsaw.

**2 January 1861** King Friedrich Wilhelm IV of Prussia dies in Potsdam and is succeeded by his brother Wilhelm I who has been serving as regent since 1858.

**3 January 1861** Georgia state troops occupy Fort Pulaski at the mouth of the Savannah River.

**4 January 1861** Alabama forces occupy the federal arsenal at Mount Vernon.

**5 January 1861** *La chanson de Fortunio*, an opéra-comique by Jacques Offenbach (41) to words of Crémieux and Halévy, is performed for the first time, at the Bouffes-Parisiens, Paris.

Alabama forces occupy Fort Morgan and Fort Gaines at the entrance of Mobile Bay.

**6 January 1861** Florida troops take over the federal arsenal at Apalachicola.

**7 January 1861** Pursuant to the findings of the Holy Congregation of Cardinals, Pope Pius IX grants the annulment of the marriage of Princess Carolyne Sayn-Wittgenstein. It will be announced tomorrow.

Florida forces occupy Fort Marion at St. Augustine.

**9 January 1861** The legislature of the state of Mississippi votes 84-15 in favor of secession from the United States.

Outside Charleston harbor, the *Star of the West*, a merchant vessel carrying supplies to Fort Sumter, is fired upon and returns to New York.

**10 January 1861** The legislature of the state of Florida votes 62-7 in favor of secession from the United States.

Louisiana troops seize the federal arsenals at Baton Rouge, Fort Jackson and St. Philip.

**11 January 1861** The legislature of the state of Alabama votes 61-39 in favor of secession from the United States.

Benito Juárez enters Mexico City with little fanfare and becomes the country’s first civilian president.

**12 January 1861** Florida troops occupy Fort Barrancas, Fort McGee and the Pensacola Navy Yard.

**14 January 1861** Louisiana forces occupy Fort Pike near New Orleans.

**15 January 1861** The first two of the Twelve Songs and Romances op.44 for unaccompanied chorus by Johannes Brahms (27) are performed for the first time, in Hamburg: *Der Holdseligen sonder Wank*, to words of Voss, and *Von allen Bergen nieder*, to words of Eichendorff. Brahms’ Songs for female chorus, two horns and harp op.17 are performed completely for the first time, conducted by the composer. This is part of a joint concert by Brahms, Joseph Joachim and Clara Schumann (41) which includes Beethoven’s (†33) *Kreutzer Sonata* and Robert Schumann’s (†4) Variations for two pianos op.46.

*Dividenden* op.252, a waltz by Johann Strauss (35), is performed for the first time, in the Dianabad-saal, Vienna.

Elisha Otis receives a US patent for an elevator with a safety device, should the hoisting rope break.

**17 January 1861** Englishman Thomas Crapper receives a patent for his flush toilet.

**19 January 1861** The legislature of the state of Georgia votes 208-89 in favor of secession from the United States.

**20 January 1861** Mississippi troops take Fort Massachusetts.

**22 January 1861** CJ Heusken, an interpreter for US ambassador Townsend Harris, is murdered on a Tokyo street by anti-Shogun elements. Representatives of Britain, France, Prussia and the Netherlands leave the city, but Harris remains and obtains reparations for Heusken’s family.

*Thermen* op.245, a waltz by Johann Strauss (35), is performed for the first time, in the Sophiensaal, Vienna.

**24 January 1861** Georgia forces occupy the federal arsenal at Augusta.

**25 January 1861** *Les musiciens de l’orchestre*, an opérette bouffe by Léo Delibes (24), Jules Erlanger, and Aristide Hignard, to words of Bourdois, is performed for the first time, at the Bouffes-Parisiens, Paris.

**26 January 1861** The Warsaw Institute of Music is inaugurated.

The legislature of the state of Louisiana votes 113-17 in favor of secession from the United States.

Georgia forces occupy the Ogelthorpe Barracks and Fort Jackson at Savannah.

**28 January 1861** *Wahlstimmen* op.250, a waltz by Johann Strauss (35), is performed for the first time, in the Sophiensaal, Vienna.

Louisiana troops take Fort Macomb near New Orleans.

**29 January 1861** Kansas becomes the 34th state of the United States, with a constitution prohibiting slavery.

*Camelien-Polka* op.248 by Johann Strauss (35) is performed for the first time, in the Dianabadsaal, Vienna.

**30 January 1861** Martin Karl Löffler (Charles Martin Loeffler) is born in Mulhouse, Alsace, French Empire, or Schöneberg, near Berlin, Kingdom of Prussia, the second of seven children born to Karl Löffler, a writer and teacher and Julie Charlotte Helena Schwerdtmann, daughter of a carpet retailer. (Loeffler always claimed to be a native Alsatian, but there is no evidence to support that)

**1 February 1861** A series of dike breaches begins in Gelderland Province, Netherlands. 40,000 acres are inundated. Hundreds are killed and tens of thousands made homeless.

Franz Schubert’s (†32) *Geburtstagshymne* for vocal quartet and piano is performed publicly for the first time, in Weimar.

The legislature of the state of Texas votes 166-7 in favor of secession from the United States.

**2 February 1861** *La circassienne*, an opéra comique by Daniel-François-Esprit Auber (79) to words of Scribe, is performed for the first time, at the Théâtre Favart, Paris.

