**1 January 1932** Lin Sen becomes president of China, replacing acting president Ch’eng Ming-hsu (Chen Mingshu).

**3 January 1932** Japanese forces occupy Chinchow (Jinzhou), virtually completing their takeover of the Chinese province of Manchuria.

Final op.77 for cello and orchestra by Florent Schmitt (61) is performed for the first time, in Paris.

The orchestration of the Sonatine française op.60/1-2 by Charles Koechlin (64) are performed for the first time, in Paris, conducted by the composer.

**4 January 1932** The Indian government is granted emergency powers for six months. They declare the Indian National Congress illegal and immediately arrest Gandhi. Over the next two months, 33,000 people will be arrested without trial on the whim of any police official.

Sonatine for piano by Karl Amadeus Hartmann (26) is performed for the first time, in Munich.

**5 January 1932** Piano Concerto for the Left Hand by Maurice Ravel (56) is performed for the first time, by the one-armed pianist who commissioned it, Paul Wittgenstein, in Vienna.

*Maximilien*, an opera by Darius Milhaud (39) to words of Werfel, Hoffman, and Lunel, is performed for the first time, at the Paris Opéra.

Two arrangements by Henry Cowell (34) of his own dance music are performed for the first time, in New York: *Dance of Work* (originally *Steel and Stone*) and *Dance of Sport* (originally *Competitive Sport*). See 4 February 1931.

**6 January 1932** Joseph Aloysius Lyons replaces James Henry Scullin as Prime Minister of Australia.

**7 January 1932** US President Hoover tells Japan that he will not recognize Japanese sovereignty over Manchuria, nor any other territorial changes created by the use of force. Named after the Secretary of State, it is called the Stimson Doctrine.

**8 January 1932** Gustav Holst (57) boards the *Bremen* in Southampton making for New York.

**9 January 1932** As Emperor Hirohito exits the Imperial Palace in Tokyo, Lee Bong-chang throws a hand grenade at his carriage. The explosion manages to kill two horses but the Emperor is unharmed. Lee, a member of the Korean Patriotic League of the Korean government-in-exile, is arrested by police. It is called the Sakuradamon Incident after the gate the Emperor was exiting through at the time.

**10 January 1932** William Cardinal O’Connell, Archbishop of Boston, tells a meeting of the Holy Name Society, “I desire to speak earnestly about a degenerate form of singing which is called crooning. No true American would practice this base art…If you will listen closely when you are unfortunate enough to get one of these you will discern the basest appeal to sex emotions in the young. They are not true love songs, they profane the name. They are ribald and revolting to true men.” (Katz and Grajeda, 319-320)

**12 January 1932** An arrangement of Modest Musorgsky’s (†50) opera *Sorochintsy Fair*, completed and orchestrated by Vissarion Yakovlevich Shebalin, is performed for the first time, in Moscow.

**13 January 1932** Gustav Holst (57) reaches New York from Southampton aboard the *Bremen*.

**14 January 1932** Piano Concerto in G by Maurice Ravel (56) is performed for the first time, in the Salle Pleyel, Paris under the baton of the composer.

Gustav Holst (57) arrives in Boston by train from New York. He is met and taken to Harvard University.

Although not yet officially named to head music education in Rio de Janeiro, Heitor Villa-Lobos (44) lays out his plan of *canto orfeônico* to attain widespread group singing in the capital.

**15 January 1932** Cinco Danzas Gitanas op.55 for piano by Joaquín Turina (49) are performed for the first time, in the Teatro de la Comedia de Madrid.

**17 January 1932** Incidental music to Brecht’s (after Gorky) play *Die Mutter* by Hanns Eisler (33) is performed for the first time, in Berlin.

Suite for oboe and piano by Walter Piston (37) is performed for the first time, in Boston.

**18 January 1932** Five Japanese nationals are assaulted by Chinese in Shanghai. Japan will use this incident as a pretext to land troops near the city eleven days hence.

**19 January 1932** The Rhythmicon is demonstrated for the first time, at the New School for Social Research in New York. The instrument is a result of the collaboration of Lev Sergeyevich Termen (Leon Theremin) (35) and Henry Cowell (34).

Gustav Holst (57) conducts the first of three concerts he is to give with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, in Providence.

**20 January 1932** Some of the 44 Duos for two violins by Béla Bartók (50) are performed for the first time, in Budapest.

**22 January 1932** A bungled leftist coup in El Salvador is soundly defeated by the military government. The coup gives the military an excuse to kill about 30,000 people, only about 3,000 of whom were involved in the coup. Among those executed is the leader of the Salvadoran left, Augustín Farabundo Martí.

The Reconstruction Finance Corporation is created in the United States. It will grant aid to state and local governments and loans to businesses and will be a major feature of the Depression years.

Gustav Holst (57) conducts the second and third of three concerts with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, in Symphony Hall, Boston.

**23 January 1932** *Belkis, regina di Saba*, a ballet by Ottorino Respighi (52) to a scenario by Guastalla, is performed for the first time, at the Teatro alla Scala, Milan.

**24 January 1932** *Transylvanian Dances* for orchestra by Béla Bartók (50) is performed for the first time, in Budapest. Also premiered are four movements from Bartók’s *Hungarian Sketches* for orchestra. See 26 November 1934.

**28 January 1932** The Shanghai City Council orders a state of emergency and calls out troops to protect foreigners from anti-foreign citizens. Japanese troops skirmish with the Chinese army in the Chapei district.

**29 January 1932** The Japanese bomb Chapei, a residential district of Shanghai. A tenacious battle will go on until a cease-fire in May.

The Polish Ministry of Education decides to close the Higher School of Music and return to the single conservatory.

Sonata op.61 for guitar by Joaquín Turina (49) is performed for the first time, in Academia Santa Cecilia in Rome.

The *Second Rhapsody* for piano and orchestra by George Gershwin (33) is performed for the first time, in Symphony Hall, Boston the composer at the keyboard. The press is positive, the public ecstatic. It was commissioned for the 50th anniversary of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. See 28 October 1929 and 26 June 1931.

**31 January 1932** The United States and Great Britain order naval forces to Shanghai.

**1 February 1932** *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley is published.

**2 February 1932** A disarmament conference convenes in Geneva but will achieve no success by the time it adjourns in July.

The orchestration of the Sonatine française op.60/3 by Charles Koechlin (64) is performed for the first time, over the airwaves of Radio Coloniale conducted by the composer.

Duke Ellington (32) and his orchestra record *It Don’t Mean a Thing if It Ain’t Got That Swing* in New York.

**4 February 1932** Japanese forces take control of Harbin.

The Third Winter Olympic Games open in Lake Placid, New York.

**6 February 1932** The Lithuanian government arrests Herbert Boettcher, leader of Memel, for corresponding with Germany. Germany and other nations protest that Lithuania must observe the Memel Statute, but without effect.

**7 February 1932** After a brief trip to New York, Gustav Holst (57) moves into a suite in Eliot House on the campus of Harvard University. There he expects to spend the Spring term.

**8 February 1932** The Bulgarian government announces that it will make no more war reparation payments.

**9 February 1932** Former Minister of Finance Junnosuke Inoue, leader of the Minseito Party, is shot to death in Tokyo by Sho Onuma, a member of the ultra-nationalist League of Blood.

A quasi-fascist paramilitary organization, the Army Comrades Association, is founded in the Irish Free State. It is colloquially known as the Blueshirts.

Four works by Harry Partch (30) for voice and viola are performed for the first time, in San Francisco: Seven of the Seventeen Lyrics of Li Po to words translated by Obata, *By the Rivers of Babylon* to words of the Psalms, *The Lord is My Shepherd* to words of the Psalms, and Potion Scene from Romeo and Juliet to words of Shakespeare. Public and press are positive.

