**1 January 1957** The Saarland is returned to the sovereignty of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Egyptian President Nasser declares his country’s treaty with Great Britain over maintenance of the Suez Canal and British bases in the area is null and void as of last 31 October.

*The Prince of the Pagodas* op.57, a ballet by Benjamin Britten (43) to a scenario by Cranko, is performed for the first time, at Covent Garden, conducted by the composer. It will enjoy a run of 22 performances.

Today begins “Villa-Lobos (69) Year” as proclaimed by the Brazilian Ministry of Education and Culture.

**2 January 1957** The Egyptian government imposes rationing of kerosene.

A New York judge rules that Dr. Harry Slochower, who was fired from his position as German professor at Brooklyn College for refusing to answer Senate questions about communism, must be reinstated with back pay, interest, and court costs.

**3 January 1957** The Eighty-fifth Congress of the United States convenes in Washington. The opposition Democratic Party controls both houses.

**5 January 1957** President Theodor Körner of Austria dies in Vienna. He is replaced as acting President by Julius Raab.

Speaking to a joint session of the US Congress, President Eisenhower asks for authority to use military force to protect the Middle East from “communist aggression.”

**6 January 1957** 967 Jewish refugees from Egypt arrive in Italy with tales of police terror and confiscation of property. All but 100 have accepted asylum in Israel.

**7 January 1957** Israel withdraws its troops to El Arish in the Sinai.

4,600 French paratroopers under General Jacques Massu are ordered into Algiers to help keep order.

**9 January 1957** Anthony Eden resigns as Prime Minister of Great Britain.

French Prime Minister Guy Mollet asserts that France and Algeria are indivisible.

*A Womb with a View* for trombone, percussion, piano, and violin by Peter Maxwell Davies (22) is performed for the first time, as incidental music to a lecture by Dr. CEB Richard of the Department of Gynecology of Manchester University in the Large Anatomy Theatre of the medical school. The composer directs from the keyboard.

**10 January 1957** Two days after his return to Budapest from the country, Zoltán Kodály (74) appeals to the government not to disband the army men’s choir. Stopping in Moscow on their way back from China last year, the choir sided with the revolution. The choir will become a state institution for two years until the army agrees to reinstate it.

Maurice Harold Macmillan replaces Sir Anthony Eden as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.

**12 January 1957** *Winter Music* for 1-20 pianists by John Cage (44) is performed for the first time, by the composer and David Tudor, at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, New York. The work is dedicated to Robert Rauschenberg and Jasper Johns.

**14 January 1957** Humphrey Bogart dies of cancer in Los Angeles.

**15 January 1957** President Nasser of Egypt decrees that all directors and shareholders of British and French banks and insurance companies in the country be Egyptian, effective tomorrow. He rules the same for all foreign firms within five years.

Israeli forces withdraw to within 20 km of their border with Sinai.

**16 January 1957** Two bazooka shells are fired into the Algiers office of General Raoul Salan, commander of French forces in Algeria. One French officer is killed and Salan’s daughter, on the floor above, is injured, but Salan is not in the building at the time.

Arturo Toscanini dies in New York at the age of 89.

Wind Quintet no.1 by Charles Wuorinen (18) is performed for the first time, possibly in New York.

**17 January 1957** A car driven by Susanna Walton, with her husband William (54) in the passenger seat, collides with a cement truck north of Rome. His hip is broken. She breaks several ribs and an ankle. They will be hospitalized in Rome for three months.

Incidental music to Brecht’s play *Schweyk im zweiten Weltkrieg* by Hanns Eisler (58) is performed for the first time, in Warsaw.

String Quartet by Dominick Argento (29) is performed for the first time, in a student performance at the Eastman School of Music, Rochester, New York.

**18 January 1957** Robert Shelton, a copy editor at the *New York Times*, is convicted of contempt of Congress for refusing to tell whether he was a communist. He will be sentenced to six months in prison and fined $500. Mary Knowles, a librarian at the Quaker community of Plymouth Meeting, Pennsylvania is sentenced to 120 days in jail and fined $500 for refusing to answer questions about communism put to her by a Senate committee. Within a week, her employers will raise her salary.

**19 January 1957** Egypt, Syria, and Saudi Arabia sign an agreement with Jordan to provide the subsidy to the Jordanian military formally provided by Great Britain.

**20 January 1957** Turkish Cypriots riot and invade the Greek section of Nicosia in retaliation for the killing of a Turkish policeman yesterday.

**21 January 1957** 857 Jews leave Egypt on a boat chartered by the Red Cross.

**22 January 1957** *Kao*, a film with music by Toshiro Mayuzumi (27), is released in Japan.

Israeli forces evacuate the Sinai except for Sharm el Sheikh.

Suite for bass and piano by Otto Luening (56) is performed for the first time, in Carnegie Hall, New York.

**23 January 1957** Tennessee becomes the seventh state to enact legislation designed to circumvent the Supreme Court ruling demanding desegregation of schools.

Four members of the Alabama Ku Klux Klan force Willie Edwards, an African-American, to jump off the Tyler Goodwin Bridge to his death in the Alabama River 15 meters below. His body will not be found for three months. No one will ever be punished for the crime.

**24 January 1957** Quintet for wind instruments by Walter Piston (63) is performed for the first time, at the Library of Congress, Washington.

**25 January 1957** Three people are arrested as spies for the Soviet Union in New York.

A Cello Concerto by William Walton (54) is performed for the first time, in Symphony Hall, Boston.

**26 January 1957** On Republic Day, India formally makes Jammu and Kashmir part of India.

String Quartet no.10 in the sixth-tone system op.80 by Alois Hába (63) is performed for the first time, in Stockholm.

*Dialogues des Carmélites*, an opera by Francis Poulenc (58) to words of Bernanos, is performed for the first time, at Teatro alla Scala, Milan, in Italian. The critics are ecstatic. See 21 June 1957.

The symphonic setting of the Overture to *Candide* by Leonard Bernstein (38) is performed for the first time, in Carnegie Hall directed by the composer.

**27 January 1957** The United States explodes a one kiloton bomb on Frenchman Flats, Nevada.

**29 January 1957** A West Berlin court denies a claim by Anna Anderson that she is Anastasia, the daughter of Tsar Nikolay II.

A court-martial in Managua passes prison sentences on 16 men alleged by the government to have conspired in the recent killing of President Anastasio Somoza.

**30 January 1957** C. Walton Lillehei makes the first use of a transistorized pacemaker on a human patient, at the University of Minnesota.

**1 February 1957** György Ligeti (33) arrives in Cologne from Vienna. He has received a four-month scholarship from WDR.

The board of the Juilliard School of Music accepts an invitation to become part of the new Lincoln Center in New York.

**2 February 1957** A Norwegian and an American are expelled from Hungary, having been charged with helping refugees across the border.

**3 February 1957** Turkish Cypriots attack a church and a hospital in Famagusta, killing one and injuring eleven.

**4 February 1957** Budapest University reopens.

Smith-Corona begins marketing the first portable electric typewriter.

**5 February 1957** The legislature of the State of South Carolina passes a law making it a crime for anyone to counsel anyone to file a law suit if the first party has no direct stake in the suit. It is aimed at the NAACP and civil rights suits.

**7 February 1957** Sketches for a seventh symphony by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (†63), restored and completed by Semyon S. Bogatyryov, are performed for the first time, in Moscow.

William Schuman (46), President of the Juilliard School, announces that the school will become the educational component of the new Lincoln Center, and will add theatre studies to its present music and dance curriculum.

**8 February 1957** Herman Liveright, a former television executive in New Orleans, is convicted of contempt of Congress for refusing to answer questions about communism.

The Senate of the State of Georgia adopts a resolution declaring the 14th and 15th amendments to the US Constitution null and void in Georgia.

A suite for two jazz bands and orchestra from Hans Werner Henze’s (30) ballet *Maratona* to a story by Visconti, is performed for the first time, in Cologne. See 24 September 1957.

**9 February 1957** The annual report of the House Un-American Activities Committee is issued, stating that “at this moment on American soil, the equivalent of 20 combat divisions (200,000 people) of enemy troops, [are] engaging in propaganda, espionage, subversion, and loyal only to the Soviet Union.”

**10 February 1957** The Chief of Police of Birmingham, Alabama says that his investigation shows that the series of recent bombings of black churches and homes is the work of the Ku Klux Klan.

**11 February 1957** The Supreme Soviet of the USSR votes to rehabilitate the Balkar, Chechen, Ingush, Kalmyk, Karachaev, and Kabardian minorities. They were all removed to Central Asia by Stalin during World War II.

**13 February 1957** A film of the musical *Funny Face* with music by George Gershwin (†19) is released.

**14 February 1957** Under heavy pressure from the US, Israel agrees to withdraw from Sharm el Sheikh and Gaza provided there is international recognition of their right of passage through the Strait of Tiran and the Suez Canal, and UN administration of Gaza.