**3 February 1861** The town of Bussetto votes 339-206 in favor of Giuseppe Verdi (47) to represent them in the Italian Chamber of Deputies. Verdi is elected to represent Borgo S. Donnino (Fidenza).

**4 February 1861** Archduke Rainer of Austria, cousin of the emperor, replaces Johann Bernhard, Count Rechberg und Rothenlöwe as Prime Minister of Austria.

131 delegates from 21 states meet at a peace convention in Washington in an attempt to find a compromise between the states. Meanwhile, 42 delegates from South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Florida meet in convention at Montgomery, Alabama to adopt a provisional constitution.

*Klangfiguren* op.251, a waltz by Johann Strauss (35), is performed for the first time, in the Sophiensaal, Vienna.

**6 February 1861** *Rokonhangok* op.246, a polka française by Johann Strauss (35), is performed for the first time, in the Dianabadsaal, Vienna.

*Hesperus-Polka* op.249 by Johann Strauss (35) is performed for the first time, in the Sperl Ballroom, Vienna.

**7 February 1861** *Grillenbanner* op.247, a waltz im Ländlerstil by Johann Strauss (35), is performed for the first time, in the Dianabadsaal, Vienna.

**8 February 1861** Delegates from the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi and South Carolina meeting in Montgomery, Alabama form the Confederate States of America and adopt a provisional constitution.

Arkansas troops take the federal arsenal at Little Rock.

**9 February 1861** Jefferson Davis is elected provisional president of the Confederate States of America. Alexander Stephens is elected provisional vice-president.

Tennessee voters elect 68,282-59,449 not to hold a state convention on secession.

**11 February 1861** *Am Grabe* for unaccompanied male chorus by Anton Bruckner (36) to words of Marinelli and von der Mattig, is performed for the first time, by Liedertafel “Frohsinn” in Linz, directed by the composer.

Abraham Lincoln makes his farewell speech in Springfield, Illinois before departing for Washington.

**12 February 1861** Jews gain full legal equality in Sicily.

**13 February 1861** The Neapolitan army capitulates to the Sardinian army at Gaeta.

**14 February 1861** King Francesco II of Naples surrenders at Gaeta.

**16 February 1861** An earthquake and tsunami centered off the west coast of Sumatra kill thousands of people.

Jews gain full legal equality in Naples.

**18 February 1861** The new Italian Parliament is opened by King Vittorio Emanuele of Sardinia in Turin. Deputy Giuseppe Verdi (47) takes his seat. Count Camillo Benso di Cavour, Prime Minister of Sardinia, declares the Kingdom of Italy. In the evening, Verdi attends a performance of *La Favorita* in the Teatro Regio. At the end of the second act, as word spreads that he is in the theatre, the audience begins to spontaneously shout “Viva Verdi!”

Jefferson Davis is inaugurated president of the Confederate States of America, in Montgomery, Alabama.

**20 February 1861** Playwright and Librettist Eugène Scribe dies in Paris at the age of 69.

**21 February 1861** In Berlin, Giacomo Meyerbeer (69) learns of the death of his long time collaborator Eugène Scribe. He will be unable to work for days.

**23 February 1861** The discovery of rubidium by Germans Robert Bunsen and Gustav Robert Kirchhoff is announced to the Berlin Academy of Scientists.

06:00 President-elect Abraham Lincoln arrives in Washington.

*Die Kinder der Heide* by Anton Rubinstein (31) to words of Mosenthal after Beck, is performed for the first time in the Vienna Kärntnertortheater.

A plebiscite in Texas favors secession from the United States 34,794-11,325 (75% yes).

**25 February 1861** Reinforced, French and Spanish forces in Saigon defeat the Vietnamese surrounding them, at Ky Hoa.

**27 February 1861** A crowd in Warsaw protesting Russian rule is fired on by Russian troops. Five people are killed.

**26 February 1861** The February Patent is issued, changing the Austrian constitution. It creates two houses in the Reichsrat, a House of Lords and a House of Representatives. The latter will be elected by local assemblies rather than universal suffrage.

**28 February 1861** North Carolina voters elect 46,603-46,409 not to hold a state convention on secession.

**1 March 1861** Franz Schubert’s (†32) singspiel *Die Verschworenen* to words of Castelli after Aristophanes is performed for the first time, in a concert setting in the Musikvereinsaal, Vienna. See 29 August 1861.

**3 March 1861** By command of Alyeksandr II, Tsar of all the Russias, every one of the 25 million serfs in his domains is forthwith emancipated. The Musorgsky family is financially devastated and Modest Musorgsky (21) has to think about money for the first time.

**4 March 1861** Abraham Lincoln replaces James Buchanan as President of the United States. The 37th Congress convenes for the first time, in Washington. Republicans are in control of both houses, with members from the seceding states not present.

**7 March 1861** The legislature of the state of Missouri votes against secession from the United States.

**8 March 1861** Der Tanz in der Dorfschenke, the first of the *Two Episodes from Lenau’s “Faust”* by Franz Liszt (49) is performed for the first time, in Weimar.