**10 February 1932** *Winter Legends* for piano and orchestra by Arnold Bax (48) is performed for the first time, in Queen’s Hall, London.

**11 February 1932** On the third anniversary of the Lateran Treaty, Benito Mussolini meets with Pope Pius XI in Rome. The split between Italian fascists and the Catholic Church has been healed.

**12 February 1932** Asgad Masgudovich Gubaidullin and Fedosia Fyodorovna Yelkhova make their marriage official by registering it in Chistopol in the Tatar ASSR. They already have three daughters, including Sofiya (†0), born last October.

**13 February 1932** When the US Pacific Fleet arrives in Hawaii for its winter exercises, President Hoover decides to keep them based in Pearl Harbor because of increasing tensions in north Asia.

**15 February 1932** The Third Winter Olympic Games close in Lake Placid, New York. In 12 days of competition, 252 athletes from 17 countries participated.

Two song cycles for voice and piano by Hans Pfitzner (62) are performed for the first time, in Munich: Sechs Lieder op.40 and Drei Sonette op.41 to words of Berger and Eichendorff.

**16 February 1932** Set for Theatre or Chamber Orchestra by Charles Ives (57) is performed completely for the first time, in the New School for Social Research, New York, 26 years after it was composed. See 7 December 1931.

**18 February 1932** Manchuria is renamed Manchukuo by its Japanese conquerors and declared independent.

The symphonic poem *Helvetia* by Ernest Bloch (51) is performed for the first time, in Chicago. The critics are not impressed.

**19 February 1932** Jaan Teemant replaces Konstantin Päts as Head of State of Estonia.

Symphonic Ode, by Aaron Copland (31), composed to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, is performed for the first time, in Symphony Hall, Boston.

**20 February 1932** A general election takes place for the Japanese Diet. The Seiyukai Party wins a strong victory over the Minsei Party.

Chinese irregulars led by Wang Teh-ling (Wang Delin) retake the Manchurian town of Tunhua (Dunhua) from the Japanese.

Lev Davidovich Trotsky is exiled from the USSR.

André Pierre Gabriel Amédée Tardieu replaces Pierre Laval as Prime Minister of France.

Agustín Pedro Justo Rolón replaces José Félix Benito de Uriburu y Uriburu as President of Argentina.

**21 February 1932** Four Songs with orchestra op.22 by Arnold Schoenberg (57), to words of Dowson (tr. George) and Rilke, are performed for the first time, in Frankfurt-am-Main.

Two works by American composers are performed for the first time, in the Salle Pleyel, Paris: *The Fourth of July* by Charles Ives (57) and *Two Appositions: One Movement for Orchestra* by Henry Cowell (34).

*Song of Faith* for chorus, unseen speaker, and orchestra by John Alden Carpenter (55) to words of Washington and the composer, is performed for the first time, in a radio broadcast to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of George Washington.

**22 February 1932** John Philip Sousa (77) conducts the combined band of the Navy, Army, and Marine Corps in front of the Capitol Building in Washington in the first performance of his *George Washington Bicentennial* march, on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of Washington’s birth.

**24 February 1932** The government of Brazil grants voting rights to women on the same basis as men.

**25 February 1932** *Sun-Treader*, a symphonic poem by Carl Ruggles (55), is performed for the first time, in Salle Pleyel, Paris. The critics are mixed. During rehearsals, many musicians rebelled, claiming the work is unplayable and unmusical. They were finally quieted through the considerable effort of Edgard Varèse (48). Extra rehearsals became necessary. After a plea from the conductor, Nicholas Slonimsky, funds were cabled by Charles Ives (57).

**27 February 1932** Rightists attack Social Democrats in Mäntsälä, Finland. It escalates into a right-wing rebellion against the government by the Lapua Movement.

English physicist James Chadwick announces the discovery of the neutron, in an article in *Nature*.

John Philip Sousa (77) conducts the US Marine Band in his *Hands Across the Sea* march in Washington. It is his last public performance.

**1 March 1932** Twelve of those involved in the Chittagong uprising of 1930 are sentenced to deportation for life by a British court. Two others are given prison terms. 32 are acquitted.

The Import Duties Act goes into effect in Great Britain. It places a ten percent tariff on imports.

The one-year-old son of Charles Lindbergh and Anne Morrow Lindbergh is abducted from their home in East Amwell, New Jersey. It will become one of the most celebrated cases of the twentieth century.

*Rough Wind*, a song by Charles Ives (57) to words of Shelley, is performed for the first time, at the New School for Social Research in New York.

**2 March 1932** Finnish President Evind Svinhufvud makes a radio address to the rightist insurgents in Mäntsälä. He promises that if they go home now, only their leaders will be punished. Most heed his request.

*Der Fuchs und der Rabe*, a children’s opera by Werner Egk (30), is performed for the first time, over the airwaves of Bavarian Radio conducted by the composer.

**5 March 1932** Dan Takuma, Director of the Mitsui Holding Company, is shot to death in Tokyo by Goro Hishinuma, a member of the ultra-Nationalist League of Blood.

Nicolas Slonimsky conducts an all-American program with the Berlin Philharmonic. Works performed include *Three Places in New England* by Charles Ives (57), *Sun Treader* by Carl Ruggles (55), *Arcana* by Edgar Varese (48) and *Synchrony* by Henry Cowell (34). The audience showers the performers with boos and whistles.

*Deux idylles* op.44 for voice and piano by Albert Roussel (62) to words of Theocritus and Moskhos (tr. de Lisle) is performed publicly for the first time, in Paris. See 19 May 1931.

**6 March 1932** Leaders of the Finnish rightist insurgency surrender, while their rank and file are granted amnesty.

*Toccata variata* for ten winds, piano, and percussion by Karl Amadeus Hartmann (26) is performed for the first time, in Munich.

John Philip Sousa dies in his room at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel in Reading, Pennsylvania of a heart attack, aged 77 years and four months.

**7 March 1932** About 5,000 unemployed march from Detroit intending to present a list of demands to Henry Ford at the Ford Plant in Dearborn, Michigan. At the Dearborn city line they are halted by armed police and Ford security who attack the crowd with tear gas and clubs. Marchers respond with rocks and the police and private security fire into the crowd, sometimes with machine guns. Four people are killed and many injured as the crowd retreats.

**8 March 1932** *Wassail Song* for chorus by Gustav Holst (57) to traditional words is performed for the first time, in the Town Hall, Huddersfield, Yorkshire.

The mortal remains of John Philip Sousa lie in state, accompanied by an honor guard at the Marine Barracks in Washington.

**9 March 1932** The last Chinese emperor, Pu-I (Puyi), is installed as regent of Manchukuo and a constitution is proclaimed in the capital of Changchun, renamed Hsinking.

Eamon de Valera replaces William Thomas Cosgrave as President of the Executive Council of the Irish Free State.

Ford produces the first V-8 engine in a commercially available automobile.

**10 March 1932** A short funeral service in memory of John Philip Sousa takes place in the Marine Band Auditorium in Washington. The service is broadcast over the airwaves of the Columbia Broadcasting System. A military procession leads to the Congressional Cemetery, thousands lining the route, where his earthly remains are laid to rest.

*Die Bürgschaft*, an opera by Kurt Weill (32) to words of Neher and the composer after Herder, is performed for the first time, at the Städtische Oper, Berlin. The Städtische Oper has been strongly attacked in the right-wing press. But the opera is relatively successful.

*Dichotomy* op.12 for chamber orchestra by Wallingford Riegger (46) is performed for the first time, in Berlin.

*In Tall Grass*, a song for alto, oboe, percussion, and piano by Ruth Crawford (30) to words of Sandburg, is performed for the first time, in Berlin.

Duke Ellington (32) and his Orchestra arrive in Los Angeles and are given a parade to their hotel. They go immediately to radio station KHJ and broadcast to the west coast.

