**1 January 1875** Serialized publication of *Anna Karenina* by Leo Tolstoy begins this month in *Russian Herald*.

**5 January 1875** Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (34) plays his Piano Concerto no.1 for Nikolay Rubinstein at the Moscow Conservatory. In 1878, Tchaikovsky will relate the now-famous scene to his patron, Nadezhda von Meck. “It turned out that my concerto was altogether unsuitable, to play it was impossible, that passages were so trite, awkward and clumsy that they could not be corrected, that as a composition it was bad, vulgar, that I had stolen this from that place, and this from another, that there were only two or three pages that could stay, while the rest had either to be thrown out or completely rewritten…In a word, a passerby could have thought I was a maniac, an ungifted and unthinking scribbler who had come to a famous musician to pester him with nonsense.” (Wiley, 89) See 25 October 1875.

The new Paris Opéra, designed by Charles Garnier, is inaugurated in the Palais Garnier, 13 years after the laying of the cornerstone. It is a gala evening. President Mac-Mahon, the Lord Mayor of London and King Alfonso XII of Spain attend.

**8 January 1875**  Antonín Dvorák (33) is awarded his first state scholarship of 400 gulden.

A third setting of *Heimweh,* a song by Johannes Brahms (41) to words of Groth, is performed for the first time, in Hamburg.

**9 January 1875** Alfonso XII lands at Barcelona and is recognized as king.

**10 January 1875** *Scènes dramatiques d’après Shakespeare*, the third suite for orchestra by Jules Massenet (32), is performed for the first time, at the Paris Conservatoire.

**12 January 1875** *HMS Dido* arrives in Levuka, Fiji carrying measles. It sparks an epidemic through the islands which will kill 36,000 people, or about one-fourth of the total population.

**13 January 1875** Emperor T’ung-chih (Tongzhi) of China dies and is succeeded by his two-year-old cousin Kuang-hsü (Guangxu) under regency.

A reciprocity treaty is signed in Washington by representatives of Hawaii and the United States.

**14 January 1875** King Alfonso XII arrives in Madrid to take his throne.

**15 January 1875** Publisher Antoine de Choudens buys the score to *Carmen* from Georges Bizet (36) for FF25,000.

**17 January 1875** Arthur Foote (21) is elected a member of the Harvard Musical Association.

**22 January 1875**  A Violin Sonata in a minor by Antonin Dvorák (33) is performed completely for the first time, in Prague. See 19 March 1874.

**23 January 1875** Symphony no.4 “Dramatic” by Anton Rubinstein (45) is performed for the first time, in St. Petersburg, conducted by the composer.

**24 January 1875** *Danse macabre* op.40, a symphonic poem by Camille Saint-Saëns (39) is performed for the first time, at the Théâtre du Châtelet in Paris. The composer’s mother faints from the amount of boos and whistles.

**25 January 1875** *Demon*, a fantastic opera by Anton Rubinstein (45) to words of Viskovatov and Maykov after Lermontov, is performed for the first time, in the Mariinskiy Theatre, St. Petersburg.

**28 January 1875** Julián Antonio Carrillo Trujillo is born in Ahualulco, San Luis Potosí, the last of 19 children born to Nabor Carrillo and Antonia Trujillo, Indian farmers. The child is born prematurely due to an earthquake in the region.

**31 January 1875** *Frühlingstrost* op.63/1, a song by Johannes Brahms (41) to words of von Schenkendorf, is performed for the first time, in Vienna.

**1 February 1875** The overture to Johann Strauss’ (49) unperformed operetta *Cagliostro in Wien* is heard for the first time, in the Sophiensaal, Vienna. See 27 February 1875.

**3 February 1875** Spanish government forces are routed by Carlists at Lácar, east of Estella. Newly arrived King Alfonso XII is almost captured.

Camille Saint-Saëns (39) marries Marie Laure Emilie Truffot in the Mairie of Le Cateau, northern France.

Danilo Stevanovic replaces Acim Cumic as Prime Minister of Serbia.