**10 March 1861** Toucouleur forces under El Hadj Umar Tall capture Ségou, essentially ending the Bambara Empire.

**11 March 1861** The Confederate States of America adopts a permanent constitution.

**12 March 1861** Italian troops take Messina, the last outpost on Sicily loyal to the King of Naples.

**13 March 1861** The Russian navy corvette *Posadnik* arrives at Tsushima Island with the intent of gaining an anchorage for Russian ships.

By imperial command, the so-called “Paris” version of *Tannhäuser* by Richard Wagner (47) to his own words is performed for the first time, at the Paris Opéra. The performers have been subjected to 160 rehearsals, almost all of them personally supervised by the composer. The performance is disrupted by the Jockey Club, a group of young aristocrats who object to Wagner’s decision not to place the ballet at the beginning of the second act, as is customary in French opera. The conductor, Pierre Dietsch, is completely inept, conducting from a violin part. See 1 August 1847, 19 October 1848 and 1 August 1867.

**14 March 1861** Julius Philipp Jacob Adriaan, Count van Zuylen van Nijevelt replaces Floris Adriaan, Baron van Hall and Schelte, Baron Heemstra as chief minister of the Netherlands.

**15 March 1861** In Berlin, Giacomo Meyerbeer (69) learns of the *Tannnhäuser* fiasco in Paris. “Such an unusual demonstration of dissatisfaction with a work that, in any case, is so admirable and talented would appear to be the result of a cabal, and not a genuine popular verdict.”

The new Mexican government of Benito Juárez puts Mexico on the metric system.

**16 March 1861** The Confederate States of America appoints commissioners to Great Britain.

**17 March 1861** The Kingdom of Italy is proclaimed by the Italian Parliament in Turin. King Vittorio Emanuele II of Sardinia becomes king of Italy. Prime Minister Count Camillo Benso di Cavour of Sardinia becomes Prime Minister of Italy.

*Neue Melodien-Quadrille* op.254 by Johann Strauss (35) is performed for the first time, in the Dianabadsaal, Vienna.

**18 March 1861** Recalling a performance of the overture to *Lohengrin*, conducted by Richard Wagner (47) in Paris last year, Charles Beaudelaire writes, “I felt as if released from gravity, with rekindled memories of voluptuous pleasures that circulate in lofty places.” (Grey, 372)

At the invitation of the government of Santo Domingo, Spain re-annexes its former colony. Spanish troops from Cuba enter the country.

A state convention in Arkansas turns down secession 39-35 but allows for a plebiscite.

Governor Sam Houston of Texas refuses to take the oath of allegiance to the Confederate States of America and retires.

**20 March 1861** The last royal Neapolitan holdout, Civitella del Tronto, surrenders to Italian troops.

An earthquake flattens the provincial capital of Mendoza, Argentina. Over 4,000 people are killed.

**21 March 1861** Confederate Vice President Alexander Stephens, speaking in Savannah, Georgia, proclaims slavery as the immediate cause of the rebellion, and it is “the proper status of the negro in our form of civilization…[the Confederacy’s] foundations are laid, its cornerstone rests, upon the great truth that the negro is not equal to the white man; that slavery, subordination to the superior race, is his natural and moral condition.” (www.fordham.edu)

**22 March 1861** Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (20) writes to his sister that their father no longer objects to a musical career for him.

**23 March 1861** The first tramcars in London begin operation.

The Senate of the Academy of Physicians, St. Petersburg, votes to extend Alyeksandr Borodin’s (27) period of study abroad until August 1862.

*Le pont des soupirs*, an opéra-bouffon by Jacques Offenbach (41) to words of Crémieux and Halévy, is performed for the first time, at the Bouffes-Parisiens, Paris.

**26 March 1861** Anton Bruckner (36) completes his studies in canon and fugue with his Vienna instructor Simon Sechter, largely through correspondence.

Tsar Alyeksandr II sets up a series of internal reforms for Poland, hoping to reconcile the Poles to Russian rule.

**27 March 1861** Poles demonstrate in Warsaw against the closing of the Agricultural Society (a center of Polish nationalism) by the Russian government. Many demonstrators are killed or wounded by security forces.

The Italian Parliament votes to make Rome the capital of the country.

**30 March 1861** British chemist William Crookes announces his discovery of Thallium.

*Panne-aux-Airs*, a spoof on Wagner’s (47) *Tannhäuser*, opens at the Théâtre-Déjuzet, Paris.

**2 April 1861** *Silas Marner* by George Eliot is published in London.

César Franck’s (38) incomplete *Messe à 3 voix* for chorus and orchestra is performed for the first time, in Ste.-Clothilde, Paris, conducted by the composer. The reception is “universally hostile.” The orchestration will be reduced to organ, harp, cello and bass.

**3 April 1861** Today is the effective date of Bedrich Smetana’s (37) resignation as conductor of the Choral and Harmonic Societies in Göteborg.

**4 April 1861** A Virginia state convention votes against a referendum on secession.

*Perpetuum mobile*, op.257, a musical joke by Johann Strauss (35), is performed for the first time, in Schwender’s Coliseum, Vienna.

**6 April 1861** Incidental music to Shakespeare’s play *The Tempest* by Arthur Sullivan (18) is performed for the first time, directed by the composer at a graduation concert for the Leipzig Conservatory. See 15 October 1864.