**11 March 1932** *The New River*, a song by Charles Ives (57) to his own words, is performed for the first time, at the Förster-Dresdner Haus in Dresden.

**12 March 1932** After the collapse of his empire, Swedish financier and swindler Ivar Kreuger shoots himself to death in Paris. This will cause the “Kreuger Crash” with serious consequences worldwide.

The Vatican warns against using music in a modern idiom in church services.

*Four Portraits* op.49, a symphonic suite from Sergey Prokofiev’s (40) opera *The Gambler*, is performed for the first time, in Paris. See 29 April 1929.

*Intercession*, the first of the Six Choruses op.53 by Gustav Holst (57) to medieval lyrics translated by Waddell, is performed for the first time, in Town Hall, Huddersfield.

**13 March 1932** In German presidential elections, incumbent President von Hindenburg and challenger Adolf Hitler finish in first and second place, but neither receives a majority of the vote. A run-off election is set for 10 April.

**14 March 1932** Jens Hundseid replaces Peter Ludwig Kolstad as Prime Minister of Norway.

Inventor and millionaire George Eastman, benefactor of the Eastman School of Music, shoots himself to death in his Rochester, New York home. Afflicted with great back pain for two years, he leaves a note which says simply, “My work is done. Why wait?”

**16 March 1932** Albert Roussel’s (62) setting of Joyce’s *A Flower Given to My Daughter* for voice and piano is performed for the first time, in London.

*Watching the Needleboats* for voice and piano by Arnold Bax (48) to words of Joyce is performed for the first time, at the College of Nursing, London. Also premiered is *Tutto e sciolto* for voice and piano by John Ireland (52) to words of Joyce.

The mystery play *Maria egiziaca* by Ottorino Respighi (52) to words of Guastalla after Cavalca, is performed for the first time, in Carnegie Hall, New York, the composer conducting a semi-staged production. See 10 August 1932.

Symphony no.4 by Arnold Bax (48) is performed for the first time, in Civic Auditorium, San Francisco.

**17 March 1932** *La donna serpente*, an opera fiaba by Alfredo Casella (48) to words of Lodovici after Gozzi, is performed for the first time, in the Rome Opera. Audience reaction is mixed. Critics are disappointed.

**18 March 1932** *Les Rondes* for oboe, clarinet, bassoon, trumpet, two violins, and piano by Bohuslav Martinu (41) is performed for the first time, in Paris.

**19 March 1932** The Sydney Harbor Bridge is officially opened.

Fantasy for nonet no.1 op.40 by Alois Hába (38) is performed for the first time, in the Kleiner Saal of the Vienna Musikverein.

**21 March 1932** Amelia Earhart lands in Culmore, Northern Ireland having completed the first solo flight across the Atlantic by a woman. She flew from Harbour Grace, Newfoundland in 15 hours. It is also the longest uninterrupted flight by a woman at 3,261 km.

A tornado outbreak across the southeastern United States kills over 300 people.

*Songs of Farewell*, for chorus and orchestra by Frederick Delius (70) to words of Whitman, is performed for the first time, in Queen’s Hall, London. The press is generally positive.

**23 March 1932** *Pinotta*, an idillio by Pietro Mascagni (68) to words of Targioni-Tozzetti, is performed for the first time, at the Casino, San Remo 52 years after it was composed. The composer conducts.

**25 March 1932** In the case of *Powell v. Alabama*, the US Supreme Court overturns the convictions of nine black men accused of raping two white women in Scottsboro, Alabama. The men were not given effective representation.

*Tarzan the Ape Man*, a film starring Johnny Weismuller, is released.

In his first experiment with twelve-tone technique, Ernst Krenek’s (31) *Gesänge des späten Jahres*, a cycle of eleven songs for voice and piano to his own words, is performed for the first time, in Dresden.

**26 March 1932** Gustav Holst (57) gives a lecture on Franz Joseph Haydn (†124) at the Library of Congress, Washington marking the 200th anniversary of Haydn’s birth.

**27 March 1932** Returning to Boston from Washington, Gustav Holst (57) falls ill and is taken to New England Deaconess Hospital where he is diagnosed with hemorrhagic gastritis caused by a duodenal ulcer. All his upcoming engagements are cancelled.

*Girl Crazy*, a film with music by George Gershwin (33), is released in the United States.

**29 March 1932** Béla Bartók (51) attends the Cairo Conference of Arab Folk Music convening today through 3 April.

**30 March 1932** Leonard Bernstein (13) makes his first public performance as pianist, in a recital of the pupils of Susan Williams in Boston.

**31 March 1932** Ford Motor Company publicly unveils a V-8 engine.

*Caballos de Vapor* (*H.P.*), a ballet by Carlos Chávez (32) to a choreography by Catherine Littlefield, with sets and costumes by Diego Rivera, is performed for the first time, in the Metropolitan Grand Opera House, Philadelphia. Even though most reviews are not good, this work makes Chávez a household name in the US and secures his North American fame. See 4 December 1931.

**1 April 1932** 16 performers take part in the Theremin Electrical Symphony Orchestra in a concert by Lev Sergeyevich Termen (Leon Theremin) (35) at Carnegie Hall. Although not suspected at the time, it is his last important public performance.

**2 April 1932** The original version of Anton Bruckner’s (†35) Symphony no.9 is performed for the first time, in Munich. See 11 February 1903.

**4 April 1932** Vojislav Marinkovic replaces Petar Zivkovic as Prime Minister of Yugoslavia.

**5 April 1932** Prohibition, in force since 1919, comes to an end in Finland.

A peaceful demonstration by 10,000 people in St. John’s, Newfoundland, against government corruption turns violent. They invade the Colonial Building and run amok. Prime Minister Richard Squires is spirited out of the building by police.

**7 April 1932** *Estate* for male chorus by Luigi Dallapiccola (28) to words of Alcaeus (tr. Romagnoli) is performed for the first time, in Accademia di Santa Cecilia, Rome.

**10 April 1932** In a run-off election for President of Germany, incumbent president Paul von Hindenburg defeats Adolf Hitler by a margin of 6,000,000 out of 36,000,000 voters.

Fantasy for woodwinds, horn, and piano by Roy Harris (34) is performed for the first time, in Pasadena Community Playhouse, Pasadena, California.

**11 April 1932** Gustav Holst (57) is released from Deaconess Hospital and taken to the Boston home of Archibald T. Davison.

**13 April 1932** Claiming that they are the chief cause of the political violence, German Chancellor Brüning bans the SS and the SA.

**14 April 1932** *Severn Suite* by Edward Elgar (74), in the version for orchestra, is performed for the first time, in the HMV recording studios, Abbey Road, London. The composer conducts. See 27 September 1930 and 7 September 1932.

**15 April 1932** *Philharmonisches Konzert* by Paul Hindemith (36), composed to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Berlin Philharmonic, is performed for the first time, in Berlin.

**17 April 1932** Two Sonatinas op.54 for piano by Sergey Prokofiev (40) is performed for the first time, in London.

*Christ in the Universe* op.132 for solo voices, chorus, and orchestra by Amy Cheney Beach (64) to words of Meynell is performed for the first time, in New York.

*Hammersmith* by Gustav Holst (57), in its first setting, for band, is performed for the first time, in Washington. The composer is scheduled to be in attendance but has to cancel due to his recent hospitalization. See 25 November 1931.

**18 April 1932** Gustav Holst (57) has recovered sufficiently to return to his lodging in Eliot House on the campus of Harvard University.

**20 April 1932** *Le Bal masqué*, a cantata for voice, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, violin, cello, percussion, and piano by Francis Poulenc (33) to words of Jacob, is performed for the first time, at the home of Vicomte de Noailles, Hyères. The composer performs the piano part. See 13 June 1932.