The Southern Christian Leadership Conference is organized in New Orleans. Martin Luther King is chosen as its first president.

**15 February 1957** *The Poet’s Requiem* for soprano, chorus, and orchestra by Ned Rorem (33) to various authors, is performed for the first time, in Town Hall, New York.

**16 February 1957** Ingmar Bergman’s film *The Seventh Seal* is released in Sweden.

On a world tour, Henry Cowell (59) suffers a small stroke in Karachi and is hospitalized.

**17 February 1957** *Metamorphoses* for tape, electronic instruments, and percussion by Vladimir Ussachevsky (45) is performed for the first time, in New York.

**18 February 1957** A federal grand jury indicts playwright Arthur Miller for contempt of Congress because he refused to testify about people he met at communist meetings in 1947.

**21 February 1957** Aaron Copland (56) departs New York to attend the second Latin American Music Festival in Caracas.

**24 February 1957** Nobosuke Kishi replaces Tanzan Ishibashi as Prime Minister of Japan.

Symphony no.10 by Henry Cowell (59) is performed for the first time, in the Museum of Natural History, New York.

**25 February 1957** Algerian rebel leader Larbi ben M’hidi is captured by the French.

**27 February 1957** In a four-hour closed speech in Peking, Mao Tse-tung signals an apparent shift in policy, urging the acceptance of criticism and open debate. His slogans are, “Let a hundred flowers blossom, let a hundred schools of thought contend.” The speech will be published in June.

A new Polish government is constituted along Stalinist lines.

**2 March 1957** The Celebes Army, a revolutionary group, seizes control of four eastern provinces of Indonesia including Sulawesi and Moluccas.

**3 March 1957** Györgi Ligeti (33), in Cologne, writes to Edgard Varèse (73), asking for help in emigrating to the United States. According to Ligeti, he never hears from Varèse.

Fantasia for string trio by Irving Fine (42) is performed for the first time, at the University of Illinois, Urbana.

**4 March 1957** One day before his 70th birthday, Heitor Villa-Lobos is honored at New York’s City Hall by Mayor Robert Wagner and City Council President Abe Stark.

**5 March 1957** Algerian rebel leader Larbi ben M’hidi, captured by the French on 25 February, dies in custody.

Four Jordanians on a military mission are killed by Israelis in southern Israel.

Parliamentary elections in Ireland result in a strong victory for Fianna Fail. They win a majority of seats.

**6 March 1957** The Gold Coast and British Togoland are proclaimed independent of Great Britain as Ghana under Queen Elizabeth II and Prime Minister Kofi Kwame Nkrumah.

Under pressure from the United States, Israeli forces hand over the Gaza Strip to the United Nations. The move is widely opposed in Israel.

Incidental music to Schochen’s play *Tiger Rag* by Kenneth Gaburo (30) is performed for the first time, in Lincoln Hall Theatre of the University of Illinois.

**7 March 1957** Israeli troops destroy the Egyptian gun emplacements at Ras Nasrani near Sharm el Sheikh.

The Suez Canal is reopened for ships up to 500 tons.

*Harvard Choruses* by Leonard Bernstein (38) to words of Lerner, are performed for the first time, in Carnegie Hall, New York.

Sinfonia Concertante for orchestra by David Diamond (41) is performed for the first time, in Rochester, New York.

**8 March 1957** UN troops move into Sharm el Sheikh as the last Israelis depart.

Ghana is admitted to the United Nations.

*Pithoprakta* for 50 instruments by Iannis Xenakis (34) is performed for the first time, in Munich. The orchestra is hostile, the audience is in an uproar.

Symphony no.6 by David Diamond (41) is performed for the first time, in Boston.

**10 March 1957** Nepalese troops are withdrawn from Tibet by an agreement of 20 September 1956.

*Suite modale* for flute and piano by Ernest Bloch (76) is performed for the first time, in New York. See 11 April 1965.

**11 March 1957** The Indonesian Army commander on Borneo announces that a revolutionary council has been set up to rule Borneo.

Egypt names a military governor over the Gaza Strip.

**13 March 1957** Great Britain and Jordan officially end the 1948 defense treaty. All British troops will be withdrawn from Jordan within six months and the annual British subsidy will end.

Pablo Picasso makes a graphite sketch of Francis Poulenc (58) in Paris.

Jimmy Hoffa, vice-president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, is arrested in Washington by the FBI. He is charged with trying to hire an attorney to join the staff of the Senate committee investigating him and spy for him.

Several rebel groups attack strategic locations in Havana including the Presidential Palace, Capitol Building, and the Health Ministry. All are unsuccessful.

**14 March 1957** President Sukarno declares martial law to deal with a rebellion in eastern Indonesia.

An Egyptian governor returns to Gaza to reestablish Egyptian sovereignty.

**15 March 1957** The Saudi Arabian government announces that the Gulf of Aqaba is sovereign Arab territory and will never allow Israel to use it.

*Tartiniana Seconda* for violin and chamber orchestra by Luigi Dallapiccola (53) is performed for the first time, over the airwaves of Italian Radio originating in Turin. See 6 March 1956.

Sonata for solo cello by George Crumb (27) is performed for the first time, in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

**16 March 1957** Joaquín Rodrigo (55) and his wife arrive in Caracas for the second Latin American Music Festival. Also attending are Virgil Thomson (60) and Aaron Copland (56).

Constantin Brancusi dies in Paris at the age of 81.

**17 March 1957** President Ramon Magsaysay of the Philippines dies as his plane crashes into Bago Mountain on Cebu Island. He is succeeded by Vice-President Carlos Polestico Garcia.

Four little pieces for strings by Karel Husa (35) is performed for the first time, at Fürsteneck Castle, West Germany.

*Seek the Highest* op.78 for chorus and piano by Vincent Persichetti (41), to words of Adler, is performed for the first time, in New York.

*The Bell-Tower*, an opera by Ernst Krenek (56) to his own words, after Melville, is performed for the first time, in Lincoln Hall Theatre at the University of Illinois, Urbana. The work is well received.

**18 March 1957** Trio for flute, violin, and soprano by Otto Luening (56) without words is performed for the first time, in New York 33 years after it was composed.

**20 March 1957** Eamon de Valera of Fianna Fail replaces John Aloysius Costello of Fine Gael as Prime Minister of Ireland.

Jean-Jacques Servan Schreiber is indicted in Paris for undermining army morale. As editor of *L’Express* and recently an army officer in Algeria, he has claimed excesses perpetrated by the French Army in articles since 8 March.

**21 March 1957** Resident Minister for Algeria Robert Lacoste tells the French National Assembly that the Algerian rebel movement is almost defeated.

The Soviet Union warns Norway against setting up NATO atomic bases in their country.

*Orpheus Descending* by Tennessee Williams opens in New York.

**22 March 1957** Citing 16 studies in five countries over 18 years, a report by seven research experts, made public today in the *Atlanta Constitution*, concludes a definitive link between smoking and lung cancer.

**25 March 1957** A treaty between Belgium, France, West Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands creating the European Economic Community and the European Atomic Energy Community is signed in Rome. It will take effect on 1 January 1958.

Salvage crews clear the Suez Canal for ships up to 20,000 tons.

Eleven Chorale Preludes for organ by Virgil Thomson (60) are performed for the first time, in New Orleans.

**26 March 1957** *The Bewitched*, a dance satire by Harry Partch (55) to his own story, is performed for the first time, in Urbana, Illinois. Partch finds the choreographey utterly useless.

**28 March 1957** After he calls for an end to violence on Cyprus, British authorities release Archbishop Makarios from the Seychelles. He is free to travel anywhere but Cyprus.

Royal Assent is granted to the formation of the Canada Council, a national arts council. One of its members is to be Ernest MacMillan (61).

**29 March 1957** The Soviet Union warns Denmark against setting up NATO atomic bases in their country.

The Marquess of Salisbury, Leader of the House of Lords and Lord President of the Council, resigns over the release yesterday of Archbishop Makarios.

String Quartet no.1 by Gunther Schuller (31) is performed for the first time, at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

**30 March 1957** *Little Red Schoolhouse* for orchestra by William Grant Still (61) is performed for the first time, at Redlands University, Redlands, California. This is a revision of *Pages from a Mother’s Diary*. See 28 January 1954.

**31 March 1957** Witold Lutoslawski (44) registers the pseudonym Derwid with the Polish Association of Writers and Composers for the Stage. He will write over 30 popular songs under this name.

**1 April 1957** *Le Travail du peintre*, a cycle for voice and piano by Francis Poulenc (58) to words of Eluard, is performed for the first time, in the École normale de musique, Paris the composer at the keyboard. See 5 September 1957.

