**1 January 1949** New Zealand takes possession of the Tokelau Islands from Great Britain.

A United Nations cease-fire between India and Pakistan goes into effect.

All wartime rationing in Poland ends.

The first five-year plan in Czechoslovakia begins.

The British Nationality Act goes into effect. All citizens of Great Britain, the Commonwealth, and Ireland and granted equal rights before the law.

Three Egyptian naval vessels bombard Tel Aviv for 20 minutes.

The United States formally recognizes the Seoul regime as the legitimate government for all Korea.

*Michurin*, a film with music by Dmitri Shostakovich (42), is shown for the first time.

**2 January 1949** Israeli troops in the Sinai are withdrawn back into Israel.

Austria receives control over its Italian border from British authorities.

**3 January 1949** The United States demands that the USSR account for how many German prisoners of war it still holds. 443,165 POWs named by the Soviet Union in 1947 are still unaccounted for. The victorious powers agreed to return all POWs by 1 January 1949.

Paul Hindemith (53) begins a ten-lecture tour of six German cities over the next month sponsored by the US occupation government.

The Eighty-first Congress of the United States convenes in Washington. President Truman’s Democratic Party holds majorities in both houses.

**4 January 1949** Israeli forces destroy most of the Egyptian defensive positions at Rafah, effectively blocking the Egyptian army from Egypt.

*Kentuckiana* for orchestra by Darius Milhaud (56) is performed for the first time, in Louisville.

**5 January 1949** The Netherlands accepts a UN cease-fire in Sumatra.

Henry Cowell’s (51) Symphony no.5 is performed for the first time, in Constitution Hall, Washington.

**6 January 1949** Jerome Robbins visits Leonard Bernstein (30) in New York with an idea for a musical based on a modern treatment of Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet.*

The first atomic clock, built by Harold Lyons, is presented to the public by the Bureau of Standards in Washington. It is based on ammonia.

**7 January 1949** Chinese communists drive into Tientsin.

A United Nations cease-fire between Egypt and Israel goes into effect. Before the cease-fire, Israeli forces shoot down five British planes flying reconnaissance over Israel. One pilot is killed, two are captured. The British retaliate by landing reinforcements at Aqaba.

The first photograph of genes is announced by Dr. Daniel Chapin Pease and Dr. Richard Freligh Baker of the University of Southern California.

**8 January 1949** The tenure committee of the University of Washington votes to fire three faculty members it calls Communist agents.

**10 January 1949** Israel once again withdraws all its forces from Egypt, including recent gains around Rafah.

RCA-Victor demonstrates a new recording system using turntables that turn at 45 rpm.

**11 January 1949** German lands given to Poland after the war are officially incorporated into the country.

An evacuation of 1,500 tuberculosis patients from western Berlin to the western German occupation zones begins.

The United States demands that the Netherlands quit the Indonesian Republic at once and calls for the complete independence of Indonesia.

The United States refuses a request from Hungary that it return the Crown of St. Stephen.

**12 January 1949** After 65 days of fighting, Chinese communists complete the annihilation of a nationalist army at Hwai-Hai (Huaihai), in one of the largest battles in modern history. The nationalist cabinet resolves that all but essential personnel evacuate Nanking.

The body of Felix Longoria, who was killed in World War II, is reburied in Arlington National Cemetery. Burial in his hometown of Three Rivers, Texas was denied because the only funeral director in town said that “other white people object” to his services used for “people of Mexican origin.”

Sonatas and Interludes for piano by John Cage (36) is performed for the first time at an important venue, in Carnegie Recital Hall, New York. Parts of this were performed as early as 1946. See 6 April 1948.

*American Pipers* for orchestra by Henry Cowell (51) is performed for the first time, in New Orleans.

**13 January 1949** After two days of truce and failed surrender negotiations, Chinese communists resume their attack on Tientsin.

Rioting breaks out in Durban, South Africa between Zulus and Indians. It will last for four days causing 85 deaths and 549 injuries.

Communists shell Peking for the first time.

Vasily Kukharsky, writing in *Izvestia*, comments on Sergey Prokofiev’s (57) opera *The Story of a Real Man*: “a striking example of this detachment of the artist from real life, composing his work in the shelter of his ivory tower.”

Armistice talks between Egypt and Israel, directed by United Nations negotiator Dr. Ralph Bunche, begin on the island of Rhodes.

The first complete performance of *Liriche greche* for solo voice and instruments by Luigi Dallapiccola (44) takes place in Rome. See 10 November 1944, 24 June 1946 and 7 July 1947.

**14 January 1949** Mao Tse-tung broadcasts his peace demands over North Shensi radio.

13:00 Joaquín Turina dies in Madrid of bronchial pneumonia, aged 66 years, one month, and five days.

Greek rebels capture Naousa, 75 km west of Thessaloniki but hold it only for a day.

The United States announces that it will join in a security alliance with western Europe.

*Lovers* op.57, a cycle for voice and piano by Alois Hába (55) to words of Benesová, is performed for the first time, in Prague.

*Le Docteur Fabricius* op.202, a symphonic poem by Charles Koechlin (81), is performed for the first time, in Brussels.

**15 January 1949** Chinese communist forces capture Tientsin.

Statements are issued by several Protestant groups in Hungary approving of the arrest of József Cardinal Mindszenty.

**16 January 1949** The Chinese nationalist government resolves to move the capital from Nanking to Canton (Guangzhou).

Mehmet Semsettin Günaltay replaces Hasan Saka replaces as Prime Minister of Turkey.

South African military and police end four days of rioting between Zulus and Indians in Durban.

**17 January 1949** Chinese communists capture Tangku (Tanggu), the port for Tientsin.

The first Volkswagen “Beetle” arrives in the United States.

**19 January 1949** The Hungarian government releases documents allegedly showing that József Cardinal Mindszenty confessed to plotting with the US and UK to overthrow the communists.

Carlos Chávez (49) resigns his post as director of the Orquesta Sinfónica de México, a post he has held for over 20 years.

In Geneva, Wilhelm Furtwängler withdraws as guest conductor of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra after a threatened boycott by eminent soloists and conductors who accuse him of collaboration with the Nazis.

**20 January 1949** William Walton (46) is married again in the Church of San Martín de Tours, Buenos Aires. The couple sails for Britain.

*The Guests*, a ballet by Marc Blitzstein (43) to his own story, orchestrated by Henry Brant (35), is performed for the first time, in New York City Center. See 28 January 1948.

**21 January 1949** President Chiang Kai-shek “retires” as leader of the government without resigning and leaves Nanking for his ancestral home of Fenghwa (Fenghua). Vice President Li Tsung-jen (Li Zongren) becomes acting President and forms a government to seek peace with the communists.

Greek rebels capture Karpenissi, 200 km northwest of Athens.

**22 January 1949** The nationalist defenders of Peking surrender to the communists surrounding them.

The Board of Regents of the University of Washington in Seattle sacks three professors, two for being members of the Communist Party, and one for refusing to say if he was or not.

**23 January 1949** Chinese communists reach the Yangtze defense line, 10 km from Nanking.

National elections in Japan result in a massive victory for the Liberal Party.

*The Perilous Chapel* a dance by Lou Harrison (31) is performed for the first time, at the Hunter Playhouse, New York.

**25 January 1949** The Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (COMECON) is founded by Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, and the USSR.

The first election in Israel takes place with Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion’s Mapai party taking the largest number of seats.

The US military government transfers Radio Munich to German control.

Pianist Walter Gieseking cuts short a North American concert tour and leaves the United States voluntarily. Veterans groups accuse him of being a Nazi, in spite of the fact that he was exonerated by a denazification court.

**27 January 1949** Sam Carr, wanted for espionage by Canada since 1946, is arrested in New York where he is living with his wife under assumed names. They will both be deported.

**28 January 1949** The United Nations Security Council demands the release of the Indonesian government leaders from Dutch custody and the full independence of Indonesia by 1 July 1950.

Fritz Knoechlin, found guilty of shooting British POWs at Paradis, is hanged in Hamburg along with Joseph Kieffer, a leading member of the Paris Gestapo.

**29 January 1949** The United Kingdom recognizes Israel.

**31 January 1949** Communist troops occupy Peking.

*King Lear* op.35, a septet for woodwind quintet, timpani, and piano by Vincent Persichetti (33) is performed for the first time, in Montclair, New Jersey.

**1 February 1949** On the third anniversary of the abolition of the monarchy, Hungary becomes a “peoples republic.”

The first 200” (508 cm) reflector telescope, the Hale, goes into operation at Mt. Palomar, California.

**3 February 1949** At the beginning of his trial in Budapest, József Cardinal Mindszenty announces that he is guilty of most of the charges against him and was not coerced to confess.

Hungarian composer András Mihály delivers the lecture “Béla Bartók (†3) and the Generation Coming After Him.” It is an attempt to fit Bartók into the party line following the Soviet musical disturbances of February 1948.

In the New York apartment of violinist Alexander Schneider, Igor Stravinsky (66) plays and sings through the first act of *The Rake’s Progress* for WH Auden, George Balanchine, Robert Craft, and Nicolas Nabokov.

**4 February 1949** Fakhr Raiee, a reporter for a Moslem newspaper, fires five shots at Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlevi at Teheran University. The Shah is slightly wounded. Raiee is beaten to death by the surrounding crowd.

**5 February 1949** The Chinese cabinet sets up operations in Canton (Guangzhou), even though acting President Li Tsung-jen is still in Nanking.

The General Council of the Congregational Christian Churches votes in Cleveland to merge with the Evangelical and Reformed Church to form the United Church of Christ.

**6 February 1949** *Chor gefangener Trojer* for chorus and orchestra by Hans Werner Henze (22) to words of Goethe, is performed for the first time, in Bielefeld.

**8 February 1949** Cardinal József Mindszenty is sentenced to life imprisonment by a Budapest court for treason and illegal transactions in US dollars. Six others receive sentences ranging from three years to life.

*L’histoire de Babar*, a melodrama for speaker and piano by Francis Poulenc (50) to words of de Brunhoff, is performed for the first time before a live audience, in London the composer at the piano. See 14 June 1946.

**10 February 1949** Nathuram Vinayak Godse and Narayan Battatraya Apte are sentenced to death in a New Delhi court for the murder of Mohandas K. Gandhi. Apte was convicted of leading the conspiracy, Godse of pulling the trigger. Five other conspirators are given life in prison. One is acquitted.

The US Army releases a 32,000-word report detailing a massive Soviet spy ring in East Asia. Author Agnes Smedley and Gunther Stein are named as members of the ring. Richard Sorge, former press officer for the German embassy in Tokyo, is named as the ringleader.

*Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller opens in New York.

**11 February 1949** The last of the Jewish refugees interned by the British on Cyprus arrive in Haifa.

Sam Carr is deported from the United States to Canada. He is suspected of being a Soviet spy.

**12 February 1949** Concerto for marimba, vibraphone, and orchestra by Darius Milhaud (56) is performed for the first time, in St. Louis.

*The Quiet One*, a film with music by Ulysses Kay (32), is shown for the first time, in New York.