*Ya-Mein-Herr, cacophonie de l’Avenue*, a spoof on Wagner’s (47) *Tannhäuser*, opens at the Variétés, Paris.

**8 April 1861** Street demonstrations in Warsaw are fired upon by Russian troops. Official reports say ten people are killed but the true figure is closer to 200.

Two years after the death of her daughter, Louise Farrenc (56) returns to society in a musical evening at Erard’s in Paris. Her music is played, but, more importantly, she and her husband Aristide launch *Le Trésor des pianistes*, a collection of keyboard works from the last 300 years which they have jointly edited. It receives a very positive popular and critical response.

**10 April 1861** Arthur Sullivan (18) receives a diploma from Leipzig Conservatory. He will soon return home.

Bedrich Smetana (37) debuts before King Carl XV of Sweden at the Stockholm Court Theatre.

By act of the Massachusetts General Court (legislature), the Massachusetts Institute of Technology is incorporated.

**12 April 1861** 04:30 Confederate artillery open fire on the Federal garrison at Fort Sumter in the harbor of Charleston, South Carolina.

Federal troops are landed at Fort Pickens in Pensacola Bay.

**13 April 1861** 14:30 Fort Sumter agrees to surrender.

**14 April 1861** Fort Sumter surrenders to Confederate troops.

Virginia troops take the federal customs house and post office in Richmond.

**15 April 1861** Richard Wagner (47) meets Grand Duke Friedrich I of Baden in Karlsruhe. The two make plans to mount *Tristan und Isolde* in September but it comes to nought.

US President Lincoln issues a proclamation calling for 75,000 volunteers to put down the rebellion.

**17 April 1861** The legislature of the state of Virginia votes 88-55 in favor of secession from the United States.

**18 April 1861** Giuseppe Garibaldi, angry at the disbanding of his army, comes through cheering streets to the Italian Parliament in Turin. He enters by a side door (just as the government is explaining its decision to disband his army) and after five minutes of cheering he takes the oath as a deputy and is seated. Count Cavour and Garibaldi then take part in a fractious, personal debate.

Pierre Paul Broca presents the findings of an autopsy he performed yesterday to the Anthropological Society of Paris. He says that the reason the patient could not speak was due to softening of the tissue in a particular area of the brain. It suggests that different physical areas of the brain govern different functions.

The temple scene from a projected opera by Modest Musorgsky (22) to Ozerov’s (after Sophocles) play *Oedipus in Athens* is performed for the first time, at the Mariinsky Theatre, St. Petersburg.

**19 April 1861** John Knowles Paine (22) gives his third concert in Berlin, just before leaving the city for London. He has been in Berlin since August 1858.

President Lincoln declares a blockade of the seceding states.

A Massachusetts regiment is attacked by a pro-Confederacy mob in Baltimore. 13 people are killed.

**23 April 1861** Arkansas troops seize Fort Smith.

**24 April 1861** Unrest by newly emancipated serfs, without work or money to buy land, comes to a climax in Bezdna, Kazan Province. Imperial troops fire into the crowd causing at least 350 total casualties.

**29 April 1861** The legislature of the state of Maryland votes 13-53 against secession from the United States.

**30 April 1861** Federal troops evacuate the Indian Territory (Oklahoma) leaving Cherokees, Chickisaws, Choctaws, Creeks and Seminoles under Confederate jurisdiction.

**1 May 1861** Leader of the Bezdna revolt, Anton Petrov, is executed in that village.

**3 May 1861** Anthony Philip (Anton Philipp) Heinrich dies in New York City, USA aged 80 years, one month and 22 days. His mortal remains will be laid to rest at Trinity Church, New York.

**6 May 1861** British Foreign Secretary Lord Russell announces in Parliament that the government has decided to recognize the Confederate States of America as a belligerent.

The legislature of the state of Arkansas votes 69-1 in favor of secession from the United States.

The legislature of the state of Tennessee votes 66-25 in favor of secession from the United States.

The Confederate States of America declares war on the United States.

**9 May 1861** Richard Wagner (47) arrives in Vienna looking for singers for a projected performance of *Tristan und Isolde* in Karlsruhe.

**10 May 1861** Riots break out in St. Louis with federal troops and German-American civilians against secessionists and the state militia. 29 people are killed.

**11 May 1861** Bedrich Smetana (37) departs Göteborg for good, to return to Prague.

**12 May 1861** A setting of the *Ave Maria (II)* in F major for unaccompanied chorus by Anton Bruckner (36) is performed for the first time, in the Linz Cathedral in honor of Liedertafel “Frohsinn”, directed by the composer.

**13 May 1861** John Tebbutt of Windsor, New South Wales, discovers the Great Comet of 1861 (C/1861 J1).

Queen Victoria announces Britain’s intention to remain neutral in the American Civil War.

Federal troops occupy Baltimore.

**19 May 1861** Bedrich Smetana (37) and his wife arrive in Prague from Sweden.

**20 May 1861** Alyeksandr Borodin (27) arrives in Heidelberg from Italy, where he was on scientific business.

**21 May 1861** Russian sailors off the *Posadnik* engage Samurai and local farmers on Tsushima Island.

The legislature of the state of North Carolina votes in favor of secession from the United States.

