**2 January 1870** Emile Ollivier replaces Justin de Chasseloup-Laubat as Minister President of the Council of State for France.

**3 January 1870** Construction begins on the Brooklyn Bridge.

**5 January 1870** The *Liebeslieder waltzes* op.52 for vocal quartet and piano-four hands by Johannes Brahms (36) to words of Daumer are performed completely for the first time, in the Kleiner Redoutensaal, Vienna, the composer and Clara Schumann (50) at the piano. See 6 October 1869, 19 March 1870 and 14 November 1874.

**6 January 1870** The Musikverein is inaugurated in Vienna by Emperor Franz Joseph.

**10 January 1870** 100,000 people demonstrate in Paris against the Second Empire after Victor Noir, a republican journalist, was killed by Pierre Bonaparte, a cousin of the Emperor.

John D. Rockefeller incorporates Standard Oil in Ohio.

**11 January 1870** A telegraph link between Great Britain and India is inaugurated.

**15 January 1870** Ignaz von Plener replaces Edvard, Count Taaffe as Chancellor of Austria.

*Freuet euch des Lebens!* op.340, a waltz by Johann Strauss (44), is performed for the first time, at the opening of the Musikverein Building, Vienna.

**19 January 1870** *Sehnsucht* op.49/3, a song by Johannes Brahms (36) to traditional words, is performed for the first time, in Vienna.

**22 January 1870** Recitatives and choruses for Daniel-François-Esprit Auber’s (87) *Le domino noir* by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (29) to words of Scribe, is performed for the first time, in the Bolshoy Theatre, Moscow.

**23 January 1870** Giuseppe Verdi (56) writes to a friend in Paris admonishing him for not sending the prose works of Wagner (56) that he had requested. It seems that Verdi wishes to acquaint himself with Wagner’s writings.

United States troops attack a village of Piegan Blackfeet on the Marias River in Chouteau County, Montana. They kill 33 men, 90 women and 50 children. The army will cover up the massacre until April when a young officer goes public. An investigation will reveal that the army raided a village of friendly Indians by mistake.

**24 January 1870** The *USS Oneida*, 20 km out from Yokohama, is struck by the British steamer *Bombay* and goes down with 125 of her crew. Japanese fisherman save 61 sailors.

**28 January 1870** The British steamship *City of Boston* sails from Halifax, Nova Scotia for Liverpool with 191 souls aboard. It is never heard from again.

**31 January 1870** *Baba Yaga*, a fantasia by Alyeksandr Dargomizhsky (†1), is performed for the first time, in St. Petersburg.

**1 February 1870** Leopold Hasner von Artha replaces Ignaz von Plener as Chancellor of Austria.

**9 February 1870** The United States Weather Bureau is established.

*Der Thurm zu Babel*, a sacred opera by Anton Rubinstein (40) to words of Rodenberg, is performed for the first time, in Königsberg.

**13 February 1870** *Neu Wien* op.342, a waltz for male chorus and orchestra by Johann Strauss (44), is performed for the first time, in the Dianabadsaal, Vienna.

**14 February 1870** Alexandru Golescu replaces Prince Dimitrie Ghica as Prime Minister of Romania.

**17 February 1870** Edvard Grieg (26) meets Franz Liszt (58) for the first time (at Liszt’s invitation), in Rome. Liszt sight-reads through some of Grieg’s music and is very encouraging to him.

**22 February 1870** The Territory of Utah grants women the right to vote.

**26 February 1870** A number of merchants and bankers found the Commerz- und Disconto-Bank (Commerzbank) in Hamburg as a joint-stock company.

The Beach Pneumatic Subway opens down Broadway from Warren Street to Murray Street, a distance of about 90 meters. Designed by Alfred Ely Beach, it will operate until 1873.

**1 March 1870** President Francisco Solano López, dictator of Paraguay and the man responsible for Paraguay’s policy of self-aggrandizement, is shot, along with his vice-president, cabinet members and many military officers, after being captured by Brazilian troops at Cerro Corá, Paraguay.

**3 March 1870** Rhapsody for alto, male chorus and orchestra op.53 by Johannes Brahms (36) to words of Goethe is performed for the first time, in the Rosensaal, Jena.

**4 March 1870** By order of Métis leader Louis Riel, a Protestant from Ontario named Thomas Scott is executed for taking part in the murder of a Métis.