**21 April 1932** *Evocation* op.17, a dance by Wallingford Riegger (46) to a scenario by Becque, is performed for the first time, in New York.

**22 April 1932** 22:20 Michael Charles Colgrass is born in Chicago, the second of three children born to Michael Clement Colgrass and Ann Hand.

The journal *Science* reports on the crystallization and the chemical properties of Vitamin C by American Charles Glen King.

**23 April 1932** The Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union issues a resolution entitled “On the Reconstruction of Literary and Artistic Organizations.” Among other things, it bans all current proletarian organizations in literature and the arts and insures party control over all newly formed artistic organizations.

**24 April 1932** Nazis win elections in Prussia, Bavaria, Württemberg, and Hamburg.

*The Transylvanian Spinning-room*, a lyrical play by Zoltán Kodály (49) to a traditional story, is performed for the first time, in the Hungarian Royal Opera House, Budapest.

**25 April 1932** A concert by the Harvard Glee Club and the Radcliffe Choral Society is given in Sanders Theatre in honor of Gustav Holst (57). The composer will say “That concert was the happiest night I’ve had in the USA.”

**27 April 1932** While travelling home by sea from Mexico, 34-year-old Hart Crane kills himself by jumping overboard.

*Before Sleep*, the sixth of the Six Choruses op.53 by Gustav Holst (57) to medieval lyrics (tr. Waddell), is performed for the first time, at Harvard University.

Piano Trio in e minor by Frederick S. Converse (61) is performed for the first time, at New England Conservatory, Boston.

**28 April 1932** The first yellow fever vaccine for humans is announced at a meeting of the American Societies for Experimental Biology in Philadelphia. It was developed by Drs. Stuart Kitchen, Wray Devere Marr Lloyd, and Wilbur Augustus Sawyer.

**30 April 1932** Amidst controversy and turmoil, Karol Szymanowski (49) resigns as director of the Higher School of Music in Warsaw.

The First Festival of American Contemporary Music opens at Yaddo, the home of Katrina and Spencer Trask in Saratoga Springs, New York. The program and performer selection has been largely the responsibility of Aaron Copland (31).

**1 May 1932** Several songs by Charles Ives (57) are performed for the first time, in Saratoga Springs, New York: *The See’r* and *Walking* to his own words, *Evening* to words of Milton, *Maple Leaves* to words of Aldrich, and *The Indians* to words of Sprague. The pianist is Aaron Copland (31). Also premiered is the Serenade for string quartet by Marc Blitzstein (27). In the audience is Elliott Carter (23).

**2 May 1932** Hanns Eisler (33) travels to the USSR to compose music for Joris Ivens’ documentary film *Die Jugend hat das Wort*.

A Pulitzer Prize is awarded to George S. Kaufman, Morrie Ryskind, and Ira Gershwin for *Of Thee I Sing*. It is the first time that the Pulitzer for drama is granted to a musical. However, since this is a literary award, the name of the composer, George Gershwin (33) is not on the citation.

**4 May 1932** Al Capone enters a federal prison in Atlanta to serve a sentence for income tax evasion.

**5 May 1932** Japan and China sign a cease-fire at Shanghai.

**6 May 1932** President Paul Doumer of France is shot and mortally wounded by Paul Gorguloff, a demented Russian, while attending the opening of a book fair in Paris. Gorguloff is subdued by bystanders and held until police arrive.

**7 May 1932** President Joseph Athanse Gaston Doumer, dit Paul Doumer of France dies of his wounds suffered yesterday.

Hungarian scientist Albert von Szent-Györgyi announces his discovery that Vitamin C is identical with hexuronic acid, three weeks after a similar announcement by Glen King in *Science*. Szent-Györgyi will be credited with the discovery and win the Nobel Prize.

**8 May 1932** A second round of voting takes place in the French national election. Leftists and Center-leftists continue to do well.

**10 May 1932** Albert François Lebrun replaces Joseph Athanse Gaston Doumer, dit Paul Doumer as President of France.

**12 May 1932** The body of Charles and Anne Lindbergh’s 20-month-old son is found a kilometer from their house in Hopewell, New Jersey. The baby was kidnapped on 1 March and a ransom was paid but the child was apparently killed the night it was taken.

Two works by Samuel Barber (22) are performed for the first time, in a private recital in Casimir Hall of the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia: Two Interludes op.4 for piano performed by the composer, and *Dover Beach* op.3 for solo voice and string quartet to words of Arnold. Also premiered is Variations and Fuguefor string quartet of Gian Carlo Menotti (20). See 5 March 1933.

**13 May 1932** Arnold Schoenberg (57) writes to Dr. Joseph Asch asking for financial help in moving permanently to Barcelona. The composer desires to relocate due to his medical condition and political reasons: “...Will you see if you can get some rich Jews to provide for me so that I don’t have to go back to Berlin among the swastika-swaggerers and pogromists.” The appeal is unsuccessful.

Dmitri Shostakovich (25) marries Nina Vasilyevna Varzar, daughter of a lawyer and an astronomer, in a civil ceremony in Detskoye Selo near Leningrad. The families are not informed before the deed.

**14 May 1932** Slatan Dodow’s film, *Kuhle Wampe oder: Wem gehört die Welt?*, with music by Hanns Eisler (33), is shown for the first time, in Moscow.

Gustav Holst (57) arrives in Ann Arbor, Michigan from Boston by train.

**15 May 1932** Nine Japanese navy and army officers kill Prime Minister Tsuyoshi Inukai in his official residence in Tokyo. The assassins are angered by the Prime Minister’s opposition to military adventures, especially in Manchuria. They leave by taxi to attempt an insurrection, without success.

**16 May 1932** Count Korekiyo Takahashi replaces Tsuyoshi Inukai as Prime Minister of Japan.

**18 May 1932** Six of the Vingt chansons bretonnes op.115 for cello and piano by Charles Koechlin (64) are performed for the first time, in the Salle de l’École Normale, Paris.

**19 May 1932** Incidental music to Shakespeare’s (tr. Lozinsky) play *Hamlet* by Dmitri Shostakovich (25) is performed for the first time, in Vakhtangov Theatre, Moscow.

Gustav Holst (57) conducts a concert of his own music in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

**20 May 1932** Engelbert Dollfuss replaces Karl Buresch as Chancellor of Austria.

**21 May 1932** Gustav Holst (57) arrives back in Boston from Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Toccata for orchestra by Roy Harris (34) is performed for the first time, in a version for two pianos, in New York.

**23 May 1932** Three days of voting in the Estonian general election conclude with the conservative United Peasants Party gaining the largest number of seats in an Estonian election, 42 of 100.

**24 May 1932** Two of the Cinq Poèmes for voice and piano by Francis Poulenc (33) to words of Jacob, are performed for the first time, at the Salle du Conservatoire, Paris, the composer at the keyboard.

**25 May 1932** An article outlining the new aesthetic imperative of the Soviet Union, “Socialist Realism”, appears in *Literary Gazette.*

A tempestuous meeting takes place at the Berlin Musikhochschule over the appointment of Stefan Frenkel, a Jew, to a temporary position. Violinist Gustav Havemann demands that he be removed but the director of the school, Franz Schreker (54), denies the request claiming he has had no directive from the government concerning the hiring of Jews. But the machinations of Havemann will result in Schreker’s resignation within two weeks. He will be given a master class at the Prussian Academy of the Arts.

Gustav Holst (57) gives his last composition class at Harvard.

**26 May 1932** Count Makato Saito replaces Count Korekiyo Takahashi as Prime Minister of Japan.

Alexandros Panagiotou Papanastasiou replaces Eleftherios Kiriakou Venizelos as Prime Minister of Greece.

Drainage of the Zuider Zee by the Netherlands is completed.

Gustav Holst (57) departs Boston by boat for New York.

*Melo*, a film with music by Bohuslav Martinu (41) is shown for the first time, in Paris.