**22 May 1861** Franz Liszt (49) dines at the Tuileries with Emperor Napoleon III and Empress Eugènie and invited guests. He plays for the gathering and causes a sensation.

**23 May 1861** A plebiscite in Virginia favors secession from the United States 128,884-32,134 (80% yes).

**24 May 1861** Federal troops occupy Alexandria, Virginia.

After a dinner party at the home of Fromental Halévy (61), Georges Bizet (22) sight-reads a difficult work by Franz Liszt (49). The composer, who is present, calls Bizet one of the three finest pianists in Europe, along with Hans von Bülow and himself.

**26 May 1861** *St. Petersburg Quadrille* op.255a by Johann Strauss (35) is performed for the first time, in Pavlovsk. Also premiered is *Veilchen* op.256, a mazur nach russichen Motifen.

**27 May 1861** Alyeksandr Borodin (27) meets Yekaterina Sergeevna Protopopova, a talented Russian pianist now in Heidelberg being treated for tuberculosis.

At her request, Franz Liszt (49) visits the home of Marie d’Agoult, the mother of his three children, in Paris. They talk for an hour.

**31 May 1861** *M. Choufleuri restera chez lui le...*, an operetta by Jacques Offenbach (41) to words of Saint-Rémy (pseud. of le Duc de Morny), L’Epine, Crémieux and Halévy, is performed for the first time, at the Présidence du Corps Législatif, Paris.

Federal troops occupy Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

**1 June 1861** Great Britain forbids either side in the US Civil War from bringing prize ships into its ports.

**3 June 1861** Giuseppe Verdi (47) concludes a contract with the Russian Imperial Theatre to compose an opera on the poem *Don Alvaro ou la Forza del Destino.*

**5 June 1861** French forces complete their evacuation from Syria.

**6 June 1861** The Prime Minister of Italy, Count Camilo Benso di Cavour, dies in Turin. He will be replaced by Bettino Ricasoli, Count Brolio.

**8 June 1861** Franz Liszt (49) dines at the home of Marie d’Agoult in Paris for the last time. Marie is overwhelmed, as if those years of anger and recrimination never happened. “It is still he and he alone who makes me feel the divine mystery of life.” (Williams, 375) He departs Paris for Weimar tonight.

A plebiscite in Tennessee favors secession from the United States 104,019-47,238 (69% yes).

**9 June 1861** The western powers agree to the autonomy of Lebanon within the Ottoman Empire and the appointment of a Christian governor.

**15 June 1861** Governor Jackson and other southern sympathizers evacuate the Missouri state capital in Jefferson City.

**17 June 1861** Spain declares neutrality in the American Civil War but recognizes the Confederate States of America as a belligerent.

**18 June 1861** John Knowles Paine (22) arrives home in Portland aboard the *Jura* from Liverpool via Quebec, after almost three years in Germany.

**22 June 1861** Richard Wagner’s (48) dog Fips dies. It is the last thing that he and Minna have in common.

**25 June 1861** Ottoman Sultan Abdul Mejid I dies in Constantinople and is succeeded by his brother, Abdul Aziz.

A setting of Psalm 18 for male chorus and orchestra by Franz Liszt (49) is performed for the first time, in Weimar.

**30 June 1861** Elizabeth Barrett Browning dies in Florence at the age of 55.

**1 July 1861** The first issue of the Vatican newspaper *L’Osservatore Romano* appears in Rome.

**5 July 1861** The sectarian violence having ended, French occupation of Lebanon ends.

**6 July 1861** *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens is published in book form. It is currently being serialized in *All the Year Round*.

**17 July 1861** President Benito Juárez of Mexico suspends his country’s payment on foreign debt.

**18 July 1861** Serving as an interpreter for an engineer, Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (21) arrives in Berlin.

Antal Count Forgách de Ghymes et Gács becomes Chancellor of Hungary.

*I’ll Be a Soldier* is copyrighted by Stephen Foster (35).

**20 July 1861** The capital of the Confederate States of America is moved from Montgomery, Alabama to Richmond, Virginia.

**21 July 1861** Federal troops are routed by Confederate forces at Bull Run, near Manassas, Virginia, 45 km west of Washington. 847 people are killed, 2,706 injured, 1,325 missing.

**22 July 1861** Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (21) arrives in Hamburg.

A state convention in Jefferson City, Missouri affirms the loyalty of the state to the United States and moves the capital to St. Louis.

**25 July 1861** Great Britain and France sever diplomatic relations with Mexico over the suspension of debt payments.

At its annual commencement exercises, Yale College confers the first Ph.D. degrees in the United States.

**30 July 1861** The Missouri state convention declares open the office of governor and other pro-secession officers.

**1 August 1861** A pro-union government is installed in Missouri.

**5 August 1861** Great Britain annexes the area around Lagos.

The Revenue Act of 1861 levies the first national income tax in the United States.

**6 August 1861** Great Britain unites the Bight of Biafra and the Bight of Benin into a single protectorate.

Mehmed Emin Ali Pasha replaces Kibrisli Mehmed Pasha as Grand Vizier of the Ottoman Empire.