**3 April 1957** Samuel Beckett’s play *Fin de partie* is performed for the first time, at the Royal Court Theatre, London. When the author translates it into English it will be called *Endgame*.

Incidental music to Strindberg’s play *A Dream Play* by Lejaren Hiller (33) is performed for the first time, at the University of Illinois, Urbana.

**4 April 1957** E. Herbert Norman, ambassador of Canada to Egypt, jumps to his death from a building in Cairo. Lester Pearson, Minister of External Affairs, tells the Canadian Parliament that his death was due to the restating of “old charges affecting his loyalty [which] were disposed of years ago.” On 12 March he was labeled a communist by the Internal Security subcommittee of the US Senate.

Symphony no.10 “Sinfonia amerindia” for tenor, baritone, bass, chorus, and orchestra by Heitor Villa-Lobos (70) to words of de Anchieta, commissioned to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the founding of São Paulo, is performed for the first time, in the Théâtre des Champs-Elysées, Paris under the baton of the composer.

**6 April 1957** A tanker chartered by a US company passes through the Strait of Tiran and arrives safely at the Port of Elat, Israel.

**7 April 1957** *Little Fantasy* for chamber orchestra by Gunther Schuller (31) is performed for the first time, in Englewood, New Jersey.

**8 April 1957** Benjamin Britten (43) is elected an honorary member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters and the National Institute of Arts and Letters in New York.

*Doctor Faustus Lights the Lights* for narrator, clarinet, saxophone, bassoon, cello, percussion, and piano by Charles Wuorinen (18) is performed for the first time, in the Rooftop Theatre, New York.

**9 April 1957** Raden Djuanda Kartawidjaja replaces Ali Sastroamidjojo as Prime Minister of Indonesia. He heads a 23-person “emergency extra-parliamentary cabinet of experts” to deal with growing revolts against the central government.

*Song of Democracy* for chorus and orchestra by Howard Hanson (60) to words of Whitman, is performed for the first time, in Washington, the composer conducting.

**10 April 1957** Pro-Soviet Prime Minister Suleiman Nabulsi of Jordan resigns on orders of King Hussein.

Following the suicide of E. Herbert Norman on 4 April, Canadian Minister of External Affairs, Lester Pearson, says that his country reserves the right not to cooperate with security investigations by any US government agency.

**11 April 1957** King Hussein of Jordan names Husseini Fakhri el-Khalidi as Prime Minister but faced with opposition on the left and right, he withdraws.

An agreement signed in London between the British government and the Chief Minister of Singapore outlines plans for a constitution and internal self-government for the island.

The first five of the ten *Brigand Songs* for male chorus by Bohuslav Martinu (66) to Slovak folk texts are performed for the first time, in Prague.

**12 April 1957** 18 leading West German nuclear physicists state that they would refuse to take part in the “production, testing, or even use” of atomic weapons by the West German army. Among the signatories are Werner Heissenberg, Otto Hahn, Max von Laue, and Max Born.

Senator James Eastland, chairman of the Internal Security subcommittee, says there was “a sound reason” for publishing the name of E. Herbert Norman as an alleged communist. He declines to say what the reason was. He also said that these “facts” had been checked with the FBI for accuracy. FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover denies this. Norman killed himself on 4 April.

Argentine police arrest about 380 communists, including the entire central committee of the Communist Party.

Symphony no.4 by Wallingford Riegger (71) is performed for the first time, at the University of Illinois, Urbana.

**13 April 1957** A compromise cabinet led by Abdul Halim el-Nimr takes control of the Jordanian government.

Joaquín Rodrigo (55) and his wife fly from Caracas to San Juan, Puerto Rico to attend the Pablo Casals Festival.

*To the God Who is in the Fire*, a cantata by Alan Hovhaness (46), is performed for the first time, at the University of Illinois, Urbana.

**14 April 1957** King Hussein of Jordan sacks Major General Ali Abu Nuwar, pro-Egyptian chief of staff of the army, in an effort to consolidate his control. He also dismisses the government of Abdul Halim el-Nimr after riots by his supporters and clashes between troops loyal to Nimr and those loyal to Hussein. Various government and party leaders are placed under arrest.

*When Christ Rode into Jerusalem* for soprano, chorus, and organ by Robert Ward (39) to his own words after the Bible is performed for the first time, in St. John’s Episcopal Church, Yonkers.

**15 April 1957** King Hussein once again calls on Husseini Fakhri el-Khalidi to form a government, this time controlled by moderates.

**16 April 1957** Order is restored everywhere in Jordan except Jerusalem where various factions battle in the streets.

A report by the British Atomic Scientists Association warns that hydrogen bomb tests could “eventually produce bone cancer in 1,000 people for every million tons of TNT equivalent explosive power.”

**18 April 1957** The Senate of the State of Florida resolves that all desegregation decisions of the US Supreme Court are “null and void” in Florida.

**20 April 1957** Major General Ali Hayari, named Jordanian chief of staff on 14 April, goes to Syria and resigns his post claiming undo influence on the military by the US and UK. King Hussein names Major General Hafiz Majali to succeed him.

**21 April 1957** *Comoedia de Christi resurrectione* by Carl Orff (61) to words of the composer, is staged for the first time, in the Württembergisches Staatstheater, Stuttgart. See 31 March 1956.

**22 April 1957** Sergey Prokofiev (†4) is awarded the Lenin Prize.

Klavierstück XI no.7 by Karlheinz Stockhausen (28) is performed for the first time, in Carl Fischer Hall, New York.

**23 April 1957** Albert Schweitzer writes to the Norwegian Nobel Committee urging that world opinion be turned against nuclear testing.

Leftist and Baath parties withdraw their support for the Jordanian government of Hussein Fakhri el-Khalidi.

**24 April 1957** Riots and a general strike begin in Jordan against King Hussein and his government.

First String Quartet “From the Salvation Army” by Charles Ives (†2) is performed completely for the first time, in the Museum of Modern Art, New York, 61 years after it was composed. See 17 March 1943,

**25 April 1957** King Hussein of Jordan orders martial law in the face of riots and a general strike led by leftist and Baath parties. Curfews and arrests begin. The government of Hussein Fakhri el-Khalidi resigns and is immediately replaced by Ibrahim Hashem. The King blames Egypt for much of the troubles. In an effort to support King Hussein, the US government orders the Sixth Fleet into the eastern Mediterranean.

**26 April 1957** The UN Security Council meets to debate the declaration by Egypt that they will run the Suez Canal. They adjourn without action and without setting a date for further debate. This tends to confirm Egypt’s control of the canal.

Raymond Rouleau’s film *Les sorcières de Salem*, with music by Hanns Eisler (58) and Georges Auric, is released in France.

**28 April 1957** *Canção das águas claras* for voice and orchestra by Heitor Villa-Lobos (70) to words of Amado, is performed for the first time, in London, directed by the composer.

*Such Sweet Thunder*, a suite based on several Shakespeare characters by Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn, is performed for the first time, in Town Hall, New York. It is the eve of Ellington’s 58th birthday.

Fantasies for orchestra by Karel Husa (35) is performed for the first time, at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, conducted by the composer.

**29 April 1957** The government of Japan appeals for an end to testing of nuclear weapons.

In answer to pleas that upcoming British nuclear tests could hurt health worldwide, Foreign Secretary Selwyn Lloyd says that they come “largely from nonscientific…people with strong fellow traveling tendencies and leanings.”

*Allelujah I* for orchestra by Luciano Berio (31) is performed for the first time, in Cologne.

*Ode to the West Wind*, a concerto for soprano and orchestra by Dominick Argento (29) to words of Shelley, is performed for the first time, at the Eastman School of Music, Rochester, New York, conducted by Howard Hanson (60).

**30 April 1957** West Germany rejects an East German proposal that the two countries agree not to use nuclear weapons.

Two works by Morton Feldman (31) are performed for the first time, in Carl Fischer Concert Hall, New York: *Extensions 4* for three pianos, and Piece for Four Pianos.

**1 May 1957** Chairman Mao Tse-tung opens up a period of “self-criticism.” In five weeks, intellectuals and students openly criticize the government. By the end of the year, 300,000 intellectuals will be named “rightist”, thus ending their careers. Thousands are imprisoned.

Colombian opposition presidential candidate, Dr. Guillermo Leon Valencia, is arrested.

**2 May 1957** Senator Joseph McCarthy dies at Bethesda Naval Hospital of the effects of alcoholism at the age of 48.

**3 May 1957** *Shiosai*, a film with music by Toshiro Mayuzumi (28), is released in Japan.

Elements of the Sixth Fleet sent to support King Hussein are recalled, the Jordanian crisis having passed.

**4 May 1957** 35,000 troops occupy Bogotá during demonstrations against the regime of Colombian President Lt. General Gustavo Rojas Pinilla.

Festival Overtureop.68 for orchestra by Wallingford Riegger (72) is performed for the first time, in Boston.