**5 February 1875** A papal encyclical nullifies all Prussian laws which “contradict the divine institution of the church.”

**7 February 1875** *Symphonie Espagnole* op.21 for violin and orchestra by Edouard Lalo (52) is performed for the first time, in Paris.

**12 February 1875** Piano Concerto no.5 by Anton Rubinstein (45) is performed for the first time, in Berlin.

**13 February 1875** *Fragen* op.64/3 for vocal quartet and piano by Johannes Brahms (41) to anonymous Turkish words translated by Daumer is performed for the first time, in Mannheim.

**20 February 1875** Pursuaded by Richard D’Oyly Carte, WS Gilbert visits Arthur Sullivan (33) at his home in Victoria Street, London. He reads to Sullivan his libretto to an operetta called *Trial By Jury* “in the manner of a man considerably disappointed with what he had written*.* As soon as he had come to the last word he closed up the manuscript violently, apparently unconscious of the fact he had achieved his purpose so far as I was concerned, inasmuch as I was screaming with laughter the whole time.”

**22 February 1875** Jean-Baptiste-Camille Corot dies in Paris at the age of 78.

**24 February 1875** *SS Gothenburg* out of Darwin strikes the Great Barrier Reef in heavy weather.

The first of three Constitutional Laws governing the Third Republic of France is adopted.

*Der Abend* op.64/2, a vocal quartet by Johannes Brahms (41) to words of Schiller, is performed for the first time, in Vienna.

**25 February 1875** The *Gothenburg* goes down taking about 100 people with her. 22 eventually will be rescued.

The second of three Constitutional Laws governing the Third Republic of France is adopted.

*Menus-Plaisirs* by Jacques Offenbach (55) to words of Crémieux is performed for the first time, at the Théâtre de la Gaîté.

**27 February 1875** The expedition of Henry Stanley reaches Lake Victoria.

*Cagliostro in Wien*, an operetta by Johann Strauss (49) to words of Zell and Genée, is performed for the first time, in Theater-an-der-Wien, Vienna. The work proves a succès d’estime.

**1 March 1875** The United States government guarantees the rights of blacks in public places.

The secretary of the Société National de Musique, Gabriel Fauré (29), is censured by the society for his “deplorable unpunctuality.”

Richard Wagner (61) conducts a performance of his music in Vienna. For the first time, Wagner tubas are heard, playing Siegfried’s Funeral Music. The sound causes a sensation and the audience requires the musicians to play it again.

**2 March 1875** Georges Bizet (36) visits César Franck’s (52) organ class at the Paris Conservatoire and gives away two *Carmen* tickets. One recipient, Vincent d’Indy (23), later will remember that of the eight members of the class, no one recognized Bizet by sight. In fact, he has been auditing the class anonymously for some time. Lamenting the fact that he has only two tickets, Bizet remarks, “Unfortunately that is too few; but you know even the most beautiful girl in the world can give no more than she has.”

Béla, Baron Wenckheim replaces István Bittó de Sárosfalva as Prime Minister of Hungary.

**3 March 1875** The announcement comes that Georges Bizet (36) is to be created a Chevalier of the Legion of Honor.

*Carmen*, an opéra comique by Georges Bizet (36) to words of Meilhac and Halévy after Mérimée, is performed for the first time, at the Théâtre Favart, Paris. Present are Ambroise Thomas (63), Charles Gounod (56), Léo Delibes (39), Jacques Offenbach (55), Jules Massenet (32) and Vincent d’Indy (23). The work is not a success but will produce a good reception on the second night. Reviews are mixed. *Carmen* will enjoy 48 performances but the hall will never be filled.

**4 March 1875** A Piano Trio in G by Charles Villiers Stanford (22) is performed for the first time, at Cambridge University.

**6 March 1875** Quartet for piano and strings op.41 by Camille Saint-Saëns (39) is performed for the first time, at Salle Pleyel, the composer at the keyboard.