*Fanfare for a Cheerful Occasion* for brass and percussion by Arnold Bax (48) is performed publicly for the first time, in Royal Albert Hall, London. See 8 May 1930.

**27 May 1932** Gustav Holst (57) boards the *Europa* in New York and sails for England.

**29 May 1932** 15,000 veterans of the Great War arrive in Washington demanding cash payments of their bonus certificates. They camp near the Capitol.

**30 May 1932** *Die Historie vom Ritter Don Juan aus Barcelona*, an opera by Werner Egk (31) to his own words after a traditional story, is performed for the first time, over the airwaves of Bavarian Radio the composer conducting.

Pauline Oliveros is born in Houston, eldest of two children born to John B. Oliveros and Edith Inez Gribben.

**1 June 1932** Franz von Papen replaces Heinrich Brünig as Chancellor of Germany.

**2 June 1932** Gustav Holst (57) arrives back in London from America.

**3 June 1932** An earthquake strikes Jalisco state in Mexico killing over 400 people.

**4 June 1932** Édouard Herriot replaces André Pierre Gabriel Amédée Tardieu as Prime Minister of France.

**6 June 1932** Alexandru Vaida-Voievod replaces Nicolae Iorga as Prime Minister of Romania.

Eleftherios Kiriakou Venizelos replaces Alexandros Panagiotou Papanastasiou as Prime Minister of Greece.

**8 June 1932** The newspaper *La Unión* publishes a letter from Manuel de Falla (55). The city council of Seville announced that it intended to pay homage to the composer. Due to the anti-clerical nature of the new republic, Falla rejects this homage “if God is now officially denied all recognition.” (Moreda-Rodríguez, 213)

**9 June 1932** *So Many True Princesses Who Have Gone*, for chorus and military band by Edward Elgar (75) to words of Masefield, is performed for the first time, in Marlborough House, London conducted by the composer. It is to accompany the unveiling of a statue to Queen Alexandra, mother of King George V.

**13 June 1932** *Le Bal masqué*, a cantata for voice, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, violin, cello, percussion, and piano by Francis Poulenc (33) to words of Jacob, is performed publicly for the first time, in Paris the composer at the piano. See 20 April 1932.

**15 June 1932** About 30 Bolivian soldiers attack a Paraguayan outpost at Lake Pitiantuta in the Chaco. The five Paraguayans run away. Both sides begin sending troops to the area. It is the first act of the Chaco War.

**16 June 1932** A two-month-old ban by the German government on the Nazi SA (Sturmabteilung) is lifted by new Chancellor Franz von Papen.

Representatives of Belgium, France, Germany, Great Britain, and Italy meet at Lausanne to address war reparation payments.

Max Knoll and Ernst Ruska submit a paper to the *Zeitschrift für Physik* detailing their invention of an electron microscope. It will be published.

Kleine Blasmusik for band by Ernst Krenek (31), an arrangement of his Vier Bagatellen, is performed for the first time, over the airwaves of Südwestfunk originating in Frankfurt. See 25 April 1937.

**17 June 1932** The United States government, after refusing the demands of the bonus marchers, provides payment for their trips home. Most leave.

**19 June 1932** *Durch die Nacht* for voice and orchestra by Ernst Krenek (31) is performed for the first time, in the Vienna Musikvereinsaal under the baton of Anton Webern (48). See 10 April 1931.

**20 June 1932** *Mahnung an die Jugend, sich der Musik zu befleißigen*, a cantata for narrator, children’s chorus, and strings by Paul Hindemith (36) to words of Agricola, is performed for the first time, in Plön. Other excerpts from *Plöner Musiktag* premiered today are Orchestral Concert *Morgenmusik* for brass, Trio for three recorders and *Tafelmusik*.

**21 June 1932** After conducting a concert in Vienna of works by Schoenberg (57), Berg (47), and Mahler (†21), Anton Webern (48) is admitted to the Rudolfsstiftung for diagnostic evaluation. He fainted during the last rehearsal for this performance. After twelve days, no physical problem is found and he is diagnosed as having a “nervous condition.” The composer will undergo “cures” at various establishments through the summer.

**22 June 1932** Olivier Messiaen (23) marries the composer and violinist Louise Justine (Claire) Delbos, daughter of a Sorbonne professor, in the church of Saint-Louis-en-l’Île, in the Fourth Arrondissement, Paris.

**26 June 1932** Sergey Prokofiev (41) travels to London. Over the next two days he will make his first sound recordings, his third piano concerto, at the Abbey Road studios of His Master’s Voice.

**29 June 1932** Rebels seeking to end the absolute monarchy in Siam take control of the government in Bangkok, occupying the royal palace and other important buildings, in relatively peaceful fashion. King Prajadhipok is not in the city today.

**2 July 1932** Milan Srskic replaces Vojislav Marinkovic as Prime Minister of Yugoslavia.

Arnold Bax (48) arrives in Helsinki from Stockholm for five days in Finland. During this time, he visits Jean Sibelius (66) at Järvenpäa.

**3 July 1932** Festive Overture for the Sokol Festival for orchestra by Bohuslav Martinu (41) is performed for the first time, in Prague.

**5 July 1932** António de Oliveira Salazar replaces Domingos Augusto Alves da Costa e Oliveira as Prime Minister of Portugal. He institutes a fascist dictatorship.

**7 July 1932** By a vote of 253-40, the French Senate rejects a proposal to grant voting rights to women.

**8 July 1932** Today marks the lowest closing of the New York Stock Exchange during the depression. Since September of 1929 the NYSE has lost 90% of its value.

**9 July 1932** Belgium, France, Great Britain, and Italy sign an agreement with Germany at Lausanne, suspending reparation payments due to the worldwide economic crisis.

Citizens of São Paulo state begin an uprising against the dictatorship of Brazilian President Getúlio Vargas.

**12 July 1932** Norway proclaims annexation of part of the east coast of Greenland.

**14 July 1932** Edward Elgar (75) conducts a recording of his Violin Concerto with the 16-year-old Yehudi Menuhin today and tomorrow.

**15 July 1932** The League of Nations underwrites a loan of 300,000,000 schillings to Austria. In return, Austria renounces annexation or a customs union with Germany.

**16 July 1932** Paraguayan troops counterattack at Lake Pitiantuta. The Bolivians retreat towards Camacho.

**17 July 1932**  Thousands of Communists and Nazis battle in the streets of Altona (Hamburg). 17 people are killed.

**18 July 1932** Turkey is admitted to the League of Nations.

**19 July 1932** Kaarel Eenpalu replaces Jaan Teemant as Head of State of Estonia.

**20 July 1932** After months of street fighting, mostly between Nazis and Communists, which has left hundreds dead, German Chancellor von Papen invokes emergency powers and takes direct control of the government of Prussia.

**22 July 1932** Florenz Ziegfeld dies in Hollywood at the age of 65.

Phantasy for string quintet by Benjamin Britten (18) is performed for the first time, at the Royal College of Music in London, as winner of the Cobbett Chamber Music Prize.

**23 July 1932** The Lord Mayor and Town Clerk of Bradford arrive at Grez-sur-Loing and confer on Frederick Delius (70) the title of Honorary Freeman of the City of Bradford (his birthplace).

**28 July 1932** In a two-day operation, United States troops forcibly remove the remaining bonus marchers from the capital. President Hoover orders that the mission be accomplished with unarmed troops. However the commander, General Douglas MacArthur, uses tanks, tear gas, and bayonets. Four people are killed, hundreds injured.

**29 July 1932** The Hungarian government executes two leaders of the outlawed Communist Party, Imre Sallai and Sándor Fürst.

**30 July 1932** The Games of the Tenth Olympiad of the Modern Era open in Los Angeles.

**31 July 1932** In German national elections, the Nazi party wins 37.3% of the total vote and more than doubles their representation in the Reichstag, becoming the largest party.