**5 May 1957** After national elections last month, the second Lok Sabha meets in New Delhi. The Indian National Congress of Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru holds 371 of 545 seats.

Women vote for the first time in Tunisia, in municipal elections held today.

15 members of the US House of Representatives complain to the State Department against “tacit compliance” with the demand by Saudi Arabia that no Jewish servicemen be assigned to the US air base in Dahran.

*This is the Garden*, a cantata for chorus and orchestra by Marc Blitzstein (52) to his own words, is performed for the first time, in Carnegie Hall, New York. The audience is appreciative, the critics generally positive.

**6 May 1957** Italian Prime Minister Antonio Segni and his government resign when Social Democrats withdraw their support.

Ten Colombian newspapers suspend publication in solidarity with demonstrations against the regime of President Lt. General Gustavo Rojas Pinilla.

The cornerstone of the Philips Pavilion at the Brussels World’s Fair is laid in the presence of the architect, Le Courbusier, and his colleague and collaborator, Iannis Xenakis (34).

Norman Dello Joio (44) is awarded the Pulitzer Prize in Music for his *Meditations on Ecclesiastes.* See 20 April 1956.

Harrison Birtwistle (22) attends a concert in London which includes *Le marteau sans maître* by Pierre Boulez (32), Concerto op.24 by Anton Webern (†11) and *Zeitmasse* by Karlheinz Stockhausen (28). The Boulez piece will be a major influence on his work.

*The Boor*, an opera by Dominick Argento (29) to words of Olon-Scrymgeour after Chekhov, is performed for the first time, at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York.

**7 May 1957** The United States and Chinese nationalists announce that missiles capable of carrying nuclear warheads are being based on Taiwan.

About 50 people are killed by police in Cali during demonstrations against the regime of Colombian President Lt. General Gustavo Rojas Pinilla.

Texas State Representative Joe Chapman reveals that his protests caused Barbara Smith to be removed from the lead of an opera production at the University of Texas. Chapman says the opera script “calls for a white person.” Smith is black.

**8 May 1957** The Colombian Legislative Assembly and Constituent Assembly vote to abolish the constitutional requirements that a president not succeed himself, and that he be elected by popular vote. They then elect Lt. General Gustavo Rojas Pinilla to a second term.

Duke Ellington’s (58) choreographic suite *A Drum is a Woman* is performed for the first time, over the airwaves of CBS television.

**9 May 1957** Ezio Pinza dies of a stroke in Stamford, Connecticut at the age of 64.

*Der Revisor*, a comic opera by Werner Egk (55) to his own words after Gogol, is performed for the first time, in Schwetzingen.

*Panfilo and Lauretta*, an opera by Carlos Chávez (57) to words of Kallman after Boccaccio, is performed for the first time, at the Brander Matthews Theatre, Columbia University, New York. See 28 October 1959, 21 May 1963 and 26 July 1968.

*Psalms* for chorus and orchestra by Lukas Foss (34) is performed for the first time, in Carnegie Hall, New York.

**10 May 1957** The Supreme Soviet of the USSR appeals to the US and UK governments to join in talks to end atmospheric testing of nuclear weapons.

The West German Bundestag calls on the US, UK, and USSR to halt all testing of nuclear weapons.

Piano Concerto no.2 op.102 by Dmitri Shostakovich (50) is performed for the first time, in Moscow Conservatory Bolshoy Hall, the composer’s son Maxim at the piano on his 19th birthday. A two-piano reduction of this work was performed in April, in Moscow, by the composer and his son. It is his last composition for piano.

Lt. General Gustavo Rojas Pinilla is overthrown as President of Colombia and replaced by a military junta led by Major General Gabriel Paris.

Incidental music to the radio production of Jean Rhys’ *Good Morning Midnight* by Roberto Gerhard (60) is broadcast for the first time, over the airwaves of BBC Third Programme.

**11 May 1957** The new military government of Colombia restores freedom of the press, promises new elections for next year, and appoints a new cabinet.

**13 May 1957** The British government announces an end to the boycott of the Suez Canal.

The US government rejects the Japanese appeal of 29 April and announces a new series of atmospheric atomic tests in Nevada beginning on 16 May.

Serenade for viola and bassoon by Pauline Oliveros (24) is performed for the first time, at San Francisco State College.

**14 May 1957** The US government resumes military aid to Yugoslavia.

In parliamentary elections in Denmark, conservatives make modest gains at the expense of the ruling Social Democrats of Prime Minister Hans Christian Hansen.

*Il figliuol prodigo*, an opera by Gian Francesco Malipiero (75) to his own words after Castellano Castellani, is staged for the first time, in Teatro della Pergola, Florence. Also premiered is Malipiero’s *Venere prigioniera* to his own words after Gonzales. See 25 January 1953.

**15 May 1957** Great Britain explodes a hydrogen bomb near Christmas Island in the Pacific.

**16 May 1957** An orchestral suite from Thea Musgrave’s (28) ballet *A Tale for Thieves* is performed for the first time, in London. See 15 September 1954.

A setting of *Psalm 150* for chorus by Roy Harris (59) is performed for the first time, at Pennsylvania State University the composer conducting.

**17 May 1957** The wife of André-Marie Tremeaud, the former prefect of Algiers, is killed by a package bomb.

Egypt declares that it will never allow an Israeli flagged ship through the Suez Canal.

A pilgrimage led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to Washington culminates with a rally of 20,000 at the Lincoln Memorial. He calls on President Eisenhower to speak out against racial segregation.

**19 May 1957** Adone Zoli replaces Antonio Segni as Prime Minister of Italy.

**21 May 1957** French Prime Minister Guy Mollet and his government resign after the Parliament rejects his tax increase to pay for the war in Algeria.

**22 May 1957** Adolf Schärf becomes President of Austria replacing acting President Julius Raab.

**24 May 1957** About 3,000 Chinese Attack the US embassy in Taipei, the US Information Service office there. They are angered when a US soldier kills a Chinese civilian.

Two works for tape by Bruno Maderna (37) are performed for the first time, in Milan: Notturno and *Syntaxis.*

**25 May 1957** The 4,500 Syrian troops stationed in Jordan are removed at Jordan’s request. The Jordanians accuse them of trying to overthrow King Hussein.

Incidental music for Walewski’s play *Cinderella* by Henryk Górecki (23) is performed for the first time, in Katowice.

**27 May 1957** Police raid the Algerian neighborhoods of Paris looking for terrorists. They detain over 1,000 people.

Veino Sukselainen replaces Karl August Fagerholm as Prime Minister of Finland.

**28 May 1957** 301 Algerian men are killed at the village of Mélouza, 150 km southeast of Algiers by members of the FLN Algerian nationalists. The atrocity is carried out with rifles, axes, and knives.

*The Legend of the Smoke from Potato Fires*, a cantata for solo voices, chorus, and instruments by Bohuslav Martinu (66) to words of Bures, is performed for the first time, in Prague.

Suite no.1 for unaccompanied cello by Ernest Bloch (76) is performed for the first time, over the airwaves of the BBC.

Vortex premieres at the Morrison Planetarium in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco. A creation of musician Henry Jacobs and filmmaker Jordan Belson, it consists of a twelve-speaker array with visual images.

**29 May 1957** Members of the FLN, an Algerian rebel group, kill all the men in the village of Melouza who belong to the MNA, a rival rebel group.

**31 May 1957** Arthur Miller, author of *Death of a Salesman* and *The Crucible*, is convicted in federal court in Washington, DC of contempt of Congress. Miller testified openly to a congressional committee in 1956 about his own past, but refused to implicate anyone else.

**1 June 1957** Harry Partch (55) arrives at Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio where he has been offered a studio for the summer.

**2 June 1957** An interview by three US journalists with General Secretary Nikita Khrushchev is broadcast over the airwaves of CBS. He proposes a ban on atomic testing, favors trade and coexistence, and predicts socialism will one day be the norm everywhere.

*Perspektiven*, music to an imaginary ballet for two pianos by Bernd Alois Zimmermann (39), is staged for the first time, at the Deutsche Oper am Rhein, Düsseldorf.

Duo for clarinet and piano by Arthur Berger (45) is performed for the first time, at Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts.

**3 June 1957** Several bombs concealed in lampposts go off simultaneously in Algiers. Nine people are killed, 77 injured.

The US Supreme Court rules 7-1 that the government must drop charges against defendants if it refuses to let those defendants see secret FBI files.

**4 June 1957** Algerian rebels attack a French colonial post in Tlemcen in western Algeria. Three people are killed, ten wounded.

**6 June 1957** Arnold Schoenberg’s (†5) unfinished opera *Moses und Aron* to his own words, is performed completely for the first time, in the Zürich Stadttheater. See 2 July 1951 & 12 March 1954.