**7 March 1875** 22:00 Joseph Maurice Ravel is born in Ciboure, Basses-Pyrénées, the first of two children of Pierre Joseph Ravel, a Swiss engineer and amateur pianist, and Marie Delouart, a Basque.

**10 March 1875** *Die Glocken des Strassburger Münsters* for mezzo-soprano, baritone, chorus, and orchestra by Franz Liszt (63) to words of Longfellow, is performed for the first time, in Pest. The work is dedicated by the composer to the poet.

**12 March 1875** Ernest Chausson (20) receives a baccalaureate degree.

**13 March 1875** *Muzydalnyi listok*, St. Petersburg, advertises as “just published” the song cycle *Sunless* by Modest Musorgsky (35).

**14 March 1875** *Vysehrad*, a symphonic poem from *Ma Vlast* by Bedrich Smetana (51) is performed for the first time, in Prague. The audience calls for the entire work to be repeated.

**15 March 1875** John McCloskey, Archbishop of New York, is created the first Roman Catholic cardinal from the United States.

The second and final version of César Franck’s (52) symphonic poem *Rédemption* for soprano, female chorus, speaker, and orchestra to words of Blau is performed for the first time, at the Paris Conservatoire. It has a better response this time. See 10 April 1873 and 16 May 1874.

**17 March 1875** Modest Musorgsky (35) is made senior head clerk in the Russian Department of Forests.

**18 March 1875** *Eve*, a mystère by Jules Massenet (32) to words of Gallet is performed for the first time, at the Cirque d’Été, Paris.

**20 March 1875** *Barcarolle* op.7/3 for solo voice and piano by Gabriel Fauré (29) to words of Monnier is performed for the first time, by the Société National de Musique, Paris.

**21 March 1875** Impressed with *Eve*, three days ago, Charles Gounod (56) writes to Jules Massenet (32), “Prepare yourself for the martyr’s role: it is given to those who descend fromon high and disturb those who mount from below. Never bemoan your fate, and do not be sad. Remember that when God said, ‘This one is a chosen vessel’ he added, ‘and I will show him how he must suffer in my name.’” (Massenet, 47)

**24 March 1875** The Board of Overseers of Harvard University makes it possible for the attainment of a Doctor of Philosophy degree in music. However, this degree will not be conferred for another 30 years.

**25 March 1875** Excerpts from *Götterdämmerung* by Richard Wagner (61) are performed for the first time, in the Musikvereinsaal, Vienna, conducted by the composer.

*Trial By Jury*, an operetta by Arthur Sullivan (32) to words of Gilbert, is performed for the first time, at the Royalty Theatre, London conducted by the composer. It is actually the third work on the program being preceded by a one-act farce called *Cryptoconchoidsyphonostomata* and a complete performance of *La Périchole* by Jacques Offenbach (55). Despite the programming, it is an immediate success and runs for 131 performances. The part of the judge is played by the composer’s brother, Frederic.

**26 March 1875** The first act of Camille Saint-Saëns’ (39) unstaged opera *Samson et Dalila,* to words of Lemaire, is performed for the first time, in a concert setting, in Paris. It is not well received. See 2 December 1877.

**30 March 1875** Minister Agoston Trefort confers on Franz Liszt (63) the title of President of the proposed Academy of Music in Budapest.

**2 April 1875** *Agnes* op.59/5, a song by Johannes Brahms (41) to words of Mörike, is performed for the first time, in Hamburg.

**4 April 1875** *Vltava* (Die Moldau), a symphonic poem from *Ma Vlast* by Bedrich Smetana (51) is performed for the first time, before a Prague audience which includes Leos Janácek (20). “My memory of Smetana is like that of a child’s imagining God: in the clouds.” (Tyrrell I, 94)

**8 April 1875** An article appears in the *Berliner Post* entitled “Is War in Sight?” It is anonymously written by Bismarck and is intended to convince France to scale back its rearmament. It backfires.