**14 February 1949** A constituent assembly for Israel, elected 25 January, is sworn in in Jerusalem.

An aria and duet from William Grant Still’s (53) unperformed opera *Troubled Island* are performed over the airwaves of WNYC radio, New York. See 31 March 1949.

**16 February 1949** The constituent assembly for Israel calls itself Knesset Hagdola (Great Assembly). It has 120 members, as did the Knesset of 400 BC.

The Netherlands agrees in principle to a UN plan for the independence of Indonesia.

**17 February 1949** Chaim Weizmann, Chairman of the Provisional State Council, becomes the first President of the State of Israel. The Knesset adopts an interim constitution.

First Piano Sonata by Charles Ives (74) is performed for the first time, in the YMHA Hall, New York, 40 years after the composer finished it.

**18 February 1949** The US Army admits that it erred in naming author Agnes Smedley as a Soviet spy on 10 February. It has no proof to substantiate the claim.

**19 February 1949** *At the Beach* for trumpet and piano by Virgil Thomson (52) is performed for the first time, in Carnegie Hall, New York.

Partita for wind quintet by Irving Fine (34) is performed for the first time, in Times Hall, New York.

**20 February 1949** Jews and some Germans demonstrate in Berlin against the showing of a British film of *Oliver Twist*. They claim that the character of Fagin is anti-Semitic. West Berlin Mayor Ernst Reuter signs a petition to ban the film.

**21 February 1949** Woodwind Quintet by Elliott Carter (40) is performed for the first time, in a radio broadcast from Times Hall, New York.

**22 February 1949** Sonata for solo cello by George Perle (33) is performed for the first time, in New York.

Quartet for trombones by Leslie Bassett (26) is performed for the first time, at the University of Michigan.

**23 February 1949** *The Duenna*, an opera by Roberto Gerhard (52) to words of Hassall and the composer after Sheridan, is performed for the first time, in a concert setting in London. See 21 January 1992.

**24 February 1949** Egyptian and Israeli delegations meeting on the island of Rhodes agree to an armistice. The Egyptian army surrounded at Faluja is allowed to return home. The Gaza Strip is left in the hands of Egypt.

**26 February 1949** Elections to the national assembly in San Marino return 35 communists out of the 60 seats.

**27 February 1949** Communists begin a takeover of the courts in the Soviet occupation zone of Germany.

Woodwind Quintet by Elliott Carter (40) is performed in concert for the first time, in Times Hall, New York.

Symphony no.6 by William Schuman (38) is performed for the first time, in Dallas.

**1 March 1949** Indonesian guerrillas succeed in retaking Yogya from the Dutch for six hours.

Organized religion in Bulgaria is placed under the control of the state.

Direct armistice negotiations begin between Israel and Lebanon in the border town of Ras en Naqura.

**2 March 1949** The Romanian government confiscates all farms still in the hands of large landowners.

Concertante for Three Wind Instruments by Arnold Bax (65) is performed for the first time, in Royal Albert Hall, London.

Concerned that President Truman might have to appear at a function with Leonard Bernstein (30), White House official David Niles asks the FBI for evidence of Bernstein’s politics.

**3 March 1949** Prime Minister Sun Fo of China announces that peace talks with the communists will commence soon after 15 March.

The Norwegian Parliament votes to sign the North Atlantic Treaty.

**4 March 1949** After a two-day blockade of its office by the US Army, the Soviet repatriation mission leaves Frankfurt.

**6 March 1949** *Sosi* for violin, piano, percussion, and strings by Alan Hovhaness (37) is performed for the first time, in New York.

**8 March 1949** In the face of moves by the legislature to investigate corruption, Prime Minister Sun Fo of China resigns with all his government. He is replaced by General Ho Ying-chin (He Yingqin), an advocate of peace with the Communists.

Four Protestant ministers are sentenced to life in prison by a Sofiya court for treason, espionage, and black marketeering. Eleven others receive prison sentences ranging from one year to 15 years.

In accepting the resignation of Carlos Chávez (49) as director of the Orquesta Sinfónica de México, the managing council announces the dissolution of the orchestra. “The Symphony Orchestra of Mexico was, in reality, the personal work of Carlos Chávez who founded it in 1928 and directed it uninterruptedly for 21 seasons.”

*The Red Pony*, a film with music by Aaron Copland (48), is shown for the first time, in the Mayfair Theatre, New York. See 30 October 1948.

**9 March 1949** Igor Stravinsky’s (66) case against Leeds Music Corp. is dismissed. The court rules that the composer entered into a valid contract in full knowledge his music would be used for popular song. See 29 July 1948.

**10 March 1949** Israeli forces crossing the Negev establish positions in Elath on the Gulf of Aqaba.

Judith Coplon, an employee of the US Justice Dept. and Valentin A. Gubichev, a Soviet engineer employed by the UN, are indicted on charges of espionage by a federal grand jury in New York.

A federal court in Washington convicts Mildred Gillars of treason for taking part in a radio broadcast from Germany during World War II. Ms. Gillars contends that she renounced her US citizenship when she swore allegiance to Germany and is therefore not liable to be tried for treason. She will be sentenced to 10-30 years in prison and a $10,000 fine.

**11 March 1949** Israel and Transjordan sign a preliminary cease-fire on Rhodes. If the two countries do not reach a complete armistice agreement, this cease-fire will become permanent.

The draft of the North Atlantic Treaty is completed in Washington by representatives of Belgium, Canada, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, the UK, and the US.

Quartet op.109 for three trombones and tuba by Florent Schmitt (48) is performed for the first time, in Paris.

**12 March 1949** Sonatine for piano op.59/1 by Charles Koechlin (81) is performed for the first time, in École Normale de Musique, Paris.

**13 March 1949** *Extinguish My Eyes*, a song for voice and piano by Leonard Bernstein (30) to words of Rilke (tr. Lemont), is performed for the first time, in Town Hall, New York. Also premiered is Fantasy for piano by Arthur Berger (36).

**14 March 1949** Rationing of clothing ends in Great Britain.

470,000 US coal miners east of the Mississippi walk out for two weeks to protest the appointment of James Boyd as Director of Mines by President Truman.

**15 March 1949** The trustees of the Boston Symphony Orchestra decide not to hire Leonard Bernstein (30) as successor to Serge Koussevitzky as music director.

Suite no.2 for strings by Lou Harrison (31) is performed for the first time, in McMillin Theatre, Columbia University.

**16 March 1949** After a telephone conversation with Dmitri Shostakovich (42) about three weeks ago, Comrade Stalin personally issues Order no.3197 of the Council of Ministers of the USSR. It declares the blacklist of 14 February 1948 illegal and reprimands the State Repertoire Committee (Glavrepertkom) for issuing such a decree.

Israeli and Tranjordanian representatives on Rhodes agree to an armistice line equal to the cease-fire lines of 30 November. The Israelis hold the new city of Jerusalem, the Arabs the old city.

*The Meeting on the Elbe*, a film with music by Dmitri Shostakovich (42), is shown for the first time.

**17 March 1949** The first automobile to carry the name Porsche is unveiled at the International Automobile Show in Geneva.

The University of Wisconsin Press publishes *Genesis of a Music* by Harry Partch (47).

**18 March 1949** The US, Canada, and five European nations publish the details of the North Atlantic Treaty. Radio Moscow says that “this pact means war on the Soviet Union.”

Symphony no.4 “The Cycle” by Peter Mennin (25) is performed for the first time, in New York.

**20 March 1949** The All-German Peoples Council, the government of the Soviet occupation zone, approves a constitution.

The three western Allies prohibit use of the Soviet-zone Mark in West Berlin.

**23 March 1949** An armistice between Israel and Lebanon is agreed to in the border town of Ras en Naqura. Israel will withdraw from all Lebanese territory.

John Cage (36) leaves New York on a ship for Amsterdam.

**24 March 1949** Concertino for cello, brass, piano, and percussion by Bohuslav Martinu (58) is performed for the first time, in Prague.

Dmitri Shostakovich (42) arrives in New York as part of a three-man Soviet delegation to the “Cultural and Scientific Conference for World Peace” held under the auspices of the National Council of Arts, Sciences, and Professions. Aaron Copland (48) is the only composer allowed to meet him at the airport. During the conference, Shostakovich delivers a speech (actually by an interpreter in his name) attacking the west.

**25 March 1949** The Danish Parliament votes to sign the North Atlantic Treaty.

The Regents of the University of California require that all employees sign a loyalty oath, affirming that they are not a member of the Communist Party. Roger Sessions (52) will sign this summer.

**26 March 1949** The Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party announces that it is ready to start peace talks in Peking on 1 April.

A conference of the western Allies awards small border areas of Germany to Belgium, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands.

Mikis Theodorakis (23) is one of 35 political prisoners left out of an original number of 30,000 on the island of Makronissos. They refuse to sign a loyalty document and are beaten for ten hours. Theodorakis is tortured until his right leg is broken and his jaw dislocated. He is shortly transferred to a military hospital in Athens where he will remain for two months.

**27 March 1949** The Italian Parliament votes to sign the North Atlantic Treaty.

Aaron Copland (48) addresses the Waldorf Peace Conference in New York on “The Effect of the Cold War on the Artist in the United States.” He laments the current practice of having to choose between “the mass-appeal music of a Shostakovich (42) and the musical radicalism of a Schoenberg (74).”

Before 18,000 people in Madison Square Garden, New York, Dmitri Shostakovich (42) plays a piano reduction of the scherzo from his Fifth Symphony, thus bringing the Waldorf Peace Conference to a close.

Symphony no.7 by Heitor Villa-Lobos (62) is performed for the first time, in London the composer conducting.

**29 March 1949** Karl Amadeus Hartmann (43) is awarded the music prize of the City of Munich.

**30 March 1949** 15 princely states in western India join together to form the new state of Rajasthan (Land of Princes).

Iceland and Portugal agree to sign the North Atlantic Treaty.

The Syrian military overthrows the government of President Shukri al-Kuwatly amidst demonstrations against peace with Israel. However, the new government announces plans to go ahead with negotiations.

**31 March 1949** Newfoundland becomes the tenth province of Canada.

US Senator Glen H. Taylor of Idaho is found guilty of disorderly conduct by a jury in Birmingham, Alabama. During his 1948 campaign for vice-president on the Progressive ticket, he used an entrance to a building reserved for blacks only. Taylor is sentenced to 180 days in jail and a fine of $50. He will appeal.

RCA releases the first 45 rpm record, *Texarkana Baby* by Eddy Arnold.

*Troubled Island*, an opera by William Grant Still (53) to words of Hughes and Arvey, is performed for the first time, in the City Center of Music and Dance, New York. The audience is very appreciative. Critics are generally negative, as has been predicted to Still by Howard Taubman of the *New York Times*. Taubman has warned Still that the critics have decided “the colored boy has gone far enough.”

**1 April 1949** *Symphony of Freedom* for orchestra by Howard Hanson (52) is performed for the first time, in Memorial Hall, Cleveland directed by the composer.

**2 April 1949** A ban on outdoor electric lighting, in force for ten years, ends in Britain.

*Spalicek*, a ballet by Bohuslav Martinu (58) to his own story after Czech fairy tales, is performed for the first time, in the National Theatre, Prague. See 19 September 1933.