**7 August 1861** At a Tonkünstlerversammlung in Weimar, attended by Franz Liszt (49), Richard Wagner (48), Peter Cornelius (36) and Hans von Bülow, the Allgemeiner Deutscher Musikverein is founded.

**8 August 1861** By this date, Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (21) has arrived in London.

**10 August 1861** Confederates defeat Federals at Wilson’s Creek, Missouri. The Federals are forced to pull back to Rolla. 684 people are killed, 2,021 injured.

**12 August 1861** Franz Liszt (49) closes the Altenburg and seals its doors. It has been his home during his entire residence in Weimar, some 13 years. He moves to the Hotel Erbprinz.

**14 August 1861** Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (21) arrives in Paris.

**15 August 1861** Emperor Napoléon III creates Jacques Offenbach (42) a Chevalier of the Legion of Honor.

**17 August 1861** Franz Liszt (49) leaves Weimar for Italy. Before departing he sees Grand Duke Carl Alexander who creates him Gentleman of the Ducal Bedchamber.

**18 August 1861** Edvard Grieg (18) gives his first public concert, in Karlskrona, Sweden as he travels from Bergen to Leipzig.

**21 August 1861** The Hungarian Parliament is dissolved by Emperor Franz Joseph II due to its opposition to the February Patent. The Hungarian government will be administered by imperial commissioners.

**22 August 1861** Emperor Hsien-feng of China dies and is succeeded by his five-year-old son T’ung-chih, under regency.

Alyeksandr Borodin (27), in Baden-Baden, becomes engaged to Yekaterina Sergeyevna Protopopova whom he met on 27 May in Heidelberg.

**25 August 1861** The Paris Salon opens including Manet’s *El Guitarrero*.

**27 August 1861** *Secunden-Polka* op.258 by Johann Strauss (35) is performed for the first time, in Pavlovsk.

**28 August 1861** Royal Navy ships arrive at Tsushima to support Japan against Russian encroachment.

**29 August 1861** *Die Verschworenen*, a singspiel by Franz Schubert (†32) to words of Castelli after Aristophanes, is staged for the first time, in Frankfurt-am-Main. See 1 March 1861.

**30 August 1861** General John Fremont declares martial law throughout Missouri without authorization from Washington. He orders the expropriation of property belonging to secessionists including slaves.

**31 August 1861** Orchestral excerpts from Richard Wagner’s (48) *Tristan und Isolde* are heard for the first time (save the prelude) in an outdoor performance in the Vienna Volksgarten, conducted by Johann Strauss (35).

**2 September 1861** Diplomatic and trade relations are established between Prussia and China by the signing of a treaty at Tientsin.

**4 September 1861** *A noite do castelo*, an opera seria by Carlos Gomes (25) to words of Antônio José Fernandes dos Reis, is performed for the first time, at the Teatro Lírico Fluminense, Rio de Janeiro.

**6 September 1861** Federal troops take Paducah, Kentucky.

**10 September 1861** Samuel Sebastian Wesley (51) opens the new organ at Holy Trinity Parish Church, Winchester. It was originally built in 1850 on the Isle of Wight. The cathedral choir sings two of Wesley’s anthems, including *Praise the Lord, my soul* composed specifically for this occasion.

While vacationing as a guest of Prince Constantin von Hohenzollern-Hechingen at Löwenberg, Franz Liszt (49) receives a visit from Adolf von Henselt (47). Henselt is recuperating from malaria at his estate in Gersdorff nearby.

**14 September 1861** *Furioso-Polka* op.260 by Johann Strauss (35) is performed for the first time, in Pavlovsk.

**18 September 1861** Confederate troops take Bowling Green, Kentucky.

**19 September 1861** Given the arrival of the Royal Navy to support Japan, the Russian corvette *Posadnik* departs Tsushima.

Anton Bruckner (37) travels to Salzburg to audition for the post of director of the Dom-Musikverein and Mozarteum. He will conduct the cathedral choir over the next two days.

**20 September 1861** Federal troops in Lexington, Missouri surrender to the Confederates.

The United States of New Granada is renamed the United States of Colombia.

**28 September 1861** Ambroise Thomas (50) reports to the Académie des Beaux-Arts on behalf of the composers’ section on who should receive the Prix Chartier. He recommends it be divided between Adolphe Blanc, Eugène Sauzay, and Louise Farrenc (57). However, the full membership rejects the recommendation and gives the entire prize to Louise Farrenc.

**30 September 1861** German paleontologist Christian Erich Hermann von Meyer writes to the *Neues Jahrbuch* and names a recently discovered skeleton *Archaeopteryx lithographica*. The discovery will link dinosaurs to birds.

**1 October 1861** The first installment of *Utilitarianism* by John Stuart Mill is published this month in *Fraser’s Magazine*.

**2 October 1861** Great Britain and France end their occupation of Canton.

**6 October 1861** Student unrest causes the closure of St. Petersburg University.

**7 October 1861** A confrontation between St. Petersburg University students and armed soldiers is diffused.

**8 October 1861** *Chansonette-Quadrille* op.259 by Johann Strauss (35) is performed for the first time, in Pavlovsk.

**9 October 1861** The autonomy of Tuscany and Naples is abolished and they are fully integrated into Italy.

**11 October 1861** After months of demonstrations and anti-Russian agitation, Russian Viceroy Count Lambert declares a state of emergency in Warsaw.