**10 April 1875** Two songs for vocal duet and piano by Gabriel Fauré (29) are performed for the first time, by the Société National de Musique, Paris: *Puisq’ici-bas toute âme* op.10/1 to words of Hugo and *Tarantelle* op.10/2 to words of Monnier.

**12 April 1875** Giuseppe Verdi (61) leaves Milan on a tour during which he will conduct his *Messa da Requiem* in Paris, London, and Vienna.

**14 April 1875** Incidental music to Porto-Riche’s play *Un drame sous Philippe II* by Jules Massenet (32) is performed for the first time, at the Théâtre de l’Odéon, Paris.

**17 April 1875** Colonel Neville Chamberlain invents Snooker while serving with the British Army at Jubbulpore (Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh), India.

*Die Maccabäer,* an opera by Anton Rubinstein (45) to words of Mosenthal after Ludwig, is performed for the first time, in the Berlin Königlichetheater, the composer conducting.

**18 April 1875** Johannes Brahms (41) conducts his last concert with the Vienna Gesellschaftskonzerte, claiming personal differences with advisory board member Johann Herbeck. Brahms will never have a steady job again.

**20 April 1875** *Quasimodo*, an opera by Felipe Pedrell (34) to words of Barret after Hugo, is performed for the first time, in the Liceo, Barcelona.

**22 April 1875** *Les hannetons*, a revue de printemps by Jacques Offenbach (55) to words of Grangé and Millaud, is performed for the first time, at the Bouffes-Parisiens, Paris.

**25 April 1875** Mehmed Esad Pasha replaces Hüseyin Avni Pasha as Grand Vizier of the Ottoman Empire.

**29 April 1875** Henry James publishes *Transatlantic Sketches*.

Prelude and fugue in e minor by Charles Villiers Stanford (22) is performed for the first time, in Trinity College Chapel, Cambridge.

**30 April 1875** Isaac Albéniz (14) departs Spain for the Caribbean with his father where a concert tour is planned.

**1 May 1875** Two years after its destruction by fire, Alexandra Palace reopens in London. It covers almost three hectares.

**5 May 1875** Henry Stanley completes his circumnavigation of Lake Victoria and establishes it as the principal source of the Nile.

**7 May 1875** Representatives of Russia and Japan sign a treaty in St. Petersburg. Japan renounces all claims to Sakhalin Island. Russia renounces all claims to the Kurile Islands.

Ten days out of New York, the *SS Schiller* strikes ground in the Scilly Islands in fog. 335 passengers and crew are lost. 37 survive.

**8 May 1875** Charilaos Spiridonou Trikoupis replaces Demetrios Georgiou Voulgaris as Prime Minister of Greece.

*15 Neue Liebeslieder Waltzes* op.65 arranged for vocal quartet and piano-four hands by Johannes Brahms (42) to words of Daumer is performed for the first time, in the Museumsaal, Karlsruhe.

**10 May 1875** Louis Joseph Buffet replaces Ernest Louis Octave Courtot de Cissey as Prime Minister of France.

Tsar Alyeksandr II and Foreign Minister Prince Alyeksandr Gorchakov visit Berlin as part of a joint UK-Russia effort to stop Bismarck from starting a pre-emptive war against France. They are successful.

The US Treasury Department, under orders of Secretary of the Treasury Benjamin Bristow, and acting without the knowledge of President Grant or the Attorney General, conduct raids in several cities, arresting hundreds of people in connection with the Whiskey Ring, a conspiracy between the whiskey industry, Republican politicians, and civil servants which has diverted millions of dollars in tax revenue. 240 people will be indicted.

**11 May 1875** Louis Gerhard de Geer af Finspång replaces Eduard Carleson as Prime Minister for Justice of Sweden.

**15 May 1875** Burdened by debts, Jacques Offenbach (55) sells the Théâtre de la Gaîté to Albert Vizentini, his former partner.

*Lénore*, a symphonic poem by Henri Duparc (27), is performed for the first time, by the Société National de Musique, Paris.