**5 March 1870** In the middle of a conversation with Cosima at Tribschen, the idea occurs to Richard Wagner (56) of placing his opera house halfway between Munich and Berlin, in the city of Bayreuth, as a symbol of German unity.

**7 March 1870** Otto Cammillus Hugo, Count Bray-Steinberg replaces Chlodwig, Prince Hohenlohe-Schillingsfürst as Prime Minister of Bavaria.

**10 March 1870** The Prussian government grants a banking license to Deutsche Bank in Berlin.

**12 March 1870** Ottoman Sultan Abdul Aziz creates a separate province of Bulgaria along with a Bulgarian national church separate from the Greek church.

**16 March 1870** The first version of *Romeo and Juliet*, a fantasy-overture by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (29), is performed for the first time, in Moscow. The music is a failure with the public but Nikolay Rubinstein arranges for its publication. See 17 February 1872 and 1 May 1886.

**18 March 1870** The State of California creates the first wildlife refuge in the United States, at Lake Merritt in Alameda County.

**19 March 1870**  *Il Guarany,* an opera-ballo by Carlos Gomes (33) to words of Scalvini and d’Ormeville after de Alencar, is performed for the first time, in Teatro alla Scala, Milan. It brings him international fame.

The *Liebeslieder Waltzes* op.52 by Johannes Brahms (36) are performed for the first time in the setting for voices and orchestra, in Berlin. See 5 January 1870 and 14 November 1874.

**25 March 1870** About 300 followers of Te Kooti are killed or captured at Maraetahi by Maori allies of the colonial government. Leaders of the band are executed, others imprisoned. Although Te Kooti escapes, this essentially ends the wars in New Zealand. He will eventually gain asylum from the Maori King Tawhio.

**26 March 1870** *Bitterly and Sweetly* op.6/3, a song for voice and piano by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (29) to words of Rostopchina, is performed for the first time.

**27 March 1870** The *Mémoires* of Hector Berlioz (†1) are advertised for sale in *Le Ménestrel*, Paris.

**28 March 1870** Excerpts from *Undina*, an opera by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (29) to words of Sollogub after de la Motte Fouqué, are performed for the first time, in the Bolshoy Theatre, Moscow.

**30 March 1870** The 15th amendment to the United States Constitution, which guarantees the right of citizens to vote regardless of their race, is ratified.

**2 April 1870** Rail service begins between Bombay and Calcutta.

**7 April 1870** *None but the Lonely Heart* op.6/6, a song for voice and piano by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (29) to words of Lev Mei after Goethe, is performed for the first time, in Moscow.

**9 April 1870** Heinrich Schliemann begins ten days of excavations of a mound near Hisarlik, Turkey. It is clandestine, not authorized by the Turkish government.

Edvard Grieg (26) writes from Rome to his parents, describing a recent meeting with Franz Liszt (58). Liszt sight-read Grieg’s Piano Concerto and told him “Hold to your course. Let me tell you, you have the talent for it, and--don’t get scared off!” Grieg considers this a “sacred mandate.”

**11 April 1870** Lord Muncaster and a party of British tourists visiting Marathon are kidnapped by Greek pirates. Soon Lord Muncaster and all the women are released, but the pirates, led by Takos Arvanitakis, demand £50,000 for the other men.

**12 April 1870** Alfred, Count Potocki replaces Leopold Hasner von Artha as Chancellor of Austria.

Tower subway opens, operating a tram 376 meters under the Thames from Great Tower Hill to Tooley Street.

**13 April 1870** The Metropolitan Museum of Art is founded in New York.

**17 April 1870** The Kärntnertortheater, Vienna closes after 160 years of operation.

**21 April 1870** Greek troops catch up with the pirates still holding four men from the Muncaster party near Dilessi. The kidnappers kill their prisoners.

**26 April 1870** Camille Du Locle, a french librettist and opera director, visits Giuseppe Verdi (56) in Busetto and, acting for the Khedive of Egypt, asks Verdi to compose an opera for the Cairo Opera House.

**30 April 1870** 22:00 Franz Christian Lehár is born on Palatine Street in Komárom, Kingdom of Hungary (Komárno, Slovakia), first of seven children (five surviving infancy) born to Franz Lehár, horn player and bandmaster in the Habsburg army, and Christine Neubrandt, daughter of a soap boiler. (The house no longer stands. Lehár Park now marks the spot.)

White settlers in Pinal County, Arizona attack an Apache village, burn it to the ground and kill 100 people.