**3 April 1949** Delegations from Israel and Transjordan sign an armistice agreement in Rhodes.

Symphony no.1 by Wallingford Riegger (63) is performed for the first time, in New York. It will subsequently be withdrawn by the composer.

**4 April 1949** The North Atlantic Treaty is signed in Washington by foreign ministers of Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom, and the United States to take effect 24 October 1949.

The issue of *Life* magazine dated today includes an article on the Waldorf Peace Conference, including photos of Aaron Copland (48) and Dmitri Shostakovich (42). The magazine tells its readers that the sponsoring group, the National Council of the Arts, Sciences, and Professions is “dominated by intellectuals who fellow-travel the communist line.” Copland’s picture is placed under the words “Dupes and Fellow Travelers Dress Up Communist Fronts.”

*Concerto in modo galante* for cello and orchestra by Joaquín Rodrigo (47) is performed for the first time, in Palacio de la Música, Madrid.

Trio for violin, viola, and cello by Ernst Krenek (48) is performed for the first time, in Wilshire-Ebell Theatre, Los Angeles.

**5 April 1949** Armistice talks between Israel and Syria begin.

*Kentucky Spring* for orchestra by Roy Harris (51) is performed for the first time, in Columbia Auditorium, Louisville conducted by the composer.

**7 April 1949** Chinese communists capture Yicheng (Yizheng), 40 km east of Nanking.

Rogers and Hammerstein’s *South Pacific* opens on Broadway.

**8 April 1949** France, the United Kingdom, and the United States reveal their agreement on the merging of their occupation zone into a single west German republic.

An Order in Council creates the Royal Commission on National Development in the Arts, Letters and Sciences to address several issues in Canadian culture.

Partita pour orchestre de chambre op.205 by Charles Koechlin (81) is performed for the first time, in Strasbourg.

Symphony no.2 “The Age of Anxiety” for piano and orchestra by Leonard Bernstein (30) is performed for the first time, in Boston, the composer at the keyboard.

Music for Brass Choir by Wallingford Riegger (63) is performed for the first time, in New York.

**10 April 1949** The John Simon Guggenheim Foundation fellowships are announced, including ones for John Cage (36), Samuel Barber (39), Peter Mennin (25), Leon Kirchner (30), and Robert Ward (31).

**11 April 1949** John Cage (36) receives a Guggenheim Fellowship. He will use the money to fund a trip to Europe with Merce Cunningham.

**14 April 1949** 19 political and military officials of Nazi Germany receive sentences of up to 25 years for waging aggressive war and crimes against humanity, in Nuremberg. These are the last defendants scheduled to be tried by the US war crimes tribunal at Nuremberg.

**16 April 1949** France ends the rationing of butter, milk, and cheese. Only sugar and coffee remain.

**17 April 1949** Chinese communists give the nationalists until 20 April to accept their 24-point peace plan at the negotiations in Peking.

Warren Storey Smith writes in the *Boston Post* about William Grant Still’s (53) opera *Troubled Island*. It is not only “better than the general run of American operas,” it is “a better show than that current sensation of the Lyric Theatre, Benjamin Britten’s (35) *Peter Grimes*.”

**18 April 1949** Eire becomes the Republic of Ireland and withdraws from the Commonwealth.

Suite for strings by Ulysses Kay (32) is performed for the first time, in Baltimore conducted by the composer.

**19 April 1949** The US House Un-American Activities Committee releases its report on the Waldorf Conference recently held in New York featuring Aaron Copland (48), Marc Blitzstein (44), Dmitri Shostakovich (42), Leonard Bernstein (30), and Lukas Foss (26). It lists names of the participants and describes the “threat” posed by the conference which they call “a supermobilization of inveterate wheelhorses and supporters of the Communist Party and its auxiliary organizations...”

**20 April 1949** The Royal Navy sloop *HMS Amethyst* is attacked by communist guns in the Yangtze near Chinkiang (Zhenjiang). It runs aground. 18 men aboard are killed. *HMS Consort*, coming to the aid of the *Amethyst* is also shelled, killing ten men.

A six-day World Congress of the Partisans of Peace opens in Paris. It is a meeting of artists and intellectuals opposed to western policy in general and the North Atlantic Treaty in particular.

US Secretary of Defense orders the armed services of the country to end all racial discrimination.

**21 April 1949** Today and tomorrow Chinese communists cross the lower Yangtze at four places. Communist guns attack two Royal Navy ships attempting to aid those attacked yesterday. Ten men are killed and the ships retreat.

**22 April 1949** Chinese communists capture Pukow (Pukou), just across the Yangtze from Nanking.

**23 April 1949** Acting President of China, Li Tsung-jen, leaves Nanking for Canton (Guangzhou).

Belgium, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands send troops to take control of some of the border areas awarded them on 26 March.

**24 April 1949** Chinese communist forces capture Nanking, west of Shanghai. They also take Anking (Anqing), further up the Yangtze. Taiyuan, the last nationalist holding in North China, surrenders to the communists.

Rationing of chocolate ends in Great Britain.

**25 April 1949** The three western occupying powers and west German political parties agree on a constitution for West Germany in a meeting in Frankfurt-am-Main.

Three-Page Sonata for piano by Charles Ives (74) is performed for the first time, in the Museum of Modern Art, New York, 44 years after it was composed.

**26 April 1949** Chinese communists capture Suchow (Suzhou), 60 km west of Shanghai.

The government of Transjordan announces that henceforth it will be known as the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

The Soviet news agency TASS reports that the USSR offered to lift the Berlin blockade if the west lifts a counter-blockade of the east, and a date is set for a foreign ministers conference on Germany.

**27 April 1949** *Three fresques* for orchestra by Karel Husa (27) is performed for the first time, in Prague.

**28 April 1949** Bao Dai arrives in Dalat from Paris to take up his post as leader of a unified Vietnam.

A meeting in London of Commonwealth Prime Ministers agrees that India will remain in the organization even after becoming a republic.

Canada ratifies the North Atlantic Treaty.

Leonard Bernstein (30) wins the Boston Symphony Orchestra merit award of $1,000 for his Symphony no.2.

**29 April 1949** *Memories: a. Very Pleasant, b. Rather Sad*, a song by Charles Ives (74) to his own words, is performed for the first time, in Pittsburgh.

Concertante for piano and orchestra by Kenneth Gaburo (22) is performed for the first time, in Rochester, New York, Howard Hanson (52) conducting.

**1 May 1949** The princely state of Baroda is merged with Bombay Province.

Working at the McDonald Observatory in Texas, American astronomer Gerard Kuiper discovers Nereid, the second moon of Neptune to be observed from Earth.

Natural gas is nationalized in Great Britain.

**2 May 1949** Chiang Kai-shek flies to Taiwan from Shanghai.

Virgil Thomson (52) wins the Pulitzer Prize in Music for his *Louisiana Story.* See 22 August 1948 and 26 November 1948.

Lukas Foss (26) and Irving Fine (34) are among six composers who have each contributed a section to the cantata *In Grato Jubilo*, to words of McCord, which is premiered tonight at a farewell dinner for Serge Koussevitzky in Symphony Hall, Boston.

**3 May 1949** Chinese communists enter Hangchow (Hangzhou), 150 km southwest of Shanghai, abandoned by the nationalists.

*Rondó sobre temas infantiles argentinos* op.19 for piano by Alberto Ginastera (33) is performed for the first time, in Buenos Aires.

**4 May 1949** The Four Powers agree to end the blockade of Berlin by 12 May.

**5 May 1949** A statute is signed in London creating the Council of Europe, establishing a Committee of Ministers and a Consultative Assembly seated in Strasbourg. Signing countries are Belgium, Denmark, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, and the United Kingdom.

*Ballad of the Two Mothers* for chorus by Henry Cowell (52) to words of Harald is performed for the first time, in Redlands, California.

**6 May 1949** Maurice Maeterlinck dies in Nice at the age of 86.

*Concerto da Camera* for flute, english horn, and string orchestra by Arthur Honegger (57) is performed for the first time, in Zürich.

*Two Rilke Songs* for voice and piano by George Perle is performed for the first time, in New York the composer at the keyboard on his 34th birthday.

**7 May 1949** Chinese communists capture Kashing (Jiaxing), halfway between Hangchow (Hangzhou) and Shanghai. Shanghai is now cut off from the rest of China.

The Netherlands adheres to the Roem-Royem agreement to release the republican government and hold talks towards resolution of the Indonesian conflict.

Hans Werner Henze’s (22) opera for actors *Das Wundertheater*, after Cervantes, (tr. Graf von Schack), is performed for the first time, in the Heidelberg Stadttheater.

Overture in C for orchestra by Ned Rorem (25) is performed for the first time, in Carnegie Hall.

**8 May 1949** The German Parliamentary Council in Bonn approves the Constitution of the Second German Republic.

**9 May 1949** Prince Louis II of Monaco dies in the principality and is succeeded by his son Ranier III.

**10 May 1949** Richard Strauss (84) and his wife Pauline board a train in Zürich to return to their home in Garmisch. They have not seen it in over three-and-a-half years.

Marc Blitzstein (44) accompanies three singers in excerpts from his unperformed opera *Regina* at a dinner in honor of Serge Koussevitzky in the Waldorf-Astoria, New York.

*Fruit of Gold* for band by Roy Harris (51) is performed for the first time, in UCLA Royce Hall, Westwood, California.

**11 May 1949** Siam officially reverts to Thailand, it is announced by Prime Minister Phibun Songgram.

The State of Israel is admitted to the United Nations.

**12 May 1949** 00:01 Soviet blockade of travel to and from the city of Berlin ends after 328 days, as does the counter blockade by the western powers to the Soviet zone of Germany.

A “Basic Law” (constitution) of the Federal Republic of Germany is approved by the three Allied military governors.

Great Britain and Belgium ratify the North Atlantic Treaty.

**13 May 1949** Full diplomatic relations go into effect between Israel and Great Britain.

John Cage (36) receives a grant from the National Institute of Arts and Letters for his work with percussion and the invention [sic] of the prepared piano.

**14 May 1949** Gerhart Eisler is arrested by British police at Southampton. Sought by US authorities as the most important Soviet spy in North America, Eisler stowed away aboard a Polish ship out of New York. He is discovered when the ship docks in England.

*Song of Songs* for voice and piano by Stefan Wolpe (46) is performed for the first time.

**15 May 1949** A single-list election in Hungary gives 95.6% of the vote to Communists.

Concerto for woodwinds, harp, and orchestra by Paul Hindemith (53) is performed for the first time, in McMillin Theatre of Columbia University. It is his 25th wedding anniversary.

**16 May 1949** Elections take place in the Soviet occupation zone for the All-German Peoples Council from a single communist list. Officially, the no vote is 33.1% although western estimates put it at over 50%.

Ernst Krenek (48) accepts the position of chairman of the composition department at Chicago Musical College.

**17 May 1949** Chinese communist forces capture Hankow (Hankou).

Armistice negotiations between Israel and Syria break down over Syrian insistence on holding on to an Israeli border town.

The Second Symphony of Roger Sessions (52) wins a Naumburg Musical Foundation award.