**16 May 1875** An earthquake in Venezuela and Colombia kills 16,000 people.

**18 May 1875** *The Radiant Dark* op.1/8 for voice and piano by Charles Villiers Stanford (22) is performed for the first time, at Cambridge University.

John Philip Sousa (20) is discharged from the US Marine Corps in Washington.

**20 May 1875** Representatives of 17 countries sign a treaty in Paris establishing an International Bureau of Weights and Measures.

*Cagliostro-Quadrille* op.369 by Johann Strauss (49) is performed for the first time, in Schwender’s “Neue Welt”, Vienna.

**21 May 1875** *The Resurrection* op.5, for tenor, chorus, orchestra, and organ by Charles Villiers Stanford (22) to words of Klopstock, is performed for the first time, in Cambridge. At this concert, Stanford also gives the British premiere of Part III of *Faust* by Robert Schumann (†19). This brings him to the attention of the musical world outside of Cambridge.

Isaac Albéniz (14) performs for the first time in the Western Hemisphere, in San Juan, Puerto Rico. He will also play in Mayaguez and Cáguas.

**24 May 1875** Bedrich Smetana (51) enters the clinic of Dr. Zaufal where he undergoes a month’s therapy to cure his deafness including a dark isolation room and foul-smelling dressings smeared on his body. The treatment fails.

**27 May 1875** A six-day socialist congress concludes in Gotha, Germany. The Socialist Workers Party of Germany is founded (later called the Social Democratic Party).

**28 May 1875** Georges Bizet (36) and his wife move from Paris to Bougival as he convalesces.

**30 May 1875** Georges Bizet (36) suffers an “acute rheumatic attack.” He is in great pain and his limbs are paralyzed.

**31 May 1875** The Congregations Law is enacted in Prussia. Part of Chancellor Bismarck’s Kulturkampf, it abolishes religious orders, except those which care for the sick, and ends state subsidies for the Roman Catholic Church.

**1 June 1875** A little after midnight, Georges Bizet (36) suffers a heart attack and is in great pain.

**2 June 1875** Georges Bizet (36) suffers a second heart attack.

James Augustine Healy is consecrated Bishop of Maine in Portland. He is the first African-American Catholic bishop in the United States.

A group of Commanche lead by Quanah Parker surrender at Fort Sill, Indian Territory (Oklahoma). This ends the Red River War and and serious resistance by Indians in the southern Plains.

**3 June 1875** 02:00 Georges Alexandre César Léopold Bizet dies at Bougival of a heart attack, aged 36 years, 7 months and nine days.

**4 June 1875** Eduard Mörike dies in Stuttgart at the age of 70.

**5 June 1875** A funeral for the remains of Georges Bizet is held at the Montmartre church of La Trinité attended by 4,000 people. Among the pallbearers are Ambroise Thomas (63) and Charles Gounod (56). The earthly remains of the composer are laid to rest in the Cimetière Père-Lachaise.

*The Zoo*, an operetta by Arthur Sullivan (33) to words of Rowe (pseud. of Stephenson), is performed for the first time, at St. James’ Theatre, London. Also on the program is *Tom Cobb*, a play by WS Gilbert.

**6 June 1875** The Netherlands adopts the gold standard.

**11 June 1875** Jakob Brønnum Scavenius Estrup replaces Christian Andreas Gonnesbech as Prime Minister of Denmark.

**13 June 1875** *Hommage à Boieldieu*, a cantata for male chorus, brass and woodwinds by Ambroise Thomas (63), is performed for the first time, in Rouen.

**16 June 1875** *Cagliostro Waltz* op.370 by Johann Strauss (49) is performed for the first time, in the Gartenbau, Vienna.

**17 June 1875** Three works by Franz Liszt (63) are performed for the first time, in Weimar: *Die heilige Cäcilia* for mezzo-soprano, chorus, and orchestra to words of de Girardin, *Hymne de l’enfant à son réveil* for female chorus, piano, and harp to words of Lamartine, and *Erste Elegie* for cello, piano, harp, and harmonium.