**12 October 1861** The Confederate ironclad *Manassas* rams the *USS Richmond* and the *USS Vincennes* near the mouth of the Mississippi.

Two movements from an incomplete symphony by Georges Bizet (22) are performed for the first time at the Institute, Paris. They were part of Bizet’s submission to the Institute.

**14 October 1861** Services commemorating the death of Tadeusz Kosciuszko are held in three Warsaw churches and are surrounded by Russian troops. Two of the congregations refuse to leave.

**15 October 1861** Russian troops enter the two recalcitrant churches and arrest 1,600 worshippers. In protest, the Roman Catholic hierarchy closes all churches in Warsaw. The situation causes the suicide of Russian military commander General Gerstenzweig and the resignation of the Viceroy, Count Lambert. Eventually, Warsaw will be reduced to military rule.

**16 October 1861** Federal troops take Lexington, Missouri.

**17 October 1861** A charter for a new conservatory is published in an appendix to *Senate Bulletins* no.95*.* It begins “Under the aegis of the Russian Music Society, a music school is to be founded for instruction in the art of music in all its disciplines. The school, on a par with the Society, is under the direct patronage of Her Imperial Highness the grand duchess Yelena Pavlovna.” (Taylor, 97) It is the first such school in Russia.

*Apothicaire et perruquier*, an operetta by Jacques Offenbach (42) to words of Frébault, is performed for the first time, at the Bouffes-Parisiens, Paris.

**18 October 1861** King Wilhelm I of Prussia is crowned in Königsberg. The new king revives the old coronation ceremony used in 1701 when Prussia became a kingdom. *Krönungsmarsch* for winds by Giacomo Meyerbeer (69) is performed for the first time at the ceremony.

**20 October 1861** After traveling for two months through Germany and France, Franz Liszt (49) arrives in Rome by steamship from Marseille. He goes immediately to the apartment of Princess Carolyne Sayn-Wittgenstein and the two are reunited after 17 months of separation. They go together to the Vatican and Liszt swears on the Gospels that he is single, has not taken vows to be a priest, is not promised in marriage to another, and that he came to Rome to marry. Carolyne makes similar vows.

**21 October 1861** 18:00 Franz Liszt and Princess Carolyne Sayn-Wittgenstein take communion at the church of San Carlo in Rome where they intend to marry tomorrow, Liszt’s 50th birthday. They dine together in her apartment. At 23:00 a messenger from Cardinal Antonelli, papal secretary of state, brings the news that Carolyne’s family have declared her marriage to Liszt illegal, charging that she lied in obtaining her original annulment from Prince Nicholas Wittgenstein. She had said that she was forced to marry which the family claims is not true. Pope Pius IX has agreed to review the case. The wedding will never take place.

Confederate troops defeat Federals at Balls Bluff near Leesburg, Virginia.

**24 October 1861** *Festhymnus* for solo voices, chorus and orchestra by Giacomo Meyerbeer (70) to words of Köster is performed for the first time, in Berlin for celebrations surrounding the coronation of King Wilhelm I of Prussia.

Pony Express service ends because of the new continental telegraph service.

A plebiscite in western Virginia votes overwhelmingly to create a new state.

**25 October 1861** A telegraph link between Sacramento and Salt Lake City is completed, thus inaugurating transcontinental telegraph service. In Washington, President Lincoln receives the first coast-to-coast telegram from Stephen Field, Chief Justice of California in Sacramento.

**26 October 1861** A device is demonstrated before the Frankfurt Physics Society by its inventor, Johann Reis. He is able to transmit sound over 100 meters by means of electricity. Reis calls it a telephone.

**27 October 1861** The first concert of the Concerts Populaires de Musique Classique, organized by Jules Pasdeloup, is given at the Cirque-Napoléon (Cirque d’Hiver), Paris. They will continue for 20 years, attracting large crowds of mostly working-class Parisians.

**29 October 1861** The imperial government grants a charter for the first advanced school of music, attached to the Russian Musical Society.

**30 October 1861** Richard Wagner (48) suggests to the publisher Schott, the idea of “a grand comic opera” called *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*.

**31 October 1861** Representatives of Great Britain, France, and Spain convene in London to plan concerted action to recover Mexican debts.

Pro-secession legislators vote Missouri into the Confederacy at Neosho.

**1 November 1861** Adagio and Rondo Concertante D.487 for piano, violin, viola and cello by Franz Schubert (†32) is performed for the first time, in the Ludwig Bösendorfer Salon, Vienna.

John Knowles Paine (22) gives his first organ recital after arriving in Boston, at the Tremont Temple.

**2 November 1861** Jules Massenet (19) enters the composition class of Ambroise Thomas (50) at the Paris Conservatoire.

**4 November 1861** Johannes Brahms’ (28) work for solo piano, Variations and Fugue on a Theme by Handel op.24, is performed for the first time, privately by the composer, at the Hamburg home of Hermann Wagner. See 7 December 1861.