**7 June 1957**  Incidental music to the radio production of Olwen Wymark’s *The Unexpected Country* by Roberto Gerhard (60) is broadcast for the first time, over the airwaves of BBC Third Programme.

*Transformation* for winds, percussion, harp, and piano by Gunther Schuller (31) is performed for the first time, at Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts.

**9 June 1957** A bomb explodes in a dance hall in Algiers frequented by Europeans. Eight people are killed, 85 injured.

**10 June 1957** Marcel Campeix, the French Secretary of State for Algerian Affairs, is fired on while driving near Limoges. He is unhurt.

A growing row between Jordan and Egypt intensifies as both countries demand the removal of top diplomatic personnel.

In a surprise result, the ruling Liberal Party of Canadian Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent, is soundly defeated in parliamentary elections, losing over one-third of their seats. The Progressive Conservative Party more than doubles its number to win a plurality.

**11 June 1957** European students and veterans attack Arab businesses and motorists in retaliation for the bombing of 9 June. At least six people are killed.

**12 June 1957** *Mayflower II*, a reproduction of the original ship of 1620, reaches Provincetown, Massachusetts after an Atlantic crossing of 53 days.

**13 June 1957** Maurice Borgès-Maunoury replaces Guy Mollet as Prime Minister of France.

**14 June 1957** China releases two US Jesuit missionaries after four years in custody for espionage.

**16 June 1957** Jordan announces it will close its embassy in Cairo.

Biochemist William K. Sherwood kills himself by ingesting poison at the Hopkins Marine Laboratory of Stanford University in Pacific Grove, California. In a suicide note, Sherwood blames the House Un-American Activities Committee before whom he was called to testify about communist affiliations. Sherwood was working on treatments for cancer, heart disease, and schizophrenia.

**17 June 1957** Incidental music to Duncan’s radio play *Don’t Listen Ladies* by Peter Sculthorpe (28) is performed for the first time, over the airwaves of the Australian Broadcasting Commission.

In the case of *Sweezy v. New Hampshire,* the US Supreme Court rules that a state may not require a citizen to answer questions about their political associations or beliefs. In the case of *Watkins v. United States*, the court holds that a congressional committee may not require testimony outside its duty to propose new laws. It also ruled that five California communists, convicted in 1951 of violating the Smith Act, be acquitted and that nine others be given new trials.

*Agon*, a ballet by Igor Stravinsky, is performed for the first time, in a concert setting in Los Angeles on the composer’s 75th birthday. Elliott Carter (48) is in the audience. See 1 December 1957.

**18 June 1957** The official Chinese Hsinhua News Agency publishes the text of Mao Tse-tung’s speech of 27 February. It is seen by many as a shift in policy toward more openness and debate, in contrast to the Soviet system.

Sonata for flute and piano by Francis Poulenc (58) is performed for the first time, in Strasbourg by Jean-Pierre Rampal and the composer.

**19 June 1957** The Prime Minister of Malaya writes to Boosey and Hawkes with the proposal that either Benjamin Britten (43) or William Walton (55) compose a national anthem for the new nation.

**20 June 1957** A UN special committee on Hungary reports its findings that the USSR invaded Hungary to crush the legal government of Imre Nagy.

*Requiem for strings* by Toru Takemitsu (26) is performed for the first time, in Hibiya Hall, Tokyo.

**21 June 1957** The UN military command in Korea informs North Korea and China that since the north has introduced “vastly superior” forces into the peninsula, it will no longer be bound by provisions in the 1953 armistice limiting the number of forces and equipment it may import.

The United States and Japan jointly announce that all US combat ground troops will be withdrawn from Japan very soon.

*Dialogues des Carmélites*, an opera by Francis Poulenc (58) to words of Bernanos, is performed for the first time in French, at the Paris Opéra. See 26 January 1957.

John George Diefenbaker replaces Louis Stephen St. Laurent as Prime Minister of Canada, leading the first conservative government since 1935.

Rudolf Abel is arrested by immigration officials in a hotel in New York. Agents find a treasure trove of espionage equipment in his hotel room.

**22 June 1957** James Zarb, a Maltese businessman with British citizenship, is sentenced to ten years at hard labor in a Cairo court for espionage and conspiracy to overthrow the government. James Swinburn, former manager of the Arab News Agency and a British citizen, is sentenced to five years at hard labor. Two other Britons are acquitted. Of the 16 Egyptians in the “plot”, El-Sayed Amin Mahmoud is sentenced to death, three others are given life in prison.

**23 June 1957**  Incidental music to the radio production of Wyndham Lewis’ *The Revenge for Love* by Roberto Gerhard (60) is broadcast for the first time, over the airwaves of BBC Third Programme.

**25 June 1957** Rachel Fuller Brown and Elizabeth Lee Hazen receive a US patent for Nystatin, the first practical antifungal antibiotic.

**26 June 1957** Karl Amadeus Hartmann (51) declines an offer of a professorship at the Staatliche Hochschule für Musik in Cologne. He wants to stay in Munich.

**27 June 1957** Hurricane Audrey comes ashore on the Texas-Louisiana border. Over 400 people are killed by the storm.

**28 June 1957** Budapest Radio announces that Ilona Toth and three other leaders of the Hungarian uprising have been executed.

**1 July 1957** The International Geophysical Year begins.

A 1,600 km section of the Burma railway, built by allied prisoners at great cost in lives, is opened to civilian traffic.

Three divisions of the West German army formally join the NATO command.

**2 July 1957** An earthquake in northern Iran kills 1,200 people.

At the UN Disarmament Subcommittee meeting in London, the United States proposes a ten-month moratorium on atomic testing.

*Upingos* for oboe by Carlos Chávez (58) is performed for the first time, in the Palacio de Bellas Artes, Mexico City.

**3 July 1957** First Deputy Premier and State Control Minister Vyacheslav Molotov, Deputy Premier and Electric Power Stations Minister Georgy Malenkov, and First Deputy Premier Lazar Kaganovich, who attempted to oust Nikita Khrushchev while he visited Finland, are removed from the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Other top party officials are removed. The Presidium is enlarged to 15 members and several new members are added including Yekaterina Furtseva (the first woman member) and Leonid Brezhnev.

**5 July 1957** Music to Fauré’s radio play *Le crépuscule de Yang Koueï-fei* by Pierre Boulez (32) is performed for the first time, over the airwaves of RTF, originating in Paris.

**6 July 1957** The last British troops in Jordan sail from Aqaba.

**7 July 1957** *Concertante I* for violin and strings by Charles Wuorinen (19) is performed for the first time, in Middlebury, Vermont.

**9 July 1957** One Israeli civilian is killed and seven policemen injured in a border gun battle with Syrian troops in the Hula Region.

A revised version of *Simplicius simplicissimus*, a chamber opera by Karl Amadeus Hartmann (51) to words of Scherchen, Petzet, and the composer after von Grimmelshausen, is staged for the first time, in the Nationaltheater, Mannheim. See 2 April 1948 and 20 October 1949.

**11 July 1957** Senior members of the Bulgarian Central Committee are purged and the Politburo is enlarged from nine to eleven members.

Two black men are arrested for playing tennis on a whites-only tennis court in Durham, North Carolina.

**13 July 1957** Chinese Minister of Food Chang Nai-chi confesses his “rightist” attempts to undermine Communism.

**14 July 1957** *A Sun-Tribe Myth from the Bakumatsu Era*, a film with music by Toshiro Mayuzumi (28), is released in Japan.

Eight people are killed when Algerian rebels blow up the power station in Laghouat, 320 km south of Algiers.

Sinfonia for 15 winds and percussion ad.lib. by Ned Rorem (33) is performed for the first time, in Pittsburgh.

**15 July 1957** Chinese Minster of Timber Industry Lo Lung-chi and Minister of Communications Chang Po-chun confess before the National Peoples Congress in Peking that they have sought “to replace the proletarian dictatorship…with bourgeois democracy.”

Two Algerian women are sentenced to death in Algiers for planting bombs in cafes.

The United States explodes an atomic bomb, the seventh in its current series, in Nevada. Windows are broken in Carson City, about 400 km away.

**16 July 1957** Israel asks for UN truce observers on its side of the border with Syria on a 30-day trial basis.

**17 July 1957** When asked if he would use troops to enforce court ordered desegregation, President Eisenhower says “I can’t imagine any set of circumstances that would ever induce me to send federal troops…to enforce the orders of a federal court…and I would never believe that it would be a wise thing to do in this country.”

**18 July 1957** The French National Assembly votes extraordinary powers to the government to deal with Algerian rebels inside France. It is also a vote of confidence in Prime Minister Bougès-Maunoury.

**19 July 1957** A federal judge in Washington fines playwright Arthur Miller $500 and sentences him to one month in jail (suspended).

The United States explodes another atomic device at Yucca Flat, Nevada, for the first time on the warhead of an air-to-air missile.