**18 May 1949** A Cello Sonata by Francis Poulenc (50) is performed for the first time, in Salle Gaveau, Paris the composer at the piano.

*Sabbath Morning Service* op.279 by Darius Milhaud (56) is performed for the first time, in Temple Emanuel, San Francisco.

**19 May 1949** *Penny Arcade*, a cycle for voice and piano by Ned Rorem (25) to words of Norse, is performed for the first time, in the McMillan Theatre, New York the composer at the keyboard.Also premiered is Piano Sonata no.1 by Leon Kirchner (30), by the composer.

*Grinnell Fanfare* for brass and organ by Henry Cowell (52) is performed for the first time, in Herrick Chapel, Grinnell College, Iowa.

**21 May 1949** Chinese communists announce that they have occupied Sian (Xi’an) in the northwest.

16,000 railroad workers in Berlin go on strike. They live in the Soviet zone but work in the western zone and demand to be paid in western Marks. Fights break out between the strikers, East Berlin police, and communist workers. 500 people are injured.

George Crumb (19) marries Elizabeth May Brown, a fellow student at Mason College in Charleston, West Virginia.

**22 May 1949** 06:40 Hans Erich Pfitzner dies in Salzburg of pneumonia, aged 80 years and 17 days. His mortal remains will be laid to rest in Vienna’s Zentralfriedhof.

US Secretary of Defense James Forrestal jumps from a 16th floor window of Bethesda Naval Hospital to his death. He is being treated for depression. It is his fourth suicide attempt.

Concertante for clarinet and orchestra by Norman Dello Joio (36) is performed for the first time, at Chautauqua, New York by Artie Shaw who commissioned the work.

**23 May 1949** For the first time since December 1947, foreign ministers of France, Great Britain, the USSR, and the United States meet to discuss the future of Germany, in Paris.

A constituent assembly proclaims the Federal Republic of Germany in the three western occupation zones.

The Romanian government decrees that all radios must be registered. The Romanian Press Agency begins censorship.

Ten screenwriters and directors file an anti-trust suit in Los Angeles asking $52,000,000 from ten film producers. The ten refused to answer questions before the House Un-American Activities Committee and were blacklisted by the producers.

**24 May 1949** West Berlin police force East Berlin rail workers out of railway stations. They are there as part of a strike against the railroads.

Victor Reuther, a leader of the US United Auto Workers and brother of the union’s president, is seriously injured in the face and shoulder by a shotgun blast through the window of his home in Redford, Michigan. He will lose an eye.

**25 May 1949** After two-weeks of fighting, Chinese communist forces capture Shanghai.

Ned Rorem (25) sails from New York aboard the *SS Washington* making for France.

**26 May 1949** British authorities in Hamburg release Field Marshal Karl von Rundstedt.

Thomas Merton is ordained a Trappist priest at Our Lady of Gethsemani Monastery in Kentucky.

**27 May 1949** Soviet authorities once again blockade shipments to West Berlin.

A British court rejects a US request for extradition of Gerhart Eisler. He is freed and goes to Germany.

The US Navy announces that it is evacuating Tsingtao (Qingdao), the last Nationalist city in north China.

Stefan Wolpe (46) receives a $1,000 grant from the US National Institute of Arts and Letters.

**28 May 1949** About 50 people are killed in clashes between workers and troops in a strike by tin miners in Catavi, Bolivia.

**29 May 1949** Communists take over the Central Bank in Shanghai and declare the gold yuan void as of 5 Jun. Most newspapers in Shanghai are suspended.

*Night Music* for orchestra by Robert Ward (31) is performed for the first time, at the National Gallery of Art, Washington.

**30 May 1949** The All-German Peoples Council adopts a constitution for the German Democratic Republic.

French singer Germaine Lubin is condemned by the Chambre civique in Paris to five years of “degradation nationale.” During the occupation, she appeared at the Paris Opéra as Isolde in a production by a Berlin opera company.

**31 May 1949** The Big-Four foreign ministers meeting in Paris reaches an impasse on the unification of Germany.

Luxembourg ratifies the North Atlantic Treaty.

The trial of former State Department official Alger Hiss on two counts of perjury opens in federal court in New York.

**1 June 1949** India takes over the princely state of Bhopal.

**2 June 1949** The US Federal Communications Commission rules that radio stations may editorialize provided that they air all responsible views.

**3 June 1949** Chinese Communist forces take Tsingtao (Qingdao) without opposition. It was the last Nationalist holding in northern China.

Under cross-examination in the perjury trial of Alger Hiss, the prosecution’s star witness, Whittaker Chambers, admits that he lied under oath at least seven times, including lies to the grand jury that indicted Hiss.

**6 June 1949** India takes control of Sikkim.

**7 June 1949** Home brewing of beer is legalized in western Germany. It was banned in 1939 in a move to ration grain.

At the perjury trial of Alger Hiss, Whittaker Chambers names four other people who gave him information to pass to the Soviets.

At the invitation of Olivier Messiaen (40), to whom he had been introduced by Pierre Boulez (24), John Cage (36) performs his Sonatas and Interludes for prepared piano to Messiaen’s students at the Salle Gounod of the Paris Conservatoire.

**8 June 1949** In Shanghai, the Communists ban all political parties associated with Chiang Kai-shek’s Kuomintang.

Richard Strauss (84) is made an honorary citizen of Bayreuth.

At her Paris home, Ned Rorem (25) meets Nadia Boulanger (61) for the first time.

*1984* by George Orwell is published in London.

A committee of the California Senate publishes a 700-page report on communism in the film industry. They list hundreds of actors, musicians, writers, and others of being communists or communist sympathizers. They include Pearl S. Buck, Charles Chaplin, Howard da Silva, John Garfield, Lillian Hellman, Katharine Hepburn, Lena Horne, Danny Kaye, Gene Kelly, Frederic March, Burgess Meredith, Clifford Odets, Dorothy Parker, Gregory Peck, Edward G. Robinson, Artie Shaw, Frank Sinatra, and Orson Welles.

**10 June 1949** Great Britain announces that it is resuming arms shipments to Arab countries in spite of the UN ban against arms to the warring parties in the Middle East.

The US Senate Judiciary Committee publishes the names of ten more people accused of being Communist informants by Elizabeth Bentley.

Richard Strauss conducts the end of Act II of *Der Rosenkavalier* in the Prinzregententheater in Munich, on the eve of his 85th birthday. It is the last time he will conduct in public.

**15 June 1949** Parties favoring union with Italy win 40 of 60 seats in elections to the city council of Trieste.

**14 June 1949** The State of Vietnam is declared independent within the French Union under Bao Dai, rivaling the Democratic Republic of Vietnam led by Ho Chi Minh.

Benjamin Britten’s (35) chamber opera *The Little Sweep* to words of Crozier is performed for the first time, in Jubilee Hall, Aldeburgh.

*Tell me the Truth about Love*, a cabaret song by Benjamin Britten (35) to words of Auden, is performed for the first time, over the airwaves of the BBC.

**15 June 1949** The three western powers turn over all power in West Berlin to the city authorities, except security and foreign affairs.

**16 June 1949** Violent purges of the Hungarian Workers Party begin.

**17 June 1949** Chinese communists reopen the port of Shanghai after clearing it of mines.

John Cage (36) performs his Sonatas and Interludes for prepared piano at the Paris salon of Suzanne Tézenas, with introductory remarks by Pierre Boulez (24).

Variations for piano by Hans Werner Henze (22) is performed for the first time, in Frankfurt.

*A Solemn Music* for band by Virgil Thomson (52) is performed for the first time, in Central Park, New York.

**18 June 1949** Seven Zionists are convicted in Budapest of helping Jews escape Hungary to Israel. They are given sentences of from six months to three years.

**19 June 1949** The French possession of Chandernagore votes overwhelmingly for union with India.

Archbishop Josef Beran is placed under house arrest in Prague.

**20 June 1949** The Chinese nationalist government announces that all communist-held ports will be subject to bombing beginning 26 June. Foreign ships are warned to stay away.

A meeting of Big Four foreign ministers in Paris adjourns after agreeing on an outline for an Austrian peace treaty. They make no headway on their differences over Germany. The three western foreign ministers sign a charter providing for a civilian Allied High Commission to exercise authority after the Federal Republic comes into being.

*Stradivario*, a ballet by Gian Francesco Malipiero (67) to his own story, is performed for the first time, in a concert setting in Teatro Pergola, Florence. See 3 June 1958.

**21 June 1949** Czechoslovakia executes General Heliodor Píka for spying for Great Britain.

On the first day of desegregated municipal swimming facilities and playgrounds ordered by Mayor Joseph Darst of St. Louis, 200 white boys attack 50 black boys at a pool. The mayor will rescind the order tomorrow.

**22 June 1949** Nocturne (W41) for piano by Peter Sculthorpe (20) is performed for the first time, in Assembly Hall, Melbourne.

*La naissance des couleurs*, a ballet by Arthur Honegger (57) to a story by Klausz and Morax, is performed for the first time, at the Paris Opéra.

**23 June 1949** Alger Hiss takes the stand at his perjury trial and denies all charges against him.

**24 June 1949** Dutch troops begin evacuating Yogyakarta, Java.

Prime Minister Themistoklis Panagiotou Sophoulis of Greece dies in an Athens suburb after a stroke.

A nationwide strike of 1,000,000 Italian farm workers ends when the government promises them a contract, the first in the country’s history.

**26 June 1949** The Roman Catholic Church in Czechoslovakia issues a denunciation of the government’s attempt to control and silence it. They accuse the government of arbitrary arrests, kidnapping, theft, fraud, and lying.

The Christian People’s Party and the Liberals increase their shares of the vote in Belgian parliamentary elections at the expense of the ruling Socialists. Women vote for the first time in Belgian national elections.

*Apollo et Hyazinthus* for alto and eight players by Hans Werner Henze (22) to words of Trakl, is performed for the first time, in Frankfurt.

**27 June 1949** 24,000 Australian coal miners strike for higher pay and fewer hours.

The government of Czechoslovakia bans all pastoral letters or other communications from the Catholic Church, unless approved in advance by civil authorities.

Olivier Messiaen (40) sails from Le Havre aboard the *De Grasse* on his first trip to the United States.

General elections in Canada result in a big win for the Liberal Party of Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent, taking 191 of 262 seats.

**28 June 1949** The government of India seizes 75% of the assets of the country’s princes. They are each allowed one palace and one other residence.

String Quartet no.5 by Ross Lee Finney (42) is performed for the first time, at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

**29 June 1949** Indonesian troops re-enter Yogya after the Dutch depart.

The last 1,500 US combat troops depart Korea, leaving only military advisors.

*Johnny*, a cabaret song by Benjamin Britten (35) to words of Auden, is performed for the first time, over the airwaves of the BBC Third Programme.

**30 June 1949** Bärenreiter Verlag, Kassel, begins publication of *Die Musik in Geschichte und Gegenwart*.

Alexandros Nikolaou Diomidis replaces Themistoklis Panagiotou Sophoulis as Prime Minister of Greece.

Great Britain joins the United States in refusing to recognize the closure of Chinese ports.