**6 November 1861** Prince Dom Fernando, father of King Pedro V and formerly King Fernando II, dies in Lisbon.

An election held in the Confederate States of America confirms Jefferson Davis as president and Alexander Stephens as vice-president for six-year terms.

**8 November 1861** In the Old Bahama Channel, the *USS San Jacinto* forces the British packet *Trent*, out of Havana, to stop and requires them to turn over two Confederate commissioners bound for England. The incident seriously strains relations between the United States and Great Britain.

**11 November 1861** 24-year-old King Pedro V of Portugal dies of typhoid fever in Lisbon and is succeeded by his brother Luís I.

**14 November 1861** Dom Luís returns to Lisbon from Paris and learns of the two recent deaths making him king.

The Prussian Navy three-masted *SMS Amazone* goes down in a gale off the Netherlands with the loss of 107 people.

**16 November 1861** Quartet for piano and strings no.1 by Johannes Brahms (28) is performed for the first time, in the Kleiner Wörmescher Saal, Hamburg. Clara Schumann (42) performs the piano part.

**19 November 1861** A three-man committee of Vienna Conservatory meets to consider the candidacy of Anton Bruckner (37) for a teaching position. They decide to meet in two days to hear him improvise on a given theme.

**21 November 1861** Anton Bruckner (37) improvises a fugue on a given eight-bar theme at the organ of the Piaristenkirche, Vienna for the qualification of “Teacher of Harmony and Counterpoint at Conservatoria.” After the test, one of the adjudicators remarks, “He should have examined us.”

**22 November 1861** Keçecizade Mehmed Fuad Pasha replaces Mehmed Emin Ali Pasha as Grand Vizier of the Ottoman Empire.

**24 November 1861** Giuseppe Verdi (48) and his wife leave Busseto for St. Petersburg with the unorchestrated score of *La forza del destino*.

John Knowles Paine (22) enters upon duties at West Church in Boston.

**28 November 1861** The provisional congress at Richmond admits the secessionist government of Missouri to the Confederacy.

President Benito Juárez of Mexico resumes debt payments to Great Britain, France, and Spain in order to avoid foreign intervention.

**1 December 1861** In Mainz, Richard Wagner (48) reads the scenario of *Die Meistersinger* to Schott who immediately offers him 10,000 francs.

**3 December 1861** Clara Schumann (42) performs Johannes Brahms’ (28) Piano Concerto no.1 in Hamburg, conducted by the composer. She writes, “The public understood nothing and felt nothing.”

**6 December 1861** Giuseppe Verdi (48) and his wife arrive in St. Petersburg to produce *La forza del destino*.

**7 December 1861** Johannes Brahms’ (28) work for solo piano, Variations and Fugue on a Theme by Handel op.24, is performed publicly for the first time, in Hamburg, by Clara Schumann (42) from manuscript. See 4 November 1861.

**10 December 1861** *Le roman comique*, an opéra-bouffe by Jacques Offenbach (42) to words of Crémieux and Halévy is performed for the first time, at the Bouffes-Parisiens, Paris.

The provisional congress at Richmond admits the secessionist government of Kentucky to the Confederacy.

**11 December 1861** The *Christmas Song* for Auerbach’s play *Die Waldkönigin* by Giacomo Meyerbeer (70) is performed for the first time, in Viktoria Theater, Berlin.

**13 December 1861** *Afferentur regi* for chorus, three trombones and organ by Anton Bruckner (37) is performed for the first time, at St. Florian.

**14 December 1861** *Psalm 146* for solo voices, double chorus and orchestra by Anton Bruckner (37) is performed for the first time, at St. Florian.

Heinrich August Marschner dies of a heart attack in Hannover, aged 66 years, three months and 28 days.

Albert of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, Prince Consort, spouse of Queen Victoria, dies of typhoid at Windsor Castle.

**16 December 1861** *Du bist wie eine blume* for unaccompanied chorus by Anton Bruckner (37) to words of Heine, is performed for the first time, in Linz.

**17 December 1861** In response to Mexico’s suspension of payments on foreign debt, Spanish troops occupy Veracruz without Mexican resistance.

**18 December 1861** A funeral is held in honor of Heinrich August Marschner in Hannover. In spite of very cold weather, there is a large crowd.

**22 December 1861** *Le chant des Titans* (Péchés de vieillesse vol.iii no.6) by Gioachino Rossini (69) is performed for the first time, at the Paris Opéra.

**23 December 1861** Ottoman Sultan Abdülaziz I proclaims Moldavia and Wallachia united as the Principality of Romania. Alexander Cuza becomes Prince Alexandru Ioan I. Alexandru Moruzi is prime minister. The capital is Bucharest.

*All go unto one place* for chorus and organ by Samuel Sebastian Wesley (61) is performed for the first time, at a commemorative service for Prince Albert in Winchester Cathedral, the composer at the keyboard.

Fromental Halévy (62) and his family depart Paris for Nice where he intends to recover his failing health and compose *Noé*.

**30 December 1861** The two Confederate ministers taken off the British ship *Trent* on 8 November are handed over to the British minister to the United States.

Banks in the United States stop payments in gold or silver.

©2004-2016 Paul Scharfenberger

12 April 2016