**2 May 1870** Manolache Costache Epureanu replaces Alexandru G. Golescu as Prime Minister of Romania.

*Coppélia, ou La fille aux yeux d’émail*, a ballet by Léo Delibes (34) to a story by Nuitter after Hoffmanm, is performed for the first time, at the Paris Opéra.

**7 May 1870** The day before a national plebiscite, prominent leftists are arrested in France charged with plotting against Napoléon III.

**8 May 1870** A national plebiscite is held today in France over the future of the Second Empire. Published results show 84% in favor of its continuation.

**9 May 1870** Anton Rubinstein (40) plays at the Paris home of Camille Saint-Saëns (34). An enthusiastic Gabriel Fauré (24) is there too.

**12 May 1870** The Manitoba Act by the Canadian Parliament receives Royal Assent. It creates the Province of Manitoba.

**15 May 1870** *Mitternacht* for tenor, male chorus, and piano by Anton Bruckner (45) to words of J. Mendelssohn is performed for the first time, in Linz.

**16 May 1870** *Song of the Czechs* for chorus by Bedrich Smetana (46) to words of Marek is performed for the first time.

**19 May 1870** João Carlos Gregório Domingues Vicente Francisco de Saldanha Oliveira e Daun, duque, marquês e conde de Saldanha replaces Nuno José Severo de Mendoça Rolim de Moura Barreto, duque e marquês de Loulé, conde de Vale de Reis as Prime Minister of Portugal.

**25 May 1870** Fenians and British troops engage at Stanbridge, Quebec. After fighting for a few hours, the Fenians run away.

**27 May 1870** British troops push Fenians back across the border at Holbrooks Corner, Quebec.

**28 May 1870** Ludwig, Count Holstein replaces Christian Emil Krog-Juel-Vind-Fris, Count Frijsenborg as Prime Minister of Denmark.

**29 May 1870** Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (29) departs Moscow for St. Petersburg, thence to travel to Germany and France to visit his pupil Vladimir Stepanovich Shilovsky.

*Zur Säkularfeier Beethovens*, a cantata by Franz Liszt (58) to words of Stern and Gregorovius, is performed for the first time, in Wiemar for the Allgemeiner deutscher Musikverein.

**30 May 1870** The United States Congress passes the first Force Act designed to stop racial violence in the south.

**31 May 1870** US President Ulysses Grant sends a message to the Senate promoting the idea of annexation of Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic).

**3 June 1870** Axel Gustaf Adlercreutz replaces Louis Gerhard de Geer af Finspång as Prime Minister for Justice of Sweden.

**4 June 1870** The British civil service is reformed. Almost all departments are now open to competitive examination.

**5 June 1870** A large section of the city of Constantinople is destroyed by fire. 900 people are killed along with 3,000 structures.

**9 June 1870** Charles Dickens dies in Kent at the age of 58.

**10 June 1870** Khedive Ismail of Egypt accepts Giuseppe Verdi’s (56) terms for an opera for the Cairo Opera House.

**13 June 1870** Great Britain cedes all of the Northwest Territories, except the Arctic islands, to Canada, effective 15 July.

**19 June 1870** Prince Leopold von Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen, a distant relative of King Wilhelm of Prussia, secretly accepts the Spanish throne as offered by the Spanish government.

**20 June 1870** Lady Mary Elizabeth Herbert writes to Hubert Parry (22) informing him unequivocally that he may not entertain any thoughts of marrying her daughter, Maude. See 25 June 1872.

A preliminary peace accord is signed between Brazil, Argentina, and Paraguay. Paraguay loses 38% of its territory.

**21 June 1870** A Chinese mob kills the French consul and European missionaries in Tientsin.

**23 June 1870** An Order in Council transfers Rupert’s Land from Britain to Canada effective 15 July.

**25 June 1870** Queen Isabella of Spain abdicates in Paris, in favor of her son Alfonso.

**26 June 1870** *Die Walküre*, a music-drama by Richard Wagner (57) to his own words, is performed for the first time, against the composer’s wishes, in the Königliches Hof-und Nationaltheater, Munich. Among the audience are Johannes Brahms (37), Camille Saint-Saëns (34) and Henri Duparc (22). See 14 August 1876.

**30 June 1870** The US Senate votes not to consent to the treaty signed last November 29 to annex Santo Domingo.

**2 July 1870** The acceptance of the Spanish throne by Prince Leopold von Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen is made public.