Judith Coplon, an employee of the Justice Department, is found guilty of stealing classified documents to deliver to her lover, a Soviet agent. She will be sentenced to 40 months to ten years. The conviction will be overturned because the FBI lied about using illegal wiretaps during the investigation.

Harvard University and Brown University announce that they have hired African-American professors for the first time.

**1 July 1949** Reports reach Prague that Slovak peasants beat to death at least two policemen who tried to arrest priests.

Pope Pius XII proclaims that Roman Catholics who profess, defend, or spread communism will be excommunicated.

Dockworkers in London go on strike.

*L’enfant aime* for piano op.289 by Darius Milhaud (56) is performed for the first time, at the University of Wyoming, Laramie.

**2 July 1949** Prime Minister Georgi Dimitrov of Bulgaria dies near Moscow of diabetes. He is replaced by Vasil Petrov Kolarov.

**6 July 1949** The government of the Republic of Indonesia is re-established in Yogyakarta as President Sukarno returns to the city.

Sadanori Shimoyama, President of the National Railway of Japan, is found beaten to death on the tracks in Tokyo. He recently ordered the sacking of 30,000 workers in an austerity measure.

William Walton (47) writes to Yale University turning down their offer to succeed Paul Hindemith (53) as Professor of Composition.

A convention of the National Education Association in Boston votes to ban Communist teachers from US schools.

Olivier Messiaen (40) arrives in New York aboard the *De Grasse* and goes to Tanglewood the same day. At Tanglewood he will teach composition and analysis. Among his students is Easley Blackwood (16).

**7 July 1949** Sergey Prokofiev (58) suffers a stroke in Moscow. Although he will recover, it is part of a downward trend in his health that has been going on over the last ten years.

The Czechoslovak government puts all religious denominations under government control.

British troops are sent to the London docks to move food in the face of a strike.

Paris police seize the film *The Iron Curtain* after a civil court complaint that it uses the music of Soviet composers without their consent.

Julio Saraceni’s film *Nace la libertad*, with music by Alberto Ginastera (33), is released in Argentina.

**8 July 1949** Greek government troops capture the rebel stronghold of Mt. Kaimakchalan.

Bishop Moric Picha of Hradec Kralove is arrested by Czechoslovak authorities.

Ned Rorem (25) has his first lengthy meeting with Francis Poulenc (50) in Poulenc’s Paris home. Rorem says Poulenc is “the twentieth-century composer to whose work I feel most akin.”

The perjury trial of former State Department official Alger Hiss ends in a hung jury in a federal court in New York.

Leon Kirchner (30) marries Gertrude Schoenberg, a singer, in a civil ceremony in Oakland, California.

**9 July 1949** US Vice-Consul William Olive is released in Shanghai after three days in custody. Consul-General John Cabot charges that Olive was “brutally beaten” by the communists.

Rep. Richard Nixon declares that Alger Hiss was not convicted because the trial judge favored the defense.

**10 July 1949** An earthquake and landslide destroy over 30 villages in the Tajik SSR, USSR. Around 7,000 people are killed.

The second version of the Concerto for orchestra by Bernd Alois Zimmermann (31) is performed for the first time, in Darmstadt.

Duke Ellington (50) appears on television for the first time, on the NBC program Garroway at Large in Chicago.

**11 July 1949** The USSR virtually halts truck traffic to and from Berlin for the next four days.

A state of emergency is declared in Great Britain because of the dock strike.

**13 July 1949** Pope Pius XII excommunicates all Communist Party members.

**14 July 1949** *Spring Symphony* for solo voices, chorus, and orchestra by Benjamin Britten (35) is performed for the first time, in the Concertgebouw, Amsterdam.

**15 July 1949** Truck traffic to and from Berlin returns to normal.

The Norwegian soprano Kirsten Flagstad is banned by the San Francisco Opera House because of her alleged activities during the war.

**16 July 1949** Chinese nationalist authorities create a Supreme Council in Canton (Guangzhou) under Chiang Kai-shek, which begins the transfer of forces to Taiwan.

**17 July 1949** Catholic priests in Prague announce to their congregations that they support their bishops against the government.

**19 July 1949** Laos becomes an associated state within the French Union.

The Czechoslovak government announces that anyone seeking to enforce the Pope’s excommunication order of 13 July will be considered a traitor.

The Florida National Guard is called out to restore order in Groveland after white mobs terrorize blacks with four days burning and shooting.

**20 July 1949** An armistice between Israel and Syria is agreed to at Mishmar hay Yarden in northern Galilee, thus ending open hostilities between Israel and its Arab neighbors. Syria withdraws from the former mandate. A demilitarized zone is established.

Acting Prime Minister Vasil Petrov Kolarov of Bulgaria takes on the office in full.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Hindemith (53) depart Yale University, driving to Colorado Springs where he will conduct and give lectures at Colorado College.

**21 July 1949** The United States ratifies the North Atlantic Treaty.

*A Curse and a Blessing* for symphonic band by Henry Cowell (52) is performed for the first time, in New York.

**22 July 1949** A three-week old strike by dock workers in London ends.

**23 July 1949** Yugoslavia closes its borders with Greece and ends all aid to the Greek Communists.

**24 July 1949** Four black men are beaten and shot by several hooded men near Sandy Bottom, South Carolina. The hooded men say, “This is your civil rights.”

**25 July 1949** The Norwegian government exonerates soprano Kirsten Flagstad in the Nazi activities of her husband.

A committee of the US Senate begins an investigation into “the extent and trend of the economic power of unions.”

Concerto for String Orchestra by Bernd Alois Zimmermann (31), a reworking of his string quartet of 1943, is performed for the first time, in Schloß Brühl.

**26 July 1949** Kevin Volans is born in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa.

*Reincarnations* op.16 for chorus by Samuel Barber (39) to words of Stephens, is performed completely for the first time, in New York. See 17 April 1939.

**27 July 1949** Portugal ratifies the North Atlantic Treaty.

Iran bars interference in state affairs by non-Moslem religious leaders.

**28 July 1949** A new steel tower for the black-owned radio station WEDR in Birmingham, Alabama is destroyed by five white men.

**29 July 1949** The United States and Great Britain announce that the Berlin airlift will be reduced beginning 1 August and end completely by 31 October.

Incidental music to Cocteau’s play *Marriage at the Eiffel Tower* by Lou Harrison (32) is performed for the first time, at Reed College, Oregon conducted by the composer. Also premiered is Harrison’s incidental music to Yeats’ play *The Only Jealousy of Emer.* See 20 October 1961.

**30 July 1949** France and Italy ratify the North Atlantic Treaty.

**1 August 1949** Dutch and Indonesian representatives sign a new cease-fire agreement in Batavia (Jakarta).

The San Francisco Opera House rescinds its ban on Kirsten Flagstad.

**2 August 1949** Piano Quintet by Walter Piston (55) is performed for the first time, in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

**4 August 1949** Ned Rorem (25) and friends take a ship from southern France to Algeria, arriving 5 August.

**5 August 1949** Chinese communists capture Changsha.

The US State Department issues a white paper calling the nationalists in China a lost cause. They say any further aid to Chiang Kai-shek would be wasted.

An earthquake centered near Ambato, Ecuador kills at least 6,000 people. About 50 towns are destroyed leaving 100,000 people homeless.

**6 August 1949** Poland announces severe penalties for anyone enforcing the Pope’s excommunication decree of 13 July.

**8 August 1949** The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe meets for the first time, in Strasbourg.

*Life* magazine includes a four-page article on Jackson Pollock. It makes him a star.

*Cantata for a Youth Festival* for solo voices, chorus, and orchestra by Györgi Ligeti (26) is performed for the first time, in Budapest.

**9 August 1949** Carl Orff’s (54) musical play *Antigonae* to words of Hölderlin after Sophocles is performed for the first time, in the Felsenreitschule, Salzburg.

**10 August 1949** The Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe meets for the first time, in Strasbourg.

Gaston Eyskens replaces Paul Henri Spaak as Prime Minister of Belgium.

1,000 displaced Jews march on the Munich offices of *Suddeutsche Zeitung* to protest a letter to the editor which suggested that all German Jews be sent to the gas chamber. A riot ensues in which 30 policemen are injured by flying missiles hurled by the mob. Four rioters are injured when police fire into the crowd.

The Hungarian Workers Party creates organizations to regulate and socialize the arts.

String Quartet no.14, String Quartet no.15, and String Octet by Darius Milhaud (56) are performed for the first time, at Mills College, Oakland.

**11 August 1949** A cease-fire is declared on Java.

**14 August 1949** The first open federal elections since 1933 are held in Germany. The Social Democrats win the highest number of seats but center-right parties will form the government.

President Hosni Zayim and Prime Minister Mohsen al Barazi of Syria are taken prisoner, tried, and executed in Damascus by army officers. Colonel Sami Hinnawi takes power.

Aaron Copland (48) is driving in Richmond, Massachusetts, near Tanglewood, with Irving Fine (34) and his wife. In another car are Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Berger (37). Copland accidentally runs into and kills a cow, destroying his car in the process. All survive in tact (except for the cow), but when the police arrive they arrest Copland and hold him until he is bailed out of jail at 02:00 by Fine. Copland will be charged with “operating to endanger” and fined $35 for the cow.

**15 August 1949** A cease-fire is declared on Sumatra.

Richard Strauss (85) suffers a heart attack.

**16 August 1949** French paratroopers begin an offensive north of Hanoi.

Chinese communists capture Kanhsien and continue on into Kwangtung (Guangdong) province.

Riots begin in Santiago, Chile over a rise in bus fares.

**17 August 1949** Chinese communists capture Foochow (Fuzhou) and its port.

An earthquake centered near Karliova, Turkey kills 320 people.

Seven people are killed in Santiago, Chile in riots over bus fares.

*Sacred Service* for solo voice, speaker, chorus, and organ by Darius Milhaud (56) is performed for the first time, in Temple Emanu-El, San Francisco.

**18 August 1949** Parliament adopts a constitution for the Hungarian People’s Republic, formalizing communist control of the country which has existed since June 1947.

Claiming a communist coup is underway, the government of Chile proclaims martial law in Santiago.

**19 August 1949** *Cantata for a Youth Festival* for solo voices, chorus, and orchestra by Györgi Ligeti (26) is performed for the first time, at the Budapest Opera.

**20 August 1949** Ulysses Kay (32) marries Barbara Harrison, a schoolteacher from Chicago, in Columbus, Ohio.

The government of Chile extends martial law to the entire country.

**21 August 1949** Leslie Bassett (26) marries Anita Elizabeth Denniston in Los Angeles.

*New York Profiles* for orchestra by Norman Dello Joio (36) is performed for the first time, in La Jolla, California.

**23 August 1949** Hungarian President Arpád Szákasits becomes Chairman of the Presidium under the new constitution.

A round-table discussion begins at The Hague on the future of Indonesia.

President Domingo Díaz Arosemena dies in Panama City of a heart attack.

**24 August 1949** The government of Czechoslovakia announces that fairy tales are banned from the nation’s schools.

**25 August 1949** *Archaic Ritual* for orchestra by William Grant Still (54) is performed for the first time, in the Hollywood Bowl.

**26 August 1949** Joaquín Rodrigo (47) and his wife sail from Bilbao aboard the *SS Monte Udala* making for Buenos Aires.