**20 July 1957** Clarinet Sonata by Peter Maxwell Davies (22) is performed for the first time, in Darmstadt, the composer at the keyboard.

**21 July 1957** Two choral works by Carl Orff (62) are performed for the first time, in Solingen: *Laudes creaturarum* for mixed chorus and *Sunt lacrimae rerum* for male chorus.

**22 July 1957** Egyptian authorities allow a Danish-flagged ship through the Suez Canal even though the cargo is bound for Israel. However, they arrest a crewman because he is a member of the Israeli armed forces.

**23 July 1957** Under pressure from Arab countries, Royal Dutch Shell and British Petroleum announce that they will sell all of their assets in Israel except for the Haifa oil refinery.

Seven whites are convicted in federal district court in Knoxville for violating a court injunction against interference with integration in Clinton, Tennessee. Defense attorneys argued that they were upholding the “Southern way of life.”

**24 July 1957** The trial of eleven Frenchmen in Algiers for sheltering Algerians from a French military roundup ends. One receives a two-year sentence, five are given suspended sentences and five are acquitted.

The lecture “Alea” by Pierre Boulez (32) is read (in German) at Darmstadt. He attacks anyone engaged in chance composition, particularly John Cage (44).

**25 July 1957** King Muhammad al-Amin of Tunisia is deposed by the National Constituent Assembly. A republic is declared and Prime Minister Habib Bourguiba is named President.

**26 July 1957** President Carlos Castillo Armas of Guatemala is shot to death by one of his guards in the Presidential Palace, Guatemala City. The assassin then kills himself. Castillo is replaced by Vice-President Luis Arturo González López.

**27 July 1957** The French Settlements in Oceania are renamed French Polynesia.

Music for cello and piano by Earle Brown (30) is performed for the first time, in Darmstadt.

**28 July 1957** In the first national elections since the overthrow of Juan Perón, Argentine voters choose a Constituent Assembly.

*Three Mass Movements* for solo violin by Charles Wuorinen (19) is performed for the first time, in East Hampton, New York.

**29 July 1957** A revised version of Benjamin Britten’s (43) attempt at a national anthem for Malaya is sent to Kuala Lampur.

With the ratification of the United States, the statute for the International Atomic Energy Commission comes into force.

**31 July 1957** The Distant Early Warning (DEW) Line is declared operational. It is a series of 58 sites across the arctic regions of the United States, Canada, and Greenland designed to warn of a Soviet attack over the North Pole.

**1 August 1957** President Fulgencio Batista suspends human rights in Cuba including freedom of the press. He fears Castro’s rebels and a general strike.

**2 August 1957** The Jodrell Bank radio telescope in Cheshire operates for the first time.

**3 August 1957** On the day of the first complete run-through of *West Side Story*, Leonard Bernstein (38) signs a contract as music director of the New York Philharmonic.

**5 August 1957** An agreement is signed in Kuala Lampur between Great Britain and nine Malay states calling for an end to British rule in Malaya effective 31 August.

**7 August 1957** Rudolf Abel is indicted by a federal grand jury in New York on three counts of espionage-related activities.

**8 August 1957** *Alma Redemptoris Mater* for flute, oboe, two clarinets, horn, and bassoon by Peter Maxwell Davies (22) is performed for the first time, in The Great Hall, Dartington, Devon. Also premiered is Davies’ Sextet for flute, clarinet in A, bass clarinet, violin, cello, and piano.

**10 August 1957** The Argentine newspaper *La Nacion* reports that the number of blank ballots cast in the 28 July election exceeded the number for any political party. In exile in Venezuela, Juan Perón instructed his followers to cast blank ballots.

**11 August 1957** Paul Hindemith’s (61) opera *Die Harmonie der Welt*, to his own words, is performed for the first time, in the Prinzregententheater, Munich conducted by the composer.

**13 August 1957** Syria orders the expulsion of three top members of the US embassy in Damascus. They charge the three with fomenting a coup d’etat against the Syrian government.

US customs agents seize rifles, machine guns, and ammunition, reportedly intended for Fidel Castro, in Miami. They arrest former Cuban official Alfredo González García and Gil de Gibaja, a naturalized US citizen. They are charged with violating the Neutrality Act.

**14 August 1957** During a sit-down strike in Lodz, Polish soldiers and police drive up to 5,000 transit workers from streetcar terminals. They operate the city’s transit system themselves.

The US government declares the Syrian ambassador and another Syrian diplomat persona non grata in retaliation for the events of yesterday. They also announce that the ambassador to Syria, presently in the US, will not be returning to his post. They deny the Syrian allegations.

**17 August 1957** Leftists are appointed to positions of power in the Syrian military.

Trade negotiations in Moscow between the USSR and West Germany are broken off when the Soviets refuse to talk about repatriating 80,000 Germans still held in the country.

**18 August 1957** Tan Dun is born in Simao, Hunan Province, China.

**19 August 1957** *West Side Story*, a musical by Leonard Bernstein (38) to words of Sondheim and the composer after Laurents after Shakespeare, is given its out-of-town opening in the National Theatre, Washington. See 26 September 1957.

*Aspen Serenade* for chamber orchestra by Darius Milhaud (64) is performed for the first time, in Aspen, Colorado.

**22 August 1957** The USSR begins a new series of nuclear tests.

US Secretary of State John Foster Dulles authorizes 24 news organizations to send correspondents to China for a seven-month trial period. Chinese correspondents are not allowed into the United States.

**24 August 1957** Edgard Varèse (73) and his wife Louise sail from New York for the Netherlands where he will create *Poéme électronique.*

Piano Concerto no.3 by Heitor Villa-Lobos (70) is performed for the first time, in Teatro Municipal, Rio de Janeiro.

**25 August 1957** A joint congressional committee in the United States reports that if atmospheric nuclear tests continue at the level of the last five years, it could “constitute a hazard to the world’s population.”

**26 August 1957** China announces that 90 print and radio people have been sacked as part of a “struggle against rightists in the journalistic field.”

The USSR announces the successful test of an intercontinental ballistic missile.

The first Edsel is produced by the Ford Motor Company. Only about 110,000 of them will ever be built.

**27 August 1957** The Union of Chinese Writers denounces its vice-chairman Feng Hsueh-feng.

**28 August 1957** The witchcraft convictions of six women in Salem, Massachusetts in 1692 are officially overturned by order of Governor Foster Furcolo.

**29 August 1957** The United States Congress passes the Civil Rights Act of 1957. It is the first major civil rights legislation since Reconstruction. The vote comes after a record filibuster of 24 hours, 18 minutes against the bill by Senator Strom Thurmond of South Carolina.

**31 August 1957** The Federation of Malaya is established, independent of Great Britain under Paramount Ruler Tuanku Abdul Rahman ibni al-Marhum Yamtuan Muhammad and Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Alhaj.

*Izvestia* announces that Vyacheslav Molotov has been named ambassador to Mongolia.

**1 September 1957** Divertimento for strings by Thea Musgrave (29) is performed for the first time, in the Adam Rooms, Edinburgh.

**2 September 1957** Alhaji Abubakar Tafawa Balewa is installed as the first Prime Minister of Nigeria, under British sovereignty.

Arkansas Governor Orval Faubus calls out his state’s national guard an places them around the Central High School of Little Rock to prevent court ordered integration.

Members of the Ku Klux Klan torture and castrate a black man, Judge Aaron, outside of Birmingham, Alabama. When they are captured, they reveal that the man was chosen at random to be a warning to advocates of desegregation in the city.

**3 September 1957** A federal judge in Little Rock tells school officials to proceed with desegregation as planned.

Henry Cowell’s (60) Music for Orchestra is performed for the first time, in the Theatre of Herodes Atticus, Athens.

**4 September 1957** A report by a Commission on Homosexual Offenses and Prostitution appointed by the British government recommends that private homosexual acts between consenting adults no longer be considered a crime. Led by the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Reading, John Wolfenden, the report will come to be known by his name.

Members of the Arkansas National Guard prevent nine black students from entering the Central High School of Little Rock, to the delight of white mobs.

**5 September 1957** Mayor Woodrow Mann of Little Rock says the calling of the National Guard by Governor Faubus is a “disgraceful political hoax.” He says the Governor wants to “create tension where none existed.”

Cuban rebels, joined by sailors from a nearby naval base, attack Cienfuegos, 250 km southeast of Havana. They manage to take police headquarters but are driven out by government troops. Air Force planes sent to attack the rebels drop their bombs harmlessly in the Bay of Jagua.

*On the Road* by Jack Kerouac is published by Viking Press in New York.

*Le Travail du peintre*, a cycle for voice and piano by Francis Poulenc (58) to words of Eluard, is performed officially for the first time, in Edinburgh. Also premiered is Poulenc’s Deux mélodies 1956 to words of Apollinaire. The composer is at the keyboard for both. See 1 April 1957.