The family of Enrique Granados (2) departs from Cádiz for Tenerife in the Canary Islands. His father is appointed the military commander of the island.

**3 July 1870** Jules Joseph, Baron d’Anethan replaces Hubert Joseph Walthère Frère-Orban as Prime Minister of Belgium.

**6 July 1870** France, fearing encirclement by two Hohenzollern kings, threatens war if Prince Leopold is placed upon the Spanish throne.

**11 July 1870** A shortened version of *Ages Ago*, a play by William S. Gilbert, is produced in London. During the rehearsals, the playwright met Arthur Sullivan (27), probably for the first time.

**12 July 1870** Prince Leopold withdraws his acceptance of the Spanish throne.

Orangemen parading in New York to celebrate the Battle of the Boyne pass through Irish Catholic neighborhoods, taunting the residents. Catholics respond and a melee ensues in which eight people are killed. Police manage to halt the rioting.

**13 July 1870** While walking at Bad Ems, King Wilhelm of Prussia is joined by Count Vincent Benedetti, the French ambassador. Benedetti asks the King to assure him that Prussia will never nominate a member of the Hohenzollern family for the Spanish throne. Wilhelm is conciliatory but refuses to be tied down.

In Berlin, Chancellor Otto von Bismarck receives an account of the meeting from the King’s secretary and decides to use it to his advantage. He concocts a press dispatch which leads Prussians to believe that King Wilhelm has been insulted by the French ambassador, and Frenchmen to believe the reverse. Crowds gather in the respective capitals demanding war, which is Bismarck’s ultimate goal.

**15 July 1870** Manitoba is created a Canadian province, which helps to end the Red River Rebellion. But it is limited to an area of 225 x 175 km. The Northwest Territories are formally transferred to Canada.

**18 July 1870** Anton Bruckner (45), already in Vienna for two years, resigns his posts in Linz.

Hans von Bülow’s divorce petition is granted in Berlin.

The First Vatican Council issues *Pastor Aeternus* which asserts the primacy and infallibility of the Pope in matters of faith.

**19 July 1870** France declares war on Prussia. The announcement is made by Cabinet Chief Émile Ollivier, son-in-law of Franz Liszt (58) and brother-in-law of Cosima von Bülow.

Visitors from France, including Camille Saint-Saëns (34) and Henri Duparc (22), arrive to visit ardent Germanophile Richard Wagner (57) and Cosima von Bülow at Tribschen, near Lucerne, Switzerland. The visit is somewhat awkward, but Wagner manages to keep his conversation on music. Cosima, however, can't help herself. They will stay until 30 July, during which time Wagner’s anti-French rhetoric becomes more strident.

**20 July 1870** His dire predictions of a disastrous war with Prussia now a reality, Lucien-Anatole Prévost-Paradol, ambassador of France in Washington, shoots himself to death.

**21 July 1870** Epameinontas Mitrou Deligeorgis replaces Thrasivoulos Andreou Zaimis as Prime Minister of Greece.

**22 July 1870** At the Stasov’s dacha near Pargolovo, Modest Musorgsky (31) meets the painter Victor Hartmann for the first time.

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (30) arrives in Interlaken, Switzerland having fled Bad Soden, near Frankfurt-am-Main, which he feels is too close to the frontier.

**27 July 1870** Cosima von Bülow receives word at Tribschen that she is now divorced from Hans von Bülow.

**28 July 1870** Emperor Napoléon III leaves Paris for Metz to take command of the army.

**29 July 1870** Asphalt pavement is first applied, to William St. in Newark, New Jersey. It was invented by Edward Joseph De Smedt of New York.

**30 July 1870** After the decree of Papal Infallibility, Austria revokes its 1855 Concordat with the Vatican.

The first fighting beween France and Germany takes place as French forces attack the German town of Saarbrücken.

**2 August 1870** *Norwegian Sailor’s Song* EG163 for male chorus by Edvard Grieg (27) to words of Bjørnson is performed for the first time, in Christiania.

**4 August 1870** German forces defeat the French Army of Alsace at Wissembourg, just across the frontier, 50 km north of Strasbourg.

Several influential people meet in London and organize the National Society for Aid to the Sick and Wounded in War (British Red Cross-1905).

**6 August 1870** German forces defeat the French at Wörth and drive them back towards Châlons.

**8 August 1870** Liberals in Ploiesti, thinking they are part of a general revolt against Prince Carol of Romania, seize power in the city.