**27 August 1949** Richard Strauss (85) suffers several attacks of angina at his home in Garmisch.

Olivier Messiaen (40) reaches Le Havre aboard the *Île de France* after spending almost two months at Tanglewood.

**28 August 1949** Chinese communists take Lanchow (Lanzhou), the capital of Kansu Province.

The Greek government army captures the last important rebel stronghold, in the Grammos Mountains.

**29 August 1949** The USSR explodes its first atomic bomb, at Semipalatinsk (Semey, Kazakhstan). The fact will not be revealed for a month.

*Hommage à Chopin* for piano by Heitor Villa-Lobos (62) is performed for the first time. The work was commissioned by UNESCO to mark the centennial of the death of Chopin.

**31 August 1949** Carol Reed’s film *The Third Man* is released in the United Kingdom.

The last encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic ends in Indianapolis. Only six of the 16 remaining members attend. At its peak, the GAR boasted 408,489 members.

**2 September 1949** 16:00 Fire breaks out in Chungking (Chongqing) and burns for 18 hours. 2,800 people are killed, 100,000 are homeless, 10,000 buildings are damaged or destroyed.

*Mountain Song, A Symphonic Song Ceremony of the High Sierras* op.90 for chorus and orchestra by Arthur Farwell (77) is performed for the first time, in St. Paul, Minnesota.

**3 September 1949** All independent insurance companies in Romania are ordered to dissolve within six months.

Concerto symphonique for piano and orchestra by Ernest Bloch (69) is performed for the first time, in Edinburgh, the composer conducting.

**4 September 1949** White rioters, including policemen and American Legion members, stone and beat spectators leaving a concert by Paul Robeson in Peekskill, New York. Rioters shout racist and anti-Semitic epithets at the victims. At least 145 people are injured.

**5 September 1949** Gunfire breaks out between Milan police and workers demonstrating against layoffs. Three people are killed.

**7 September 1949** The government of the Federal Republic of Germany is constituted in Bonn as the Bundestag meets for the first time.

José Clemente Orozco dies in Mexico City at the age of 65.

**8 September 1949** 14:12 Richard Georg Strauss dies while sleeping, from poisoning brought on by an inoperable kidney stone, at his home in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, aged 85 years, two months, and 28 days. After a death mask is made, the mortal remains will be cremated according to his wish.

Gunfire breaks out during a meeting of the Chamber of Deputies in Bogotá. One deputy is killed, three injured.

**9 September 1949** Pope Pius XII allows Czechoslovak citizens to pledge loyalty to the government without endorsing communism.

**10 September 1949** Eight high Hungarian officials are indicted in Budapest, charged with plotting the overthrow of the government.

**11 September 1949** The earthly remains of Richard Strauss are cremated in Munich. (They are housed at the Richard Strauss Villa in Garmisch)

In Virgil Thomson’s (52) column in the *New York* *Herald-Tribune*, Arnold Schoenberg (74) states that Aaron Copland (48) has made “malicious statements” about him, comparing Copland with Stalin. Ironically, Copland is simultaneously composing his Piano Quartet, his first to employ serial techniques.

**12 September 1949** Theodor Heuss becomes the first President of the Federal Republic of Germany.

A memorial service for Richard Strauss is held in the Ostfriedhof in Munich. Many dignitaries are present. According to Strauss’ wish, the final trio from *Der Rosenkavalier* is performed, but the three sopranos are so overcome with grief that one by one they drop out. The orchestra plays on and they all manage to reenter before the end.

**13 September 1949** Phantasy for violin and piano by Arnold Schoenberg is performed for the first time, in Los Angeles on the composer’s 75th birthday.

**14 September 1949** Governor Thomas E. Dewey of New York orders a grand jury investigation into the riot of 4 September at a concert by Paul Robeson. He says communists provoked the melee.

**15 September 1949** Konrad Adenauer becomes the first Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany heading a four party coalition of his Christian Democrats, the liberal Free Democrats, the Christian Social Union, and the right-wing German Party.

**16 September 1949** Fire breaks out aboard the liner *SS Noronic* while docked in Toronto. The city fire department puts out the fire within three hours but not before 120-140 people are killed. The ship is a total loss.

Joaquín Rodrigo (47) and his wife arrive in Buenos Aires from Bilbao after a stop in Montevideo.

**17 September 1949** Pursuant to the North Atlantic Treaty signed on 4 April, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization is established.

*Words for Music, Perhaps*, a cycle for voice, flute, clarinet, and cello by Arthur Berger (37) to words of Yeats, is performed for the first time, in Saratoga Springs, New York.

**18 September 1949** The British government announces the devaluation of the pound from $4.03 to $2.80. By the end of the week, 24 other countries will devalue their currencies.

**20 September 1949** With the opening of the UN General Assembly session, Yugoslavia begins abstaining or voting against the USSR on all major issues.

**21 September 1949** Mao Tse-tung proclaims a People’s Republic of China at a meeting of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference in Peking.

**22 September 1949** *San Francesco d’Assisi*, a mistero by Gian Francesco Malipiero (67) to words of St. Francis and Jacopo da Todi, is staged for the first time, in a concert setting in Perugia. See 29 March 1922.

**23 September 1949** US President Truman announces that an atomic explosion has recently taken place in the USSR. It actually took place in late August. This ends the American monopoly on nuclear weapons.

**24 September 1949** Sentences are handed down in Budapest in the trial of eight former high officials of the Hungarian government. Three are sentenced to death. Three receive lengthy prison sentences. Two are turned over to a military court for sentencing.

Arnold Schoenberg (75) is named an honorary citizen of Vienna.

Ernest MacMillan (56) gives his last organ recital, at Grace Church on-the-Hill, Toronto.

**25 September 1949** Ningsia (Ningxia) Province surrenders to Chinese Communists.

The Soviet news agency TASS announces the successful test of a Soviet atomic bomb.

Aaron Copland’s (48) response to Arnold Schoenberg’s (75) letter published 11 September appears in the *New York Herald-Tribune*. He denies he ever tried to suppress Schoenberg’s music and heaps praise upon him. Copland then chides Virgil Thomson (52) for defending him so weakly.

**28 September 1949** Sinkiang (Xinjiang) Province recognizes the communist government in Peking.

Ballett-Variationen for orchestra by Hans Werner Henze (23) is performed for the first time, in a concert setting in the Schumann-Saal, Düsseldorf. See 21 December 1958.

**29 September 1949** The USSR ends its mutual friendship treaty with Yugoslavia.

The Argentine Chamber of Deputies removes the immunity of opposition leader Ricardo Balbin so that he may be tried for a speech criticizing President Perón.

*A Wedding Anthem* op.46 for soprano, tenor, chorus, and organ by Benjamin Britten (35) to words of Duncan, is performed for the first time, at the wedding of Lord Harewood with Marion Stein in St. Mark’s, London conducted by the composer. King George and Queen Elizabeth, aunt and uncle of the groom, are in attendance.

**30 September 1949** Poland and Hungary end their mutual friendship treaties with Yugoslavia.

In the face of worldwide pressure, the conservative Greek government ends two years of political executions which resulted in thousands of deaths.

Sonata for violin and piano by William Walton (47) is performed for the first time, in the Zürich Tonhalle.

**1 October 1949** The People’s Republic of China is proclaimed under Chairman of the Central People’s Government Mao Tse-tung (Mao Zedong) and Prime Minister Chou En-lai (Jo Enlai).

Bulgaria and Romania end their mutual friendship treaties with Yugoslavia.

**2 October 1949** The USSR recognizes the People’s Republic of China.

**3 October 1949** Bulgaria and Romania recognize the People’s Republic of China.

Works commissioned by UNESCO for the 100th anniversary of Chopin's death are performed for the first time, in the Salle Gaveau, Paris. Among them are Estudio IVfor piano by Carlos Chávez (50), and Mazurka-Nocturne for oboe, two violins, and cello by Bohuslav Martinu (58).

Pastorale for oboe, harp, and strings op.38 by Howard Hanson (52) is performed for the first time, in Paris in a reduction for oboe and piano. See 20 October 1950.

**4 October 1949** Poland, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia recognize the People’s Republic of China. The United States reaffirms its recognition of the Chiang Kai-shek government.

**5 October 1949** Yugoslavia recognizes the People’s Republic of China.

**6 October 1949** *The Heiress*, a film with music by Aaron Copland (48), is shown for the first time, in Radio City Music Hall, New York.

Piano Sonata no.1 by Ned Rorem (25) is performed for the first time, in Town Hall, New York.

*Regina*, an opera by Marc Blitzstein (44) to words of Hellman and the composer, is performed for the first time, in the Shubert Theatre, New Haven.

**7 October 1949** The USSR proclaims the German Democratic Republic in its occupation zone.

**8 October 1949** String Quartet no.4 by Heitor Villa-Lobos (62) is performed for the first time, in Rio de Janeiro, 32 years after it was composed.

**9 October 1949** Harvard Law School announces it will admit women beginning next year.

In parliamentary elections in Austria both the ruling People’s Party and the Socialist Party lose seats to the new far-right Electoral Party of Independents. The two largest parties form a coalition led by Chancellor Leopold Figl.

**10 October 1949** Eight of the nine diplomats at the Chinese embassy in Paris announce their allegiance to the People’s Republic of China. France removes their diplomatic status.

Parliamentary elections in Norway result in a gain of nine seats for the ruling Labor Party.

**11 October 1949** The government of the German Democratic Republic takes power. Wilhelm Pieck is named President, Otto Grotewohl becomes Prime Minister and Walter Ulbricht is Chairman of the Communist Party.

*Shangri-La* for piano “by Max Davies of Swinton” (Peter Maxwell Davies (15)) is performed for the first time, on the BBC Children’s Hour originating in Manchester.

**12 October 1949** The government of the Republic of China flees from Canton (Guangzhou) to Chungking (Chongqing).

Ned Rorem (25) ends his sojourn in North Africa by flying from Tangier to France.

Selections from the *Guia prática* for piano, from albums ten and eleven, by Heitor Villa-Lobos (62), are performed for the first time, in Rio de Janeiro.

**14 October 1949** Nationalist troops retreating from Canton (Guangzhou) set off fires and explosions throughout the city. Hundreds of people are killed when they blow up the Pearl River Bridge.

The Irish government announces plans to nationalize all road, rail, and water transportation.

Eleven leaders of the Communist Party of the United States are convicted in New York of conspiring to advocate the violent overthrow of the United States government. The judge accepts the verdict and charges five defense lawyers with contempt of court, handing out sentences ranging from 30 days to six months.

**15 October 1949** Communist forces occupy Canton (Guangzhou) without resistance.

Former Hungarian Foreign Minister László Rajk, a communist, and two other former officials are hanged for treason in Budapest.

**16 October 1949** Mongolia recognizes the Peoples Republic of China.

Leftist rebels in Greece announce a unilateral cease-fire. An estimated 158,000 people died in the conflict, and 800,000 were made refugees.

**17 October 1949** Chinese communists take control of Amoy (Xiamen), Swatow (Shantou), and Shumchun on the coast near Hong Kong.