Bolivian troops capture Boqueron.

**1 August 1932** With just four employees, American Forrest Mars begins producing the Mars Bar in Slough, England.

*Todavia estas a tiempo* for jazz band by Charles Martin Loeffler (71) is performed for the first time.

**2 August 1932** At the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, American physicist Carl Anderson observes a positively charged electron, the positron. It is the first form of antimatter yet seen.

**6 August 1932** The first Venice International Film Festival opens.

Felix Teodor Hamrin replaces Carl Gustaf Ekman as Prime Minister of Sweden.

The first section of the Autobahn, between Cologne and Bonn, opens.

**7 August 1932** Stalin declares that all property in collective farms is state property. Unauthorized use of this property is punishable by death.

**8 August 1932** Walter Lowenfels, an American playwright living in Paris, sues the authors, publishers, and producers of *Of Thee I Sing* (music by George Gershwin (33)), claiming their work is taken directly from his play *USA with Music* which he wrote with George Antheil. See 28 December 1932.

**9 August 1932** Five SA men break into the home of Konrad Pietrzuch, a communist miner in Potempa, Upper Silesia. They beat him to death in front of his mother.

**10 August 1932** Spanish general José Sanjurjo leads an uprising in Seville for a “moderate republic.” Lack of support forces him to flee and he is captured making for Portugal.

Peter Alexander Goehr is born in Berlin, son of conductor Walter Goehr and Laelia Goehr, a classically trained pianist.

The mystery play *Maria egiziaca* by Ottorino Respighi (53) to words of Guastalla after Cavalca is staged for the first time, in Venice. See 16 March 1932.

**14 August 1932** *Invocazione alla Madonna* for solo voices, female chorus, and organ or piano by Pietro Mascagni (68) to words of Targioni-Tozzetti is performed for the first time, in Livorno.

The Games of the Tenth Olympiad of the Modern Era close in Los Angeles. In 16 days of competition, 1,332 athletes from 37 countries participated.

**16 August 1932** The first concert entirely devoted to the music of George Gershwin (33) takes place, in the presence of the composer, at Lewisohn Stadium, New York. The performance includes the premiere of *Rumba*, later known as *Cuban Overture*. It is also the first time the New York Philharmonic devotes an entire concert to a living composer.

**17 August 1932** The British government produces the Communal Award for India, by which the Depressed Classes will constitute a separate electorate.

**22 August 1932** The Five SA men who carried out the Potempa incident on 9 August are convicted of murder and sentenced to death by a court in Beuthen. (The men will be freed when Hitler takes power next year.)

Experimental television broadcasts, seen over the BBC since 1929, are replaced by regular low-definition service.

**26 August 1932** Henry Cowell (35), Arnold Schoenberg (57), and Adolph Weiss dine together in Berlin. Cowell and Schoenberg have become friends and tennis partners.

**30 August 1932** Hermann Goering is named President of the Reichstag.

*Colorines* for 14 instruments by Silvestre Revueltas (32) is performed for the first time, at the Conservatorio Nacional de Música, Mexico City the composer conducting.

**1 September 1932** Peruvian forces encroach into Colombian territory at Leticia.

**2 September 1932** After driving from New York to San Antonio, and taking a train from San Antonio, Aaron Copland (31) arrives in Mexico City, invited by Carlos Chávez (33) to attend several performances of Copland’s work. Tonight is the first all-Copland concert anywhere. He will stay for four months.

**4 September 1932** Abelardo Luján Rodríguez replaces Pascual Ortiz Rubio as President of Mexico.

**5 September 1932** Concerto in d minor for two pianos and orchestra by Francis Poulenc (33) is performed for the first time, in Venice. The composer performs at one keyboard.

**6 September 1932** *Pantea*, a dramma sinfonico by Gian Francesco Malipiero (50) to his own story, is performed for the first time, in Teatro Goldoni, Venice. Also premiered is *La favola d’Orfeo*, a chamber opera by Alfredo Casella (49) to words of Pavolini after Poliziano.

*Tierra Mojada*, for chorus by Carlos Chávez (33) to words of López Velarde, is performed for the first time, in the Teatro Orientación, Mexico City.

A hurricane strikes Puerto Rico, killing over 100 people. This storm kills over 250 people in the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Dominican Republic.

**7 September 1932** *Severn Suite* by Edward Elgar (75), in the version for orchestra, is performed publicly for the first time, in Worcester. See 27 September 1930 and 23 June 1932.

*As costureiras*, for female chorus by Heitor Villa-Lobos (45) to his own words, is performed for the first time, in Rio de Janeiro, the composer conducting.

**8 September 1932** *Magnificat* for female chorus, flute and orchestra by Ralph Vaughan Williams (59) is performed for the first time, in Worcester Cathedral the composer conducting.

**9 September 1932** The Spanish Cortes grants autonomy to Catalonia.

Paraguayan troops attack the Bolivian positions at Boqueron but are repulsed. The Paraguayans decide to lay siege.

**12 September 1932** The government of Chancellor Franz von Papen is overwhelmingly defeated in a confidence vote. The Reichstag is dissolved for new elections.

Tre Studi for soprano and chamber orchestra by Luigi Dallapiccola (28) to words from the Kalevala is performed for the first time, in Venice.

*Bachiana Brasileira no.1* for at least eight cellos by Heitor Villa-Lobos (45) is performed for the first time, in Rio de Janeiro.

**14 September 1932** Paul Gorguloff, who killed President Paul Doumer last May, is executed by guillotine at La Sante Prison in Paris.

Two works by Heitor Villa-Lobos (45) are performed for the first time, in Rio de Janeiro directed by the composer: *Elégie* for soprano, tenor, and chorus, and *Moteto* for chorus.

**15 September 1932** The Spanish Cortes passes an agrarian reform act to expropriate large estates and redistribute them to peasants.

**16 September 1932** In Holmdel, New Jersey, Bell Laboratories scientist Kar Jansky first hears radio signals coming from outer space. The event is seen as the beginning of radio astronomy.

**18 September 1932** Two days of voting for the Riksdag conclude in Sweden. The Social Democrats make significant gains at the expense of the center-right General Electoral League.

**20 September 1932** In Yeravda Prison, Mahatma Gandhi begins a “fast unto death” demanding greater representation for untouchables in the Indian government and protesting different electorates for castes.

Harry Partch (31) is arrested, probably for vagrancy, in San Luis Obispo, California. He will spend the night in jail, thus ending about six months of wandering.

**22 September 1932** William Beeb and Otis Barton descend in a bathysphere to the unprecedented depth of 6,700 meters. They discover animal life is plentiful in the darkness, many unknown species, and some which produce their own light.

**23 September 1932** The Kingdoms of Hejaz and Nejd are joined to form the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia under King Abdul Aziz III ibn Saud.

Arnold Schoenberg (58) writes to Alban Berg (47) telling him “Today I am proud to call myself a Jew; but I know the difficulties of really being one.”

**24 September 1932** Per Albin Hansson replaces Felix Teodor Hamrin as Prime Minister of Sweden.

**25 September 1932** Voting for the Greek Parliament results in significant losses for the Liberal Party of Eleftherios Venizelos. They are almost caught by the conservative/monarchist Peoples Party.

**26 September 1932** Gandhi breaks his week-old fast when the British government accedes to his demands.

An earthquake strikes the Chalkidiki Peninsula in Greece killing 491 people.

**29 September 1932** After a brutal 20-day siege, the Bolivian garrison at Boqueron surrenders to the Paraguayans.

**1 October 1932** Gyula Gömbös de Jákfa replaces Gyula, Count Károlyi de Nagykároly as Prime Minister of Hungary. An extreme nationalist, he is hostile to the privileges of the aristocracy, workers, Jews, and democracy. He is appointed on condition that he maintain the present system and refrain from race hatred.