*A la frontière*, a cantata by Charles Gounod (52) to words of Frey, is performed for the first time, at the Paris Opéra.

**9 August 1870** Charles Guillaume Marie Cousin-Montauban, Duc de Palikao replaces Emile Ollivier as Prime Minister of France.

Great Britain and Prussia sign a treaty in London to guarantee the neutrality of Belgium.

Queen Victoria grants royal assent to the Elementary Education Act,

Loyal troops arrive in Ploiesti and put down the revolt, arresting its leaders.

**11 August 1870** Great Britain and France sign a treaty in London to guarantee the neutrality of Belgium.

**16 August 1870** Gabriel Fauré (25) enlists in the First Light Infantry regiment of the Imperial Guard.

German forces defeat the French at Mars-la-Tour, 20 km west of Metz.

**18 August 1870** German forces defeat the French at Gravelotte. The French actually inflict heavy losses on the attackers but fail to capitalize.

**19 August 1870** French troops, the protectors of the temporal power of Pope Pius IX, are withdrawn from Rome to deal with the invasion by Germany.

Invading Germans lay siege to Metz.

**22 August 1870** *Humoreske* (*In the Mountains*) op.19/1 for piano by Edvard Grieg (27) is performed for the first time, in Christiania (Oslo). Also premiered is Grieg’s *The Odalisque* EG 131 for voice and piano to words of Bruun.

**25 August 1870** Richard Wagner (57) marries Cosima Liszt von Bülow in the Protestant Hofkirche, near Lucerne, on the birthday of King Ludwig II of Bavaria.

**26 August 1870** In Rio de Janeiro, the remains of Louis Moreau Gottschalk (†0) are placed aboard the steamer *Merrimack* sailing for New York.

**30 August 1870** Bernardo de Sá Nogueira de Figueiredo, visconde e barão de Sá de Bandeira replaces João Carlos Gregório Domingues Vicente Francisco de Saldanha Oliveira e Daun, duque, marquês e conde de Saldanha as Prime Minister of Portugal.

**31 August 1870** Johann August, Baron Wächter replaces Karl Friedrich Gottlob, Baron Varnbüler von und zu Hemmigen as Prime Minister of Württemberg.

*Overture di ballo* by Arthur Sullivan (28) is performed for the first time, in Birmingham, conducted by the composer.

**1 September 1870** German forces defeat the French at Sedan.

**2 September 1870** The main body of the French army, personally led by Emperor Napoléon III, surrenders to the Germans at Sedan. The Second Empire immediately collapses.

**3 September 1870** Napoléon III is transported to Wilhelmshöhe.

César Franck (47) completes the fourth section of his oratorio *Les béatitudes* while Paris is being bombarded by the Germans.

**4 September 1870** Upon learning the news from Sedan, workers invade the Palais Bourbon. The National Assembly announces the fall of the Second Empire.

Evening. The Third French Republic is proclaimed at the Hôtel de Ville, Paris. A Government of National Defense is empanelled to prosecute the war against the Germans. Louis Jules Trochu is made President of the Government of National Defense. Empress Eugènie and the imperial government flee Paris.

**5 September 1870** Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (30) returns home to Russia after spending the summer in France and Switzerland.

Victor Hugo returns to Paris from exile on the island of Guernsey and is greeted as a hero. During his banishment he penned *Les Châtiments* and *Les Misérables*.

**6 September 1870** The new French government blames the war on the Imperial administration. They offer peace but without territorial concessions.

**7 September 1870** During its trials, the experimental turret ship *HMS Captain* capsizes in heavy seas in the Bay of Biscay. About 500 aboard are killed. 18 survive.

**10 September 1870** By order of the Prefect of Police, all theatres in Paris are closed.

Gabriel Fauré (25) transfers from the First Light Infantry regiment of the Imperial Guard to the 28th Infantry regiment.

The first section of the national telegraph line in Argentina opens to the public between Paraná and Rosario.

**13 September 1870** Charles Gounod (52) and his family cross the English Channel, fleeing the war. They will stay with friends outside London.

100,000 soldiers parade before General Trochu in Paris. Among those under arms are Camille Saint-Saëns (34), Georges Bizet (31), Jules Massenet (28), Gabriel Fauré (25), and Henri Duparc (22).