String Quartet no.7 op.16 by Antonin Dvorák (33) is performed for the first time, privately, in Prague. See 29 December 1878.

**19 June 1875** An uprising by Christians begins in Herzegovina against Turkish rule.

**21 June 1875** Melting snow and four days of rain causes the Garonne River to flood at Toulouse. Over the next four days, 540 people are killed while parts of Toulouse and several surrounding villages are destroyed.

**24 June 1875** A German appeals court rules that Count von Arnim in fact did make off with state papers and extends his prison sentence from three to nine months.

**25 June 1875** *Hoch Österreich!* op.371, a march by Johann Strauss (49), is performed for the first time, in the Volksgarten, Vienna.

**1 July 1875** Vocal rehearsals for *Das Rheingold* begin at Wahnfried. The rehearsals are also auditions.

**7 July 1875** Government forces defeat Carlists at Treviño in Navarre. This allows them to enter Vitoria.

**9 July 1875** The Native Share & Stock Brokers' Association (Bombay Stock Exchange) is founded. It is the first stock exchange in India.

**16 July 1875** The third of three Constitutional Laws governing the Third Republic of France is adopted.

**23 July 1875** *Chorale Fantasia* for organ by Leos Janácek (21) is performed for the first time, by the composer during his final examination at the Prague Organ School.

**24 July 1875** Leos Janácek (21) is awarded a final certificate from the Prague Organ School.

**2 August 1875** Richard Wagner (62) hears an orchestra in the Bayreuth Festspielhaus for the first time and is pleased by the acoustical results.

The Belgravia Roller Skating Rink opens in London. It is the first public rink for roller skating.

**4 August 1875** Hans Christian Andersen dies near Copenhagen at the age of 70.

**11 August 1875** Vincent d’Indy (24) marries his cousin, Isabelle de Pampelonne, in the parish church of Boffres. She is the daughter of an ex-naval officer. The church is so small a harmonium is used for the service. Played by a fellow student, d’Indy criticizes him for modulating to the subdominant during his improvisation on the Offertory.

**17 August 1875** The *Rákóczy March* for orchestra by Franz Liszt (63) is performed for the first time, in Pest.

**21 August 1875** Mahmud Nedim Pasha replaces Mehmed Esad Pasha as Grand Vizier of the Ottoman Empire.

**25 August 1875** Matthew Webb swims from Dover to Calais in 22 hours, the first person known to have crossed the English Channel under their own power.

**27 August 1875** Paul-Émile (François) Lecoq de Boisbaudran discovers the element gallium in his Paris laboratory. It is the first element discovered by the use of the spark spectrum.

**30 August 1875** The President and Fellows of Harvard University appoint John Knowles Paine (36) Professor of Music. It is the first music professorship at an American college.

**1 September 1875** Stevca Mihailovic replaces Danilo Stevanovic as Prime Minister of Serbia.

**3 September 1875** Two occasional works by Franz Liszt (63) are performed for the first time, in Weimar: *Der Herr bewahret die Seelen seiner Heiligen, Festgesang zur Enthüllung des Carl-August-Denkmals in Weimar*, and *Carl August weilt mit uns, Festgesang zur Enthüllung des Carl-August-Denkmals in Weimar*, for male chorus, brass, drums, and organ.

**4 September 1875** The Florence *Rivista Independente* publishes the first of five articles detailing intimate details of the professional and private life of the soprano Teresa Stolz, accusing her of immoral relationships with the conductor Angelo Mariani and the composer Giuseppe Verdi (61).

During a Republican rally in Clinton, Mississippi a race riot erupts. 20-30 blacks are killed by whites.

**8 September 1875** In Munich, Clara Schumann (55) witnesses a performance of Wagner’s (62) *Tristan und Isolde* for the first time. “It is the most repulsive thing I ever saw or heard in my life.”

**10 September 1875** Gustav Mahler (15) begins his first term at the Conservatorium der Gesellschaft der Musikfreunde in Vienna.