**6 September 1957** The five-nation (Canada-France-USSR-UK-US) UN Disarmament Subcommittee meeting in London adjourns indefinitely. No substantive progress has been made.

A federal judge in Nashville rules that the voluntary integration law in Tennessee is unconstitutional. He orders Nashville officials to begin integrating on the first day of school, 9 September.

**9 September 1957** The first shipment of US arms to Jordan arrives at its destination. This is to counter similar moves by the USSR into Syria.

13 black first-graders (six years old) are brought by their parents to integrate a Nashville elementary school. They are forced through a gauntlet of angry whites who spit and hurl missiles at them. This night, a newly integrated school in Nashville is blown up by dynamite.

Nine black students attempting to enter a white high school in North Little Rock, Arkansas are forcibly ejected from the building by white students and adults. Eleven policemen on hand watch and do nothing. The school superintendant postpones the integration plan indefinitely.

Rev. FL Shuttlesworth is attacked and beaten by a white mob as he attempts to enroll four black children in a school in Birmingham, Alabama. Police Commissioner Robert Lindberghs promises that police will be used to keep blacks out of white schools.

**10 September 1957** Federal District Judge Ronald Davies orders Arkansas Governor Orval Faubus and two commanders of the state National Guard to appear in his court to explain why the Guard was used to prohibit nine black children from attending the Central High School in Little Rock.

**11 September 1957** Two works for chamber ensemble by Darius Milhaud (65) are performed for the first time, over the airwaves of Radio Lausanne the composer conducting: *Le globe trotter* op.358 and *Les charmes de la vie*.

**12 September 1957** *Cross Section*, a revue with six songs by Peter Sculthorpe (28) to words of McKellar, is performed for the first time, in the Phillip Street Theatre, Sydney.

Paul Teitgen, Secretary-General of Police in Algiers, resigns. He objects to the torture used against rebels.

**14 September 1957** The United Nations General Assembly votes 60-10-10 to condemn the Soviet suppression of the Hungarian revolt.

In a meeting with US President Dwight Eisenhower, Arkansas Governor Orval Faubus pledges to respect the desegregation orders of the courts, but he does not promise to remove his National Guard troops from the Central High School in Little Rock.

**15 September 1957** Elections for the West German Bundestag show gains for most of the major parties at the expense of smaller parties. Only five parties now remain in the house. Chancellor Konrad Adenauer’s Christian Democrats win the most seats and will head a coalition government.

Three years after the US Supreme Court decision on integration of schools, the *New York Times* reports “no progress” towards that goal in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, and Virginia. Only minimal progress is reported in Arkansas, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas.

**16 September 1957** *Vive Nadia* for voice and piano by Francis Poulenc (58) is performed for the first time, in Villars-sur-Ollon, Switzerland to celebrate the 70th birthday of Nadia Boulanger.

**17 September 1957** The Federation of Malaya is admitted to the United Nations.

A military coup led by Field Marshal Sarit Thanarat overthrows the government of Prime Minister Plaek Pibulsongkram of Thailand.

Twelve pilots in the Cuban Air Force receive sentences of eight to ten years for not attacking rebels at Cienfuegos on 5 September.

In Grand Forks, North Dakota, Louis Armstrong confirms that he has cancelled a government-sponsored tour of the USSR because “the way they are treating my people in the South, the government can go to hell…It’s getting almost so bad, a colored man hasn’t got any country.”

*Persian Set* for chamber orchestra by Henry Cowell (60) is performed for the first time, in Gulestan Palace, Teheran.

Symphony no.11 “1905” by Dmitri Shostakovich (50) is performed for the first time, in a two-piano reduction in the House of Composers, Leningrad the composer at one keyboard. See 30 October 1957.

**18 September 1957** Edgard Varèse (73) begins working in the Philips studios in Eindhoven on *Poéme électronique.*

Benjamin Britten’s (43) score for a Malayan national anthem is returned to him by the government of Malaya. They do pay him the fee, however.

**20 September 1957** Prime Minister Sidney Holland of New Zealand resigns for health reasons and is replaced by Keith Holyoake.

Around 21:00 Jean Christian Julius Sibelius dies of a cerebral hemorrhage at his home in Järvenpää, Finland, aged 91 years, nine months, and twelve days.

Pursuant to a court order, Governor Orval Faubus removes the National Guard from the Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas.

**21 September 1957** Pote Sarasin replaces Plaek Pibulsongkram as Prime Minister of Thailand.

The West German four-masted barque *Pamir* capsizes and sinks in a hurricane 1,100 km west of the Azores. Only six of the crew of 138 are rescued.

King Haakon VII of Norway dies in Oslo and is succeeded by his son, Olav V.

Serenade no.10 op.79 for flute and harp by Vincent Persichetti (42) is performed for the first time, in Istanbul.

**22 September 1957** *Temptation*, a film with music by Toshiro Mayuzumi (28), is released in Japan.

A presidential election held today in Haiti is apparently won by Dr. François Duvalier, although his opponent, Louis Dejoie, charges fraud.

**23 September 1957** While a mob of whites beats four black newsmen, nine black children are spirited into the Central High School in Little Rock. However, with the threat of mob violence, the mayor and school superintendant remove the black students three hours after their arrival. In the evening, President Eisenhower signs an order requiring everyone to “cease and desist” from blocking integration.

A Constituent Assembly in Argentina votes to uphold the 1853 constitution and abolish the Perónist 1949 constitution. This was done by decree last year.

**24 September 1957** Yacef Saadi, leader of the Algiers rebels, is captured by the French.

After white mobs appear once again at the Central High School, President Eisenhower nationalizes the Arkansas National Guard and sends 1,000 federal troops to the city. He addresses the nation from the White House to explain his actions.

*Maratona*, a ballet by Hans Werner Henze (31) to a story by Visconti, is performed for the first time, in the Städtische Oper Berlin. See 8 February 1957.

**25 September 1957** A 1,700 meter bridge opens over the Yangtze at Wuhan making rail traffic possible between Peking and Canton.

Under the protection of federal troops, nine black children enter the Central High School of Little Rock, Arkansas. There are no incidents within the school, but two persons are injured and seven are arrested outside as whites battle with troops.

**26 September 1957** The film *The Three Faces of Eve* is released in the United States.

A general strike is called in Haiti to protest the election of 22 September. Mobs roam the streets smashing any business not open, under the protection of police and troops.

*Pas de six*, an orchestral excerpt from Benjamin Britten’s (43) ballet *The Prince of the Pagodas*, is performed for the first time, in Birmingham. See 1 January 1957.

Piano Sonata no.3 by Pierre Boulez (32) is performed for the first time, in Darmstadt by the composer.

**26 September 1957** *West Side Story*, a musical by Leonard Bernstein (38) to words of Sondheim and the composer after Laurents after Shakespeare, is performed for the first time in New York in the Winter Garden Theatre. It will run for 734 performances, a yearlong national tour and then 249 more performances on Broadway. (for the last nine months of the Broadway run, the drummer will be Michael Colgrass (25)) Producer Harold Prince will later lament that he closed the show two months too soon. See 19 August 1957.

**27 September 1957** The government of Haiti declares a state of siege.

The Conservatório Villa-Lobos (70) is opened in São Paulo during “Villa-Lobos Week” in the city, celebrating his 70th birthday.

**29 September 1957** Two trains collide in the Montgomery (Sahiwal) District of Pakistan. 250-300 people are killed.

The original cast recording of *West Side Story* is made at Columbia Masterworks studio on 30th Street in New York.

**30 September 1957** After a state funeral in Helsinki, the earthly remains of Jean Sibelius are interred in the garden of his home Ainola, in Järvenpää. Among the mourners is Finnish President Urho Kekkonen.

When the French National Assembly refuses to approve a bill to make Algeria part of France, the government of Prime Minister Maurice Bourgès-Maunoury resigns. President Coty asks him to stay on in a caretaker capacity.

Pierre Schaeffer (47) is removed as Chairman of Soraform, in spite of the fact that it has done what it was set up to do, improve radio in the French colonies. The staff strikes for his reinstatement but the government refuses.

*Epithalamion*, a cantata for baritone, chorus, and orchestra by Ralph Vaughan Williams (84) to words of Spenser, is performed for the first time, in Royal Festival Hall, London.

**1 October 1957** String Quartet no.4 by David Diamond (42) is performed for the first time, in Carnegie Recital Hall, New York.

**2 October 1957** Polish First Secretary Wladyslaw Gomulka closes the liberal periodical *Po Prostu*. This begins four days of street protest which will be brutally suppressed by riot troops.

David Lean’s film *The Bridge on the River Kwai* is released in Great Britain.