Laurence Louis Sharkey, Secretary-General of the Australian Communist Party, is sentenced to three years in jail for sedition.

Ilse Koch is released from Landsberg Prison, west of Munich after serving a reduced four-year term for war crimes. She is rearrested by German authorities for killing 24 German citizens in Buchenwald.

**19 October 1949** Osanu Satano receives a prison sentence of five years for helping to kill a captured American pilot. He is the last of 4,200 Japanese convicted of war crimes.

The Pennsylvania Railroad ends racial segregation on all trains from New York traveling south of Washington.

*Les rêves de Jacob* op.294 for oboe, violin, viola, cello, and bass by Darius Milhaud (57) is performed for the first time, at Jacob’s Pillow, Massachusetts.

**20 October 1949** *Simplicius simplicissimus*, a chamber opera by Karl Amadeus Hartmann (44) to words of Scherchen, Petzet, and the composer after von Grimmelshausen, is staged for the first time, in Cologne. See 2 April 1948 and 9 July 1957.

Serenade for orchestra by Norman Dello Joio (36) is performed for the first time, in Cleveland. It is the orchestral setting of his ballet *Diversion of Angels.* See 13 August 1948.

Chaconne for violin and piano by David Diamond (34) is performed for the first time, in Town Hall, New York.

**21 October 1949** Shulamit Ran is born in Tel Aviv, the only child of Zvi Ran, an immigrant from Germany who owns a jewelry and dental supply business, and Berta Ran, a Lithuanian immigrant who works in public relations.

Eleven leaders of the Communist Party of the United States are sentenced in New York following their conviction on 14 October. All receive a $10,000 fine, ten defendants receive five-year jail sentences, one three years due to his war record.

**22 October 1949** A purge of non-communists begins among East Germany’s political leaders and broadcasters.

The House Un-American Activities Committee calls the Congress of American Women a Communist-front organization “composed primarily of hard core Communist Party members…”

Duo no.1 for violin and piano by Arthur Berger (37) is performed for the first time, in Town Hall, New York.

**23 October 1949** In Paris, Ned Rorem celebrates his 26th birthday by burning his draft card.

Benjamin Britten (35) and Peter Pears begin a recital tour of North America in New York.

**24 October 1949** The United States Consul-General and four other members of the Mukden (Shenyang) consular staff are arrested on charges of beating a Chinese employee.

Four high-ranking members of the Hungarian military are hanged for plotting against the government.

On the fourth anniversary of the United Nations, the permanent headquarters site in New York is dedicated. Secretary-General Trygve Lie lays the cornerstone which contains copies of the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the dedication program.

String Quartet no.1 op.20 by Alberto Ginastera (33) is performed for the first time, in Buenos Aires.

**25 October 1949** The Soviet Union requests that Yugoslavia withdraw its ambassador, charging him with espionage.

Czechoslovakia expels a staff member of the US embassy for spying.

The Roman Catholic bishops of Czechoslovakia allow priests to sign loyalty oaths to the government if a reservation is added that they do nothing “in contradiction to the laws of God and the Church and the rights of man.”

Premier Maurice Duplessis of Quebec bans the film *Oliver Twist* (music by Arnold Bax (65)) because of protests that the character of Fagin is anti-Semitic.

**26 October 1949** String Quartet no.3by Peter Sculthorpe (20) is performed for the first time, in the British Music Society Rooms, Melbourne.

**27 October 1949** The German Democratic Republic recognizes the Peoples Republic of China.

Czechoslovakia expels two staff member of the French embassy for spying.

The Belgian Senate approves a plebiscite on the return of the King.

**28 October 1949** Georges Bidault replaces Henri Queuille as Prime Minister of France.

Incidental music to Shakespeare’s play *The Merry Wives of Windsor* by Witold Lutoslawski (36) is performed for the first time, in Teatr Polski, Warsaw.

**29 October 1949** Because of the compromise of 25 October, the Czechoslovak government suspends legal proceedings against 127 priests.

*Ollantay* op.17 for orchestra by Alberto Ginastera (33) is performed for the first time, in Teatro Colón, Buenos Aires.

*Dreimal Tausend Jahre* op.50a for chorus by Arnold Schoenberg (75) to words of Runes, is performed for the first time, in Fylkingen.

**30 October 1949** Divertimento for strings by Karel Husa (28) is performed for the first time, in Paris.

Kurt Weill’s (49) musical tragedy *Lost in the Stars*, to words of Anderson after Paton, is performed for the first time, in the Music Box Theatre, New York. The work, on the tragedy of apartheid, is received enthusiastically by both audience and critics and will receive 273 performances.

**31 October 1949** At a convention of the CIO in Cleveland, delegates vote to expel communists from the executive board and to give the board power to expel any communist affiliates. As a result of this, ten unions, with over 1,000,000 members, will be expelled.

Bethlehem Steel settles with the United Steelworkers. This sends 80,000 of 500,000 striking steelworkers back to work.

Incidental music to Duncan’s play *Stratton* by Benjamin Britten (35) is performed for the first time, at the Theatre Royal, Brighton.

*Regina*, an opera by Marc Blitzstein (44) to words of Hellman and the composer, is performed for the first time in New York, in the Forty-Sixth Street Theatre.

**2 November 1949** As a result of the round table conference, an agreement on the future of Indonesia is agreed to at The Hague. The Republic of Indonesia will exist under the Dutch crown with Sukarno as President and Mohammed Hatta as Vice-President. It is made up of the original republic and the states recently created by the Dutch. Sovereignty is to be transferred on 30 December. The Dutch keep West Irian.

*Madman’s Wisp* for piano by Henry Cowell (52) is performed for the first time, at Hamline University, St. Paul, Minnesota.

**3 November 1949** The Netherlands grants amnesty to almost all political prisoners in Indonesia.

*Variations sur une flûte mexicaine* for tape by Pierre Schaeffer (39) is performed for the first time, over the airwaves of Radio Paris IV.

*Overture to The Tempest* by David Diamond (34) is performed for the first time, in New York.

**4 November 1949** Ned Rorem (26) arrives in Algeria for a second time, having sailed from Marseille.

Slatan Dudow’s film *Unser Täglich Brot*, with music by Hanns Eisler (50), is released in Germany.

Flute Quartet op.106 by Florent Schmitt (79) is performed for the first time, in Rio de Janeiro.

After a triumphant six-week tour of Argentina, Joaquín Rodrigo (47) and his wife board ship in Buenos Aires to return to Spain.

The first two movements of the Concerto for trumpet, bassoon, and string orchestra by Paul Hindemith (53) is performed for the first time, in New Haven, Connecticut.

**5 November 1949** Six men convicted of plotting to overthrow the Czechoslovak government are hanged in Brno.

**6 November 1949** Mazurka for voice and piano by Francis Poulenc (50) to words of Vilmorin is performed for the first time, in Town Hall, New York.

**8 November 1949** Otilio Ulate is inaugurated as the elected President of Costa Rica following a civil war, interim junta, and the writing of a new constitution. The army is abolished.

Earl Tupper receives a patent for the “Tupper Seal” for closing plastic containers.

A ballet version of William Walton’s (47) *Music for Children* called *Devoirs de vacances* is performed for the first time, in the Théâtre des Champs-Elysées, Paris. See 6 February 1941.

**9 November 1949** The Kingdom of Cambodia withdraws from the French Union and becomes an associated state of France.

The East German Parliament votes to restore citizenship rights to all Nazis never convicted of war crimes.

380,000 striking US coal miners east of the Mississippi suspend their strike for three weeks.

Overture for strings by Witold Lutoslawski (36) is performed for the first time, in Prague.

**10 November 1949** Incidental music to Mikhalkov’s play *Iliya Golovin* by Aram Khachaturian (46) is performed for the first time, in Gorky Art Theatre, Moscow. It is a satire of “formalist” composers. The main character is a caricature of both Sergey Prokofiev (58) and Dmitri Shostakovich (43).

**11 November 1949** United States Steel settles with the United Steel Workers sending 177,000 workers back to the job after a 42-day strike. With the agreements of many smaller steel companies, about 80% of US steelworkers are now back to work.

**12 November 1949** The Czechoslovak government announces that it will not accept the conditional loyalty oaths offered by the Catholic Church. It also says that after 1 January, only civil marriages will be recognized.

**14 November 1949** Three founding members of the Polish United Workers Party are purged from the Central Committee for “nationalist-rightist deviation.”

**15 November 1949** Nathuram Vinayak Godse and a conspirator, convicted of the murder of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, are hanged in Ambala.

The western allies inform the West German government that they will cease the dismantling of German industries for reparations.

*The Song of the Forests* op.81, an oratorio by Dmitri Shostakovich (43) to words of Dolmatovsky, is performed for the first time, in Leningrad Philharmonic Bolshoy Hall.

**16 November 1949** Olivier Messiaen (40) and Yvonne Loriod arrive in New York aboard the *Île de France* for concertizing and the premiere of *Turangalîla*.

**17 November 1949** A second trial of Alger Hiss on perjury charges begins in a federal court in New York. The first trial ended in a hung jury.

**18 November 1949** An attaché at the French consulate in Szeczin is arrested in Warsaw and charged with espionage.

The Czechoslovak government announces the conviction of 55 people for espionage. They receive sentences from one year to life imprisonment.

The UN General Assembly votes an arms embargo against Albania, Bulgaria, and any other country that aids the Greek rebels.

**19 November 1949** The Czechoslovak government outlaws the sale of used books in order to keep tighter censorship controls.

Olivier Messiaen (40), Yvonne Loriod, and Maurice and Ginette Martenot travel from New York to Boston for the premiere of *Turangalîla-symphonie.* While in the area he visits the harmony class of Walter Piston (55) at Harvard University and gives an analysis of the work.

*The Enormous Room*, a symphonic poem by David Diamond (34), is performed for the first time, in Cincinnati.

**20 November 1949** Two works by Ralph Vaughan Williams (77) are performed for the first time, privately at the White Gates, Dorking: *An Oxford Elegy* for speaker, small chorus, and small orchestra to words of Arnold and *Fantasia on the “Old 104th” Pslam Tune* for piano, chorus, and orchestra to words from the Bible. See 6 September 1950 and 19 June 1952.

*Carmel Concerto* by John Alden Carpenter (73) is performed for the first time, in Carnegie Hall, New York.

Piano Concerto no.3 by Bohuslav Martinu (58) is performed for the first time, in Dallas.

**21 November 1949** The UN General Assembly takes action on Italy’s former colonies. Libya will be granted independence before 1952. Somaliland will be administered by Italy as a trust territory. A committee is formed to consult with Eritreans and Ethiopians on the future status of Eritrea.

**22 November 1949** The United States Consul-General in Mukden (Shenyang) and four other consular staff arrested on 24 October are convicted of beating a former servant.

Chinese communists capture Kweilin (Guilin), capital of Kwangsi (Guangxi) Province.

Five officials of International Telephone and Telegraph Co. are arrested by Hungary charged with sabotage and espionage.

**24 November 1949** The Nizam of Hyderabad signs his state into the Indian union.

Nationalization of British iron and steel industries is approved by Parliament and given royal assent. It will take effect on 1 January 1951.

France retaliates against Poland by arresting a Polish vice-consul in Lille for espionage.