At a meeting of 32 people in London, Oswald Mosley forms the British Union of Fascists.

*A Downland Suite* for brass by John Ireland (53) is performed for the first time, in the Crystal Palace, London.

**2 October 1932** The rebellious city of São Paulo surrenders to Brazilian federal troops.

Charles Seeger’s divorce becomes final. He may now marry Ruth Crawford (31).

**3 October 1932** Iraq becomes fully independent, under King Faisal I and Prime Minister Nuri Pasha as-Said, as the British mandate over the country ends. Iraq joins the League of Nations.

Ruth Crawford (31) marries Charles Seeger, a teacher, composer and musicologist, in Winnemucca, Nevada. The two have been living together, pretending to be married, for almost a year.

**4 October 1932** Fighting in the Constitutionalist Revolution against the Brazilian dictator Getúlio Vargas, comes to an end. 1,000-2,000 people were killed in three months of fighting.

**7 October 1932** The London Philharmonic Orchestra gives its inaugural concert in Queen’s Hall, conducted by Sir Thomas Beecham.

**9 October 1932** Maurice Ravel (57) suffers injuries to the face and throat when the taxi in which he is riding collides with another vehicle in Paris. The wounds are not life threatening but they may aid the progression of his illness which has recently manifested in involuntary body movements and the inability to put thought into words.

Symphony no.4 for piano and orchestra by Karol Szymanowski (50) is performed for the first time, in Poznan, the composer at the piano.

**10 October 1932** Lee Bong-chang, a Korean who tried to kill Emperor Hirohito last January, is executed in Ichigaya Prison.

A grand opening ceremony takes place for the Dneper Hydroelectric Plant near Zaporozhye, Ukraine.

Three Songs for voice and orchestra by William Walton (30) to words of E. Sitwell, are performed for the first time, in Wigmore Hall, London.

Concerto for string quartet and orchestra by Bohuslav Martinu (41) is performed for the first time, in London.

**15 October 1932** Tata Air Service (Air India) begins operations carrying mail between Bombay and Colombo.

The War Memorial Opera House opens in San Francisco with a performance of *Tosca*.

**16 October 1932** Etude from the Six Compositions for Carillon by Gian Carlo Menotti (21) is performed for the first time, in Richmond, Virginia.

**17 October 1932** *Todessehnsucht* for piano by Frank Bridge (53) is performed for the first time, in Queen’s Hall, London.

**19 October 1932** Iuliu Maniu replaces Alexandru Vaida-Voievod as Prime Minister of Romania.

Arnold Schoenberg (58) hears Henry Cowell (35) play for the first time, in Berlin. He invites him to play *Dynamic Motion* for his analysis class.

**21 October 1932** Paraguayan forces overrun Bolivian positions south of Arce. Most Bolivian units run for the rear but enough keep their heads to cover the retreat.

*Patterns* for piano and orchestra by John Alden Carpenter (56) is performed for the first time, in Boston, the composer at the keyboard. The work was commissioned to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

**22 October 1932** Charles, Comte de Broqueville replaces Jules Renkin as Prime Minister of Belgium.

Bolivian troops abandon Arce to the Paraguayans.

**23 October 1932** Bolivian troops abandon Alihuata to the Paraguayans.

Preludio from the Six Compositions for Carillon by Gian Carlo Menotti (21) is performed for the first time, in Richmond, Virginia.

**25 October 1932** Fantasy for nonet no.2 by Alois Hába (39) is performed for the first time, in Klaipeda, Lithuania.

Duke Ellington (33) and his Orchestra play for a class in music appreciation at New York University taught by Percy Grainger (50). Wallingford Riegger (47) is also present. Grainger favorably compares Ellington’s melodies with those of Frederick Delius (70) and Johann Sebastian Bach (†182). Ellington remarks “I’ll have to find out about this Delius.”

**27 October 1932** Four days of rioting by unemployed workers erupts in London.

**28 October 1932** Duo Concertant for violin and piano by Igor Stravinsky (50) is performed for the first time, over the airwaves of Berlin Radio. The violin part is played by Samuel Dushkin, while the composer performs at the keyboard.

**29 October 1932** *Der Schmied von Gent*, a grosse Zauberoper by Franz Schreker (54) to his own words after de Coster, is performed for the first time, at the Städtische Oper, Berlin. “The whole of Berlin’s literary and musical world was gathered together, politics and business sent their representatives, the nation, state, and city were represented by their highest dignitaries, and nearly all the opera directors of the German-speaking world were present.” The production receives enthusiastic applause but when Schreker appears, he is met with a torrent of whistles and catcalls.

**31 October 1932** Jan Malypetr replaces Frantisek Udrzal as Prime Minister of Czechoslovakia.

Piano Concerto no.5 op.55 by Sergey Prokofiev (41) is performed for the first time, in Berlin, the composer at the keyboard.

**1 November 1932** Konstantin Päts replaces Kaarel Eenpalu as Head of State of Estonia.

The *Physical Review* published “Experimental Establishment of the Relativity of Time” by Americans Roy Kennedy and Edward Thorndike. They explain the experiment in which they demonstrate the relativity of time as postulated by Albert Einstein.

*Canzone* from the Six Compositions for Carillon by Gian Carlo Menotti (21) is performed for the first time, in Richmond, Virginia.

George Gershwin (34) conducts and performs his works at the Metropolitan Opera House, New York.

**3 November 1932** Transit workers in Berlin go on strike against wage cuts, paralyzing the city. The strike will last four days and is supported by both Nazis and Communists.

**4 November 1932** Panagiotis Tsaldaris replaces Eleftherios Kiriakou Venizelos as Prime Minister of Greece.

*Polyphonica* for twelve instruments and chamber orchestra by Henry Cowell (35) is performed for the first time, in New School Auditorium, New York.

*Ventanas* for orchestra by Silvestre Revueltas (32) is performed for the first time, in Teatro Hidalgo, Mexico City, the composer conducting.

**6 November 1932** In German national elections, the Nazi party loses 34 seats in the Reichstag but remains the largest party. The Communists make modest gains.

*Dialogue* from the Six Compositions for Carillon by Gian Carlo Menotti (21) is performed for the first time, in Richmond, Virginia.

**7 November 1932** The film *Counterplan*, with music by Dmitri Shostakovich (26), is shown for the first time, in Leningrad on the fifteenth anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution.

**8 November 1932** Nadezhda Sergeyevna Alliluyeva, the wife of Stalin, dies from a gunshot wound in their Kremlin apartment. It is not known if she killed herself or if Stalin killed her. The official cause of death is appendicitis.

*Pastorale* from the Six Compositions for Carillon by Gian Carlo Menotti (21) is performed for the first time, in Richmond, Virginia.

Voting in the United States ensures the election of New York Governor Franklin Roosevelt as President. He defeats the incumbent, Herbert Hoover. About 100 seats in the House of Representatives change hands from Hoover’s Republicans to Roosevelt’s Democrats. Similarly, twelve seats change in the Senate.

**9 November 1932** A hurricane strikes Cuba killing over 3,000 people, mostly in the town of Santa Cruz del Sur, which is destroyed.

**10 November 1932** Bolivian forces unexpectedly counterattack at “Kilometer 7” between Alihuata and Saavedra causing confusion in the Paraguayan ranks.

**13 November 1932** Three works by Silvestre Revueltas (32) are performed for the first time, in Teatro Orientación, Mexico City directed by the composer: *Dúo para pato y canario* for voice and nine players to words of Barrera, *El Tecolote* for voice and eight instruments to words of Castañeda, and *Ranas* for voice and eleven instruments to words of Castañeda.

**16 November 1932** Elections to the Danish Folketing result in modest losses for the Left Party and little change to the others.