**12 September 1875** Joaquín Jovellar Jover replaces Antonio Cánovas del Castillo as Prime Minister of Spain.

A private concert in honor of Franz Liszt (63) is given in Leipzig. Among those in attendance is Charles Villiers Stanford (22). “The moment his fingers touched the keys, I realized the immense gap between him and all other pianists.” (Williams, 521)

**15 September 1875** Jeanne-Louise (Dumont) Farrenc dies in Paris, aged 71 years, three months, and 15 days.

**16 September 1875** A hurricane comes ashore at Indianola, Texas and moves up the coast causing around 800 deaths.

**4 October 1875** A revised version of *Mefistofele* by Arrigo Boito (33) to his own words after Goethe, is performed, much more successfully than the premiere, in Teatro Comunale, Bologna. See 5 March 1868.

**9 October 1875** Ljubomir Kaljevic replaces Stevca Mihailovic as Prime Minister of Serbia.

**12 October 1875** The Abolition of Provinces Act is given royal assent in New Zealand. It centralizes government in the colony.

**16 October 1875** The Ottoman government decrees that it will pay only half of the principal and interest of all its debt at five percent in cash. They pledge to pay the rest within ten years with debenture bonds. The bankruptcy of the government is now public.

**17 October 1875** *Licht und Schatten* op.374, a polka mazurka by Johann Strauss (49), is performed for the first time, in the Musikverein, Vienna.

**19 October 1875** *La boulangère a des écus*, an opéra-bouffe by Jacques Offenbach (56) to words of Meilhac and Halevy is performed for the first time, at the Variétés, Paris. The press likes it, as does the audience.

**20 October 1875** Kálmán Tisza de Borosjenö et Szeged replaces Béla, Baron Wenckheim as Prime Minister of Hungary.

**21 October 1875** Having returned from Prague, Leos Janácek (21) is once again asked to direct the choir of the men’s organization Svatopluk in Brünn (Brno).

**25 October 1875** “Electrotherapy” begins to be applied to Bedrich Smetana (51) as a last resort.

Concerto for piano and orchestra no.1 by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (35) is performed for the first time, in the Music Hall, Boston by Hans von Bülow who is currently on a tour of the United States. The audience demands that the finale be encored. See 5 January 1875.

**26 October 1875** *Le voyage dans la lune*, an opéra-féerie by Jacques Offenbach (56) to words of Leterrier, Vanloo and Mortier, is performed for the first time, at the Théâtre de la Gaité, Paris.

**27 October 1875** Alexandros Koumoundouros replaces Charilaos Spiridonou Trikoupis as Prime Minister of Greece.

**28 October 1875** Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (35) wins a competition for an opera set to a libretto by Yakov Petrovich Polonsky entitled *Vakula the Smith* based on a story by Gogol. The sponsors, the St. Petersburg Committee of the Russian Musical Society, finds that Tchaikovsky’s entry is the only one fulfilling their requirements.

**30 October 1875** *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* by Mary Baker Eddy is published in Bosto.

**31 October 1875** Modest Musorgsky (36) writes to Vladimir Stasov, “the mighty kuchka has degenerated into soulless traitors.”

Concerto for piano and orchestra no.5 op.44 by Camille Saint-Saëns (40) is performed for the first time, at the Théâtre du Châtelet, in Paris, the composer at the keyboard.

*Lamento, pour orchestre, suite à l’occasion de la mort de G. Bizet* by Jules Massenet (33) is performed for the first time, in Paris.

**3 November 1875** *La créole*, an opéra-comique by Jacques Offenbach (56) to words of Millaud and Meilhac, is performed for the first time, at the Bouffes-Parisiens, Paris.

**4 November 1875** The American *SS Pacific*, out of Victoria, strikes *S/V Orpheus* 65 km southwest of Cape Flattery, Washington Territory. It goes down within 20 minutes with the loss of about 275 passengers and crew. Only two survive. *Orpheus* will reach land at Barkley Sound but will run aground. However, there are no casualties.