West Germany and the western allies reach agreement on the future of the country. Dismantling of industries will be greatly reduced. Germany will be allowed to have a merchant fleet, have trade relations with other countries and join international organizations. In return, the Germans promise not to rearm, accept international control of the Ruhr and limitations on steel production.

**25 November 1949** The United States Consul-General in Mukden (Shenyang) and four other consular staff are freed and told to leave the country.

**26 November 1949** India adopts a republican constitution within the Commonwealth, to take effect on 25 January.

Over the last two days, France has expelled 26 Polish nationals.

Four employees of the French embassy are detained in Warsaw.

A week of secret trials ends in Prague where 87 people are convicted of espionage.

**27 November 1949** The deportation order against four US diplomats of 25 November is extended to all non-Chinese employees of the US consulate in Mukden (Shenyang).

**28 November 1949** NBC broadcasts a 30-minute program of Leonard Bernstein (31) rehearsing the Boston Symphony Orchestra in preparation for the premiere of Olivier Messiaen’s (40) *Turangalîla-symphonie.*

*Psalm 24* for chorus, organ, and brass by Vladimir Ussachevsky (38) is performed for the first time, in Princeton, New Jersey.

**29 November 1949** The Cominform once again calls for the overthrow of Marshal Tito in Yugoslavia and the suppression of “Titoism” in the world.

Suite in B for oboe and piano by Ulysses Kay (32) is performed for the first time, at the American Academy in Rome. Also premiered is Kay’s Piano Quintet.

**30 November 1949** Chinese communists take Chungking (Chongqing), evacuated by the nationalists. The nationalist government moves to its fourth capital, Chengtu (Chengdu).

400,000 US coal miners end a three-week truce in their labor dispute and walk off their jobs again. They will begin 3-day weeks on 5 December.

*Naissance de Venus* op.292 for chorus by Darius Milhaud (57) to words of Supervielle is performed for the first time, over the airwaves of Radio France.

**1 December 1949** *Il prigioniero*, an opera by Luigi Dallapiccola (45) to his own words after Villiers de l’Isle Adam and C. de Coster, is performed for the first time, over the airwaves of RAI. See 20 May 1950.

Symphony no.2 by Hans Werner Henze (23) is performed for the first time, in Stuttgart.

**2 December 1949** The British Parliament grants Canada all jurisdiction over Canadian affairs.

*Turangalîla-symphonie* for piano, ondes martenot, and orchestra by Olivier Messiaen (40) is performed for the first time, in Symphony Hall, Boston conducted by Leonard Bernstein (31) in the presence of the composer and Maurice Martenot. Yvonne Loriod plays the piano part and Ginette Martenot (sister of the inventor) plays the Ondes Martenot. See 15 February 1948.

Viola Concerto by Béla Bartók (†4), reconstructed and orchestrated by Tibor Serly, is performed for the first time, in Minneapolis.

**3 December 1949** Two knife-wielding Malayans attack Duncan George Stewart, the British Governor of Sarawak, in Sibu. He is mortally wounded.

Music for Aguet’s radio play *Saint François d’Assise* by Arthur Honegger (57) is performed for the first time, over the airwaves of Radio Lausanne. This composition is awarded the Swiss Radio Prize.

The United Nations Office of High Commissioner for Refugees is established. It begins official operations 1 January 1951.

**4 December 1949** The nationalist government of China is set up on the island of Taiwan.

**5 December 1949** Prime Minister David Ben Gurion proclaims Jerusalem as the capital of the State of Israel.

**6 December 1949** Olafur Thors replaces Stefan Stefansson as Prime Minister of Iceland.

RCA Victor announces that it will begin producing three-speed record players. They will be able to play RCA’s 45-rpm system, Columbia’s 33-rpm long playing system, as well as the standard 78-rpm.

**8 December 1949** Chinese nationalists complete their removal to Taiwan which now becomes the seat of government for the Republic of China.

*Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* opens in New York.

A film based on the musical *On the Town* with music by Leonard Bernstein (31) is shown publicly for the first time, in New York. Much of Bernstein’s music has been cut or rearranged.

**9 December 1949** The Peoples Republic of China distributes 300,000 articles of clothing held by the military to the poor.

The UN General Assembly votes to put Jerusalem under UN jurisdiction, as provided for in the original Palestine resolution of 1947. Both Israel and Jordan announce that they will not give up any part of Jerusalem they hold.

*The Battle of Stalingrad*, a film with music by Aram Khachaturian (46), is released.

Piano Sonata in e flat minor op.26 by Samuel Barber (39) is performed for the first time, in Havana.

**10 December 1949** In national elections in Australia, the Liberal Party gains a plurality over the ruling Labour Party and will form a coalition with the Country Party.

Chiang Kai-shek reaches Taiwan.

With Communist troops invading his province, the Nationalist governor of Yunnan decides to go over to the other side.

Duncan George Stewart, the British governor of Sarawak, dies of wounds suffered on 3 December, in Singapore.

Symphonische Variationen und Fuge über “In dulci jubilo” for orchestra by Bernd Alois Zimmermann (31) is performed for the first time, in Koblenz.

*Preamble for a Solemn Occasion* for speaker and orchestra by Aaron Copland (49), commissioned by NBC for the first anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, is performed for the first time, in New York, Leonard Bernstein (31) conducting. The speaker is Laurence Olivier.

**11 December 1949** Two US officials are freed by the North Korean government at Yohyon on the 38th parallel. They have been held for 81 days.

*Der Spiegelritter* D.11, a singspiel by Franz Schubert (†121) to words of Kotzebue, is performed for the first time, over Swiss Radio 137 years after it was composed.

**12 December 1949** 20 members of the US consular staff in Mukden (Shenyang) and dependents reach a US ship off Tientsin. They have been held by the communists since 24 October.

Atilio Cattaneo, a member of the Argentine Congress, is expelled after he accused President Perón of graft. He will flee to Uruguay.

**13 December 1949** Sydney Holland replaces Peter Fraser as Prime Minister of New Zealand.

13 important figures in the artistic world, including Leonard Bernstein (30), Clifford Odets, Cole Porter, Tennessee Williams, and Jerome Robbins, place an add in the *New York Times* urging their readers to see *Regina* by Marc Blitzstein (44). The opera will close in four days after 56 performances.

**14 December 1949** A new constitution for Indonesia is approved in Batavia (Jakarta), to take effect on 27 December.

Eleven former officials of the Bulgarian government are convicted in a Sofiya court of a “pro-Yugoslav, anti-Soviet” conspiracy. Ex-Deputy Prime Minister Traicho Kostov is sentenced to death. The others receive sentences of from eight years to life in prison.

The night before he returns home, Olivier Messiaen (41) has dinner with Edgard Varèse and his wife in Varèse’s (65) New York apartment.

**15 December 1949** Diplomatic missions from 15 countries are established in Bonn, accredited to the Allied High Commissioners.

The US Federal Housing and Veterans Administration announces that they will not grant loans or any insurance on any property subject to racial or religious restrictions by covenants filed after 15 February 1950. Conservatives assail the new rules.

**16 December 1949** Mao Tse-tung makes his first state visit as leader of the People’s Republic of China (and his first trip outside China) as he arrives in Moscow.

Ex-Deputy Prime Minister Traicho Kostov of Bulgaria is hanged in Sofiya two days after he was convicted of leading an “anti-Soviet conspiracy.”

The nationalization of the British steel industry receives royal assent.

**17 December 1949** Burma recognizes the People’s Republic of China, the first non-communist government to do so.

Sukarno is sworn in as President of Indonesia in Yogyakarta and will take office on 27 December.

**18 December 1949** Sonata for flute and piano by Bohuslav Martinu (59) is performed for the first time, in New York.

**19 December 1949** Robert Gordon Menzies replaces Joseph Benedict Chifley as Prime Minister of Australia.

A British military court in Hamburg convicts Field Marshal Fritz Eric von Mannstein of authorizing atrocities against Soviet and Polish soldiers and civilians. He is sentenced to 18 years in prison.

Alger Hiss takes the witness stand in his second trial for perjury. He denies all charges made against him by Whittaker Chambers.

**20 December 1949** The United States bans all travel by its citizens to Hungary and demands the release of an official of International Telephone and Telegraph.

An attempt to blow up the headquarters of the United Auto Workers in Detroit fails because the bomb is improperly constructed.

**22 December 1949** Olivier Messiaen (41) arrives back in Cherbourg aboard the *Queen Mary* after his second trip to the United States.

**23 December 1949** Great Britain breaks off trade talks with Hungary after the arrest of a British citizen.

Four French citizens, a German, and a Pole are convicted of espionage in a Wroclaw court. They are given sentences ranging from six to eleven years.

**24 December 1949** Martial law is ended in Athens, the Peloponnesus and the Aegean Islands.

*The Christmas Story* for vocal soloists, chorus, brass, timpani, and strings by Peter Mennin (26) to words from the Bible is performed for the first time, over the airwaves of radio station WABC, New York.

**26 December 1949** The Princeton Press announces that Dr. Albert Einstein has developed a “generalized theory of gravitation” which explains the workings of the universe. He says that gravity and electromagnetism are two forms of the same thing and can be explained through four mathematical laws. He further says that he has no way to prove his theory.

**27 December 1949** After four years of war, the Netherlands relinquishes all claims to the Netherlands East Indies, except West Irian (Irian Jaya), and recognizes the independence of Republik Indonesia Serikat, under President Sukarno. Queen Juliana signs the act in Amsterdam and hands it to Prime Minister Mohammad Hatta. Nine countries immediately recognize the new nation. The capital of Batavia reverts to its original name, Jakarta.

President Juan Perón of Argentina sues two newspapers which accused him of personally profiting from his office.

**27 December 1949** Three songs by Charles Ives (75) are performed for the first time, in McMillin Theatre at Columbia University: *Chanson de Florian* to words of Florian, *The Rainbow (So May It Be!)* to words of Wordsworth, and *Lincoln, the Great Commoner* to words of Markham. On the same program is the premiere of Piano Sonata no.4 by Vincent Persichetti (34).

*Happy as Larry*, a musical directed by, and starring, Burgess Meredith, is given its out-of-town preview in Boston. Meredith persuaded Edgard Varèse (66) to compose a piece to be included in it, called *Dance for Burgess*.

**28 December 1949** President Sukarno returns to Jakarta to resume the presidency of Indonesia.

Francis Poulenc (50) flies from Paris to New York to begin his second North American tour.

**29 December 1949** Netherlands New Guinea is made a Dutch colony separate from Indonesia.

Almost all foreign companies in Hungary are taken over by the government.

**30 December 1949** The Chinese communists announce that they have secured all of southwest China except for some isolated pockets of resistance.

India recognizes the People’s Republic of China.

France grants the Vietnamese government of Bao Dai power over all matters except foreign affairs and defense.

Three Preludes for piano by Charles T. Griffes (†19) are performed for the first time, in Town Hall, New York.

**31 December 1949** Music for Cendrars’ play *La fin du monde* by Darius Milhaud (57) is performed for the first time, over the airwaves of Radio France the composer conducting.

©2004-2016 Paul Scharfenberger

20 March 2016