**17 September 1870** German forces begin to lay siege to Paris.

Capital punishment in criminal cases is abolished by the Netherlands. It is retained for the military.

**18 September 1870** The Government of National Defense begins operations in Paris.

**19 September 1870** As the Germans lay siege to Paris, they coincidentally blockade the shipment of costumes and scenery for the premiere of *Aida* in Cairo. Today, the last telegraph lines to the city are cut.

Pope Pius IX climbs the Scala Santa on his knees. He prays in a loud voice and then blesses his troops. It is the last act of a ruler of the Papal States.

**20 September 1870** As their French protectors are called home to deal with the emergency, the Papal States are seized by the Italian army. Pope Pius IX withdraws into the Vatican.

Two songs, *The First Meeting* and *Good Morning!* op.21/1-2, by Edvard Grieg (27) to words of Bjørnson, are performed for the first time, in Christiania (Oslo) by the composer and his wife.

**3 September 1870** Prosper Mérimée dies in Cannes at the age of 66.

**25 September 1870** The “definitive” version of *The Bartered Bride*, a comic opera by Bedrich Smetana (46) to words of Sabina, is performed for the first time, at the Prague Provisional Theatre.

**27 September 1870** Strasbourg falls to the Germans.

**28 September 1870** Florent Schmitt is born in Blâmont, Meurthe-et-Moselle, 65 km west of Strasbourg, currently occupied by the Germans.

Robert E. Lee dies in Lexington, Virginia at the age of 63.

**30 September 1870** Hugo Wolf (10) begins piano lessons at the school of the Styrian Musical Association, Graz. His teacher is Johann Buwa.

Giuseppe Verdi (56) writes to his friend, Countess Clarina Maffei, of the current conflict, “This disaster to France fills my heart, as it does yours, with desolation. It is true that the blague, the impertinence, the presumption of the French were and are, despite all their misfortunes, unbearable: but after all France gave liberty and civilization to the modern world. And if she falls, let us not deceive ourselves, all our liberties and civilizations will fall. Let our literary men, and our politicians sing as they will the praises of the knowledge, the sciences and even (God forgive them) the arts of these victors; but if they looked a bit more closely, they would see that in their veins the old Gothic blood still flows; that they are of boundless pride, hard, intolerant, contemptuous of all that is not Germanic, and of a rapacity without limit. Men of head, but without heart; a strong race, but not civilized.”

**1 October 1870** Charles Villiers Stanford (18) enters Queen’s College, Cambridge.

**2 October 1870** A plebescite in the Papal States votes for unification with Italy.

**3 October 1870** Baden asks to join the North German Confederation.

The earthly remains of Louis Moreau Gottschalk (†0) are laid to rest in Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn after a voyage from Rio de Janeiro and a funeral in St. Stephen’s Church, New York, complete with the *Requiem* of Luigi Cherubini (†28).

**7 October 1870** Republican leader Léon Gambetta flees Paris in a balloon.

**9 October 1870** Pursuant to the vote of 2 October, the Papal States are annexed to Italy and Rome is declared the capital of a united Kingdom of Italy.

**10 October 1870** Léon Gambetta arrives in Tours. He heads the Delegation of Tours and begins to raise an army.

**13 October 1870** Gustav Mahler (10) performs what is apparently his debut, playing the piano in Iglau (Jihlava), Bohemia. The program is unknown.

All restrictions to full legal equality based on religion are abolished in Italy.

**15 October 1870** Complete rationing of meat is introduced in Paris.

**18 October 1870** Anton Bruckner (46) is appointed teacher of theory, piano, and organ at the St. Anna Teacher Training Institute for Men and Women in Vienna.

**25 October 1870** Charles Villiers Stanford (18) is elected a member of the Cambridge University Musical Society. He is matriculating at Queen’s College.

**27 October 1870** General Bazaine surrenders the French Army of the Rhine at Metz.

**29 October 1870** António José de Avila, marquês de Avila e Bolama, conde de Avila replaces Bernardo de Sá Nogueira de Figueiredo, visconde e barão de Sá de Bandeira as Prime Minister of Portugal.

**30 October 1870** Through the efforts of the Russian Foreign Office, republican leader Adolphe Thiers reaches Paris to report on peace negotiations.

**31 October 1870** Adolphe Thiers goes to Versailles to bargain for an armistice with Bismarck. When the news becomes known, Parisian workers rise in revolt, take over the Hôtel de Ville, and set up a revolutionary government.