The String Quartet no.2 by Antonín Dvorák (†28) is performed for the first time, privately, in Prague, 63 years after he composed it.

**19 November 1932** The Third Round Table Conference on India opens in London.

**22 November 1932** Thème et variations for violin and piano by Olivier Messiaen (23) is performed for the first time, in Salle Debussy, Paris, by the composer and his wife.

**23 November 1932** *Caixinha de boas festas*, an unfinished ballet by Heitor Villa-Lobos (45), is performed for the first time, in Rio de Janeiro. See 8 December 1932.

**24 November 1932** Quattro Canzoni for tenor and orchestra by Werner Egk (31) are performed for the first time, in Munich.

**25 November 1932** Symphonie Concertante for piano and orchestra by Florent Schmitt (62), composed to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, is performed for the first time, in Boston.

**26 November 1932** Prelude, arioso, fughette sur le nom de Bach for piano by Arthur Honegger (40) is performed for the first time, in a children’s concert in the Salle de Géographie, Paris by the composer’s wife Vaura. See 5 December 1936.

**27 November 1932** Sonata for two violins op.56 by Sergey Prokofiev (41) is performed for the first time, in Moscow.

Gemischte Chöre, three choruses by Ernst Krenek (32) to words of Keller are performed for the first time, in the Grosser Konzerthaussaal, Vienna.

Voters in the Belgian general election give the Catholic Party a slight edge over the Socialists in both houses of Parliament.

**29 November 1932** Several works for orchestra by Charles Koechlin (65) are performed for the first time, in Salle Pleyel, Paris: the symphonic poem *La course de printemps* op.95, Cinq chorals dans les modes du moyen-âge op.117bis, Fugue symphonique “Saint-Georges” op.121, and the second of the Trois fugues sur des sujets de Koechlin op.112.

**30 November 1932** Two songs for voice and piano by Amy Beach (65) to words of Norwood are performed for the first time, in Roerich Museum, New York at a memorial for Dr. Norwood, the late minister at St. Bartholemew’s Church: *A Light that Overflows* and *My Love Came Through the Fields*.

**1 December 1932** A Paraguayan assault on the Bolivian lines at “Kilometer 7” turns into a debacle. But they will continue to attack for a week.

Henry Cowell (35) plays his music at the Bauhaus in Berlin. Walter Gropius and László Moholy-Nagy see a connection between their work in architecture and Cowell’s.

**2 December 1932** *Pardon My English*, a musical comedy with a book by Fields, lyrics by Ira Gershwin, and music by George Gershwin (34), is performed for the first time, Philadelphia. See 20 January 1933.

**3 December 1932** Kurt von Schleicher replaces Franz von Papen as Chancellor of Germany.

Béla Bartók (51) is awarded the Romanian Order of the Knight’s Cross.

Partita for string orchestra by Bohuslav Martinu (41) is performed for the first time, in Prague.

**5 December 1932** Fantasy and Fugue op.10 for orchestra and organ by Wallingford Riegger (47) is performed for the first time, in New York.

**7 December 1932** Heavy rains stop a week of fruitless Paraguayan assaults on Bolivian lines at “Kilometer 7.”

**8 December 1932** *Caixinha de boas festas*, an ballet by Heitor Villa-Lobos (45), is performed completely for the first time, in the Teatro Municipal, Rio de Janeiro. See 23 November 1932.

**9 December 1932** String Quartet op.45 by Albert Roussel (63) is performed for the first time, at the Palais dex Beaux-Arts, in Brussels.

**10 December 1932** King Prajadhipok (Rama VII) of Siam signs a permanent constitution, making his country a constitutional monarchy. It includes provisions for voting rights for both men and women. Phraya Manopakornnitithada becomes Prime Minister of Siam.

**11 December 1932** Kurt Weill’s (32) *Mahagonny Songspiel* and *Der Jasager* are performed in the Salle Gaveau, Paris. They are very successful and open Weill to possibilities outside Germany.

**12 December 1932** Three Two-Part Songs, to words of de la Mare by Benjamin Britten (19) are performed for the first time, at the Ballet Club Theatre (later the Mercury Theatre), the composer at the piano.

**13 December 1932** *Good Friday*, the second of the Six Choruses op.53 by Gustav Holst (58) to medieval lyrics (tr. Waddell), is performed for the first time, in Westminster Abbey.

**14 December 1932** Joseph Paul-Boncour replaces Édouard Herriot as Prime Minister of France.

**15 December 1932** Mexico leaves the League of Nations.

Toivo Mikael Kivimälki replaces Juho Emil Sunila as Prime Minister of Finland.

Two operas by Gian Francesco Malipiero (50) to his own words are performed for the first time, in the Coburg Landestheater: *Le aquile di Aquileia* and *I corvi di San Marco*.

**16 December 1932** Werner Egk (31) signs a contract with Schott to publish his Quattro Canzoni. This begins a lifelong association with Schott.

*On the Dnieper* op.51, a ballet by Sergey Prokofiev (41) to a scenario by Lifar and the composer, is performed for the first time, at the Paris Opéra. It is panned by the critics.

Sonatine for violin and cello by Arthur Honegger (40) is performed for the first time, at the inaugural performance of Triton, a society dedicated to modern chamber music, in Paris. It was formed by Honegger, Darius Milhaud (40), Francis Poulenc (33), and Sergey Prokofiev (41).

*Prophecy*, a tone poem for soprano and orchestra by Frederick S. Converse (61) to words from the Book of Isaiah, is performed for the first time, in Boston.

**17 December 1932** The League of Nations appeals for a halt to the fighting in the Chaco.

*Corriere della sera* of Milan, *Il popolo d’Italia* of Rome, and *La Stampa* of Turin, publish “A Manifesto of Italian Musicians for the Tradition of Nineteenth-Century Romantic Art” signed by several luminaries of Italian music including Ottorino Respighi (53). It attacks modernism in Italian music, especially Malipiero (50) and Casella (49) and advocates a return to Romanticism.

Sergey Prokofiev (41) sails from France for New York and several concerts in the United States.

*Beat! Beat! Drums!* for men’s chorus and orchestra by Charles Martin Loeffler (71) to words of Whitman is performed for the first time, in Cleveland.

**19 December 1932** The BBC Empire Service goes on the air. It is the first time the BBC broadcasts outside Great Britain.

Paraguay withdraws from peace talks in Washington.

**22 December 1932** M. Boyd Zinman and Emanuel S. Morgenstern form the Teletouch Corporation in New York. The Vice-President of the new firm is Lev Sergeyevich Termen (Leon Theremin) (36). The original idea of the company is to develop burglar alarms.

Henry Cowell (35) sails from Hamburg making for New York.

**25 December 1932** An earthquake centered in Gansu (Kansu), China causes 270 deaths.

IG Farben files a patent application for Prontosil (Sulfonamidochrysoidine), the first antibacterial sulfa drug. When it is finally accepted, it will change medicine. It was developed by Gerhard Domagk, who will win the 1939 Nobel Prize.

**26 December 1932** Bolivians counterattack against now entrenched Paraguayans at “Kilometer 7” with disastrous results.

**27 December 1932** The Radio City Music Hall in New York opens to the public.

**28 December 1932** The Union of South Africa abandons the gold standard.

Gian Francesco Malipiero (50) has a personal audience with Benito Mussolini. He gets the impression Mussolini supports him in the current modernist-romantic controversy. See 17 December 1932.

Judge John Munro Woolsey dismisses a suit in New York by Walter Lowenfels against the producers of *Of Thee I Sing*. See 8 August 1932.

Harry Partch (31) completes a Ptolemy keyboard in which the octave has 39 tones.

**29 December 1932** *Overture “From the Gayety and Sadness of the American Scene”* for orchestra by Roy Harris (34) is performed for the first time, in Philharmonic Auditorium, Los Angeles.

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