**7 November 1875** British explorer Verney Cameron, stricken with scurvy, reaches Katombéla, Angola. Having started his expedition from Zanzibar, he thus becomes the first European to traverse equatorial Africa from sea to sea.

**13 November 1875** For the first time, teams from Harvard and Yale compete in American football.

**14 November 1875** The National Hungarian Royal Academy of Music opens its doors under President Franz Liszt (64). The President is currently living in Rome.

**15 November 1875** Giuseppe Verdi (62) takes the oath of office as an Italian Senator in Rome, one year to the day after he was supposed to be sworn.

**16 November 1875** Abyssinian forces ambush and smash invading Egyptians at Gundet.

Arthur Sullivan (33) gives his first performance as conductor of the Glasgow Choral Union.

**17 November 1875** 10:45 Outside the stage door of the Vienna Opera House, wherein a rehearsal of *Tannhäuser* is in progress, Hugo Wolf (15) meets Richard Wagner (62) for the first time. “With a truly religious awe I gazed upon this great master of Tone...”

**18 November 1875** Anton Bruckner (51) is informed that he has been appointed an unpaid teacher in harmony and counterpoint at the University of Vienna.

Quartet for piano and strings no.3 op.60 by Johannes Brahms (42) is performed for the first time, in the Musikvereinsaal, Vienna, the composer at the keyboard.

**19 November 1875** Symphony no.3 “Polish” by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (35) is performed for the first time, in Moscow.

Incidental music to Barrière’s and Mürger’s play *La vie de Bohème* by Jules Massenet (33) is performed for the first time, in Théâtre de l’Odéon, Paris.

**25 November 1875** Almost bankrupt, Khedive Ismail of Egypt puts 176,602 shares in the Suez Canal Company up for sale. Prime Minister Disraeli of Great Britain commits Her Majesty’s government to buy them, giving Britain 44% of the Suez Canal.

**2 December 1875** Antonio Cánovas del Castillo replaces Joaquín Jovellar Jover as Prime Minister of Spain.

**4 December 1875** William Marcy (Boss) Tweed escapes from the Ludlow Street Jail in New York and heads for Cuba, then Spain.

**6 December 1875** The *SS Deutschland* out of Bremerhaven strikes ground in the Thames estuary in a snowstorm and begins taking on water.

The 44th Congress of the United States convenes in Washington. The Republicans continue control of the Senate with a reduced majority. The numbers in the House are completely the reverse of the previous Congress with the electorate blaming Republicans for the Panic of 1873. Democrats hold 177 of 287 seats.

**7 December 1875** About 170 passengers and crew of the *SS Deutschland* are rescued by a paddle tugboat. 57 have died clinging to the rigging.

**8 December 1875** Woldemar replaces Leopold III as Prince of Lippe.

**11 December 1875** An explosion rips through the German ship *Mosel* in Bremerhaven as it is about to begin a trip to New York. 81 people are killed, dozens injured. The culprit is a Canadian-American, a former Confederate blockade runner, Alexander Keith, who placed dynamite in the ship in hopes of collecting insurance from worthless things he put aboard. The bomb, intended to explode in mid-ocean, goes off prematurely. When Keith sees what he has done, he puts two bullets into his head. He will live for five more days, during which time police gain a confession.

**13 December 1875** Camille Saint-Saëns (40) gives his first concert in Moscow. Among the audience is Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (35).

**14 December 1875** *Tarte à la crème*, a valse by Jacques Offenbach (56) to words of Millaud, is performed for the first time, at the Bouffes-Parisiens, Paris.

**20 December 1875** The International Committee for Relief to the Wounded changes its name to the International Committee of the Red Cross.

**25 December 1875** In Gloucester Cathedral, Samuel Sebastian Wesley (65) plays the organ for the last time, for Choral Evensong.

**30 December 1875** Austria-Hungary, Germany, and Russia agree to a note, written by Austro-Hungarian Foreign Minister Count Andrassy, to present to the Turkish government. It proposes reforms in the Ottoman Empire which are designed to quiet uprisings by Christians in the Balkans.

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