Russia announces its abrogation of certain clauses of the Treaty of Paris of 30 March 1856 which ended the Crimean War. Russia will remilitarize the Black Sea.

**1 November 1870** With promises of elections, the French government invades and seizes the Hôtel de Ville, putting down the revolution.

**5 November 1870** Mayors are elected in the Paris arrondissements.

**6 November 1870** Piano Trio no.4 op.85 by Anton Rubinstein (40) is performed for the first time, in Moscow, the composer at the keyboard.

**7 November 1870** The Austrian Minister of Education informs Anton Bruckner (46) that his application for financial help has been accepted and he will receive 100 florins.

**10 November 1870** French forces take Orléans.

**12 November 1870** Two songs by Johannes Brahms (37) are performed for the first time, in Vienna: *Die Trauernde* op.7/5, and *Sehnsucht* op.14/8, both to traditional words.

**15 November 1870** An alliance is concluded between the North German Confederation and Württemberg.

**16 November 1870** Amadeo, Duke of Aosta, son of King Vittorio Emanuele II of Italy, is elected King of Spain by the Cortes.

**22 November 1870** In Vienna, Anton Bruckner (46) receives word that his birthplace, Ansfelden, has granted him honorary citizenship due to his increasing reputation.

**23 November 1870** An alliance is concluded between the North German Confederation and Bavaria.

**30 November 1870** An attempted French breakout of Paris east toward Champigny fails. Among those fighting is Gabriel Fauré (25).

Charles Villiers Stanford (18) gives his debut piano performance at Cambridge University. It is well received.

**1 December 1870** *Figle szatana* (The Devil’s Jokes), a ballet by Stanislaw Moniuszko (51) in collaboration with Münchheimer, is performed for the first time, in Warsaw.

**2 December 1870** The revised version of *Dalibor*, an opera by Bedrich Smetana (46) to words of Wenzig translated by Spindler, is performed for the first time, in the Provisional Theatre, Prague. See 16 May 1868.

**3 December 1870** John Knowles Paine (31) gives the first of 18 public lectures on the history of music at Wesleyan Association Hall, under the auspices of Harvard University.

**4 December 1870** French forces lose Orléans to the Germans.

**5 December 1870** Alexandre Dumas dies in Puys, near Dieppe, France at the age of 68.

**7 December 1870** Having lost money, the Tower Subway trams cease operation eight months after starting.

**8 December 1870** The Delegation of Tours, sent by the Paris government to establish relations with the rest of France before the city is surrounded, withdraws to Bordeaux.

**13 December 1870** The German Center Party, with a Roman Catholic constituency, is formed to fight Chancellor Bismarck’s attempts to reduce the power of the Catholic Church.

**15 December 1870** Alexandros Koumoundouros replaces Epameinontas Mitrou Deligeorgis as Prime Minister of Greece.

**19 December 1870** A *Pater noster* for chorus by Charles Villiers Stanford (18) is performed for the first time, by the Dublin University Choral Society.

**24 December 1870** Although the trams no longer run, the Tower Subway is opened as a foot path under the Thames.

**25 December 1870** The *Siegfried Idyll* WWV 103 (originally titled *Symphony*) for small orchestra by Richard Wagner (57) is performed for the first time, on the stairs outside Cosima’s room at Tribschen. The composer has assembled local musicians to perform the work as a birthday-Christmas present to his wife.

Corporal Vincent d’Indy (19) spends Christmas night with his battalion in Issy in a tent in -10°C weather “with a layer of ice for a mattress and a heap of snow for a pillow.”

**26 December 1870** Prince Ion Ghica replaces Manolache Costache Epureanu as Prime Minister of Romania.

Workers from France and Italy meet under Mount Cenis, thus completing the digging for the Fréjus Rail Tunnel

**27 December 1870** German artillery begins to bombard Paris.

Juan Bautista Topete y Carballo replaces Juan Prim y Prats, marqués de los Castillejos, conde de Reus, vizconde del Bruch as Prime Minister of Spain.

**30 December 1870** General Juan Prim y Prats, marqués de los Castillejos, conde de Reus, vizconde del Bruch, former Prime Minister of Spain, is shot to death on a Madrid street, probably by extremist republicans.

The Chorus of Flowers and Insects from *Mandragora*, an opera by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (30) to words of Rachinsky, is performed for the first time, in Moscow. The opera will never be completed.

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