**4 October 1957** The first artificial satellite to orbit the Earth, *Sputnik I*, is launched from the USSR. It is a sphere 58 cm in diameter and weighing 83.6 kg and completes each orbit in 95 minutes at an altitude of 900 km. *Sputnik* emits constant radio signals on two frequencies.

*Tre epitaffi per Federico García Lorca* for speaker, speaking chorus, and orchestra by Luigi Nono (33) to words of García Lorca and Neruda are performed together for the first time, in Berlin. The three have been performed separately already. See 21 July 1952, 17 December 1952, and 16 February 1953.

*König Hirsch*, an opera by Hans Werner Henze (30) to words of von Cramer after Gozzi, is performed completely for the first time, over the airwaves of RAI, Turin. See 23 September 1956 and 5 May 1985.

**5 October 1957** Two days of battles between students and police in Warsaw escalate into general anti-government riots over the next three days.

Incidental music to Seneca’s (tr. Pemán) play *Tiestes* by Joaquín Rodrigo (55) is performed for the first time, in Teatro Español, Madrid.

**6 October 1957** Music for violin, piano, and percussion by Gunther Schuller (31) is performed for the first time, in Carnegie Hall, New York conducted by the composer.

**7 October 1957** A fire in the Windscale plutonium production reactor north of Liverpool causes the release of radioactive materials into the atmosphere. All milk and growing food within 400 miles (644 km) of the plant is seized. An estimated 39 people will die as a result of the accident.

Cornelius Cardew (21) arrives in Cologne from Britain to study with Karlheinz Stockhausen (29) at the electronic studio of WDR.

Parliamentary elections in Norway leave the parties virtually unchanged. The ruling Labor Party retains its majority.

Komla Agbeli Gdbemah, Ghana’s Minister of Finance, and his secretary are refused service at a restaurant in Dover, Delaware. They are told “colored people are not allowed to eat in here.”

**8 October 1957** Skirmishing breaks out on the border between Turkey and Syria.

A telephone cable extending from San Francisco to Honolulu opens for use. It is the longest and deepest transoceanic cable (3,800 km long, maximum depth 5.5 km) to date.

**9 October 1957** The legislature of the State of Florida approves a law immediately closing any school to which federal troops are sent to enforce desegregation.

**10 October 1957** US President Eisenhower hosts Komla Agbeli Gbdemah, Ghana’s Minister of Finance, at a White House breakfast. The meeting is to apologize for the events of 7 October. Eisenhower tells Gbdemah, “Little things like that are happening all over the place, and you don’t know where they are going to blow up or when.”

Three Pieces for chamber ensemble by Arnold Schoenberg (†6) are performed for the first time, in Berlin, 47 years after they were composed.

**11 October 1957** *Concerto per la notte di Natale dell’anno 1956* for soprano and chamber orchestra by Luigi Dallapiccola (53) to words of Jacopo da Todi is performed for the first time, in Tokyo.

**12 October 1957** Mikhail Kalatozov’s film, *Cranes are Flying* is released in the USSR.

**13 October 1957** The Egyptian government announces that elements of its armed forces have been landing in Syria to support the government there.

East Germany closes its borders and recalls all East German marks for transfer to a new currency. The move is designed to eliminate hording of eastmarks in the west, particularly an estimated EM10-20 million in West Berlin.

**14 October 1957** Lev Sergeyevich Termen (Leon Theremin) (61) is “completely rehabilitated” by the Soviet government.

Given the calmer atmosphere in Little Rock, half of the 1,000 federal troops there are withdrawn. Most of the National Guard are released from national service. Governor Faubus tells reporters that if the nine black students were withdrawn from school, “that would solve the whole thing.”

**16 October 1957** *Flourish for Glorious John* for orchestra by Ralph Vaughan Williams (85) is performed for the first time, in the Manchester Free Trade Hall, conducted by its dedicatee, John Barbirolli.

**17 October 1957** The Royal Swedish Academy of Literature announces that Albert Camus has won the Nobel Prize.

**20 October 1957** Suite no.2 for unaccompanied cello by Ernest Bloch (77) is performed for the first time, over the airwaves of the BBC.

Nachtstücke und Arien for soprano and orchestra by Hans Werner Henze (31) to words of Bachmann, is performed for the first time, in Donaueschingen. A few seconds after the performance begins, Pierre Boulez (32), Luigi Nono (33), and Karlheinz Stockhausen (29) stand up and leave the hall.

Varianti for violin, woodwinds, and strings by Luigi Nono (33) is performed for the first time, in Donaueschingen.

*Katzgraben*, a film with music by Hanns Eisler (59), is released in East Germany.

**22 October 1957** Three bombs go off in Saigon, one in front of a building housing US military officers, one under a bus carrying US enlisted men, and one in front of the library of the USIA. 15 Vietnamese civilians and 13 US military personnel are injured.

François “Papa Doc” Duvalier becomes president of Haiti. Martial law is ended.

**23 October 1957** A general strike over the last two days in Argentina is thought largely to be a failure due to too little participation.

**24 October 1957** Christian Dior dies in Montecatini of a heart attack at the age of 52.

**25 October 1957** Stanley Kubrick’s film *Paths of Glory* is released in West Germany.

Rudolf Ivanovich Abel is convicted in a federal court in New York on three counts, 1. conspiracy to transmit US defense secrets to the USSR, 2. conspiracy to gather said secrets and 3. failure to register as a foreign agent.

Piano Fantasy by Aaron Copland (56), commissioned to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Juilliard School, is performed for the first time, in the Juilliard Concert Hall.

**26 October 1957** Vatican Radio goes on the air for the first time.

Nikos Kazantzakis dies in Freiburg at the age of 72.

Variations for brass band by Ralph Vaughan Williams (85) is performed for the first time, in Royal Albert Hall, London.

**27 October 1957** The ruling Democratic Party continues in power after Turkish parliamentary elections, with a reduced but comfortable majority.

**29 October 1957** *Bitoku no yoromeki*, a film with music by Toshiro Mayuzumi (28), is released in Japan.

Moshe Dwek, an Israeli Jew, throws a hand grenade into the Knesset chamber in Jerusalem. Several people are injured, including Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion, Foreign Minister Golda Meir, and three other cabinet members. Dwek is motivated by personal issues and will be sentenced to 15 years in prison.

US backed dictator Fulgencio Batista suspends the Cuban Constitution.

**30 October 1957** Symphony no.11 “1905” by Dmitri Shostakovich (51) is performed for the first time, in Moscow Conservatory Bolshoy Hall. The work was performed in a two-piano reduction in Leningrad on 17 September.

Incidental music for *Settings for Whitman* for speaker and piano by Ned Rorem (34) is performed for the first time, in Town Hall, New York. Also premiered is Robert Ward’s (40) Three Pieces for Narrator and Piano Based on Poems from Old Possum’s Book of Practical Cats to words of Eliot.

Chromatic Fantasy for cello by Ross Lee Finney (50) is performed for the first time, in the Corcoran Gallery, Washington.

**31 October 1957** The city council of Little Rock, Arkansas orders the arrest of all officers of the local NAACP chapter. The chapter has failed to comply with an ordinance passed two weeks ago that the council be informed of the membership and financial records. They will be arrested.

**1 November 1957** The Mackinac Bridge opens over the Straits of Mackinac, joining the two parts of the State of Michigan. Its total length is 8,038 meters.

**3 November 1957** *Sputnik II* is launched from the USSR carrying the first space traveler from Earth, Laika, a dog.

**4 November 1957** *Service pour la veille du Sabbat* op.345 for children’s chorus and organ by Darius Milhaud (65) is performed for the first time, in Paris.

**6 November 1957** Félix Gaillard replaces Maurice Bourgès-Maunoury as Prime Minister of France.

The Lebanese government announces it has foiled a plot to blow up the Parliament and other government buildings in Beirut. They claim the plot was concocted by the Lebanese Communist Party and Syrian Nationalist Party.

**8 November 1957** Sergey Prokofiev’s (†4) opera *War and Peace*, to his own words after Tolstoy, is performed completely (with cuts) for the first time, in Stanislavsky Theatre, Moscow. See 16 October 1944 and 12 June 1946.

**10 November 1957** The US Office of Education releases a report on how the USSR is far ahead of the US in producing trained college graduates in science and other technological fields.

Incidental music to the television program *The World of Nick Adams* by Aaron Copland (56) is performed for the first time, over the airwaves of the CBS television network.

String Quartet in One Movement by Kenneth Gaburo (31) is performed for the first time, at the University of Illinois, Champaign.

**11 November 1957** Police in Paris say they have arrested 15 leaders of a vast underground ring of Algerian rebels in the country.

**12 November 1957** In Paris, General Thomas Power of the Strategic Air Command reveals that bombers with nuclear weapons are in the air 24 hours a day on a rotating basis.

Robert Gundlach receives a US patent for a “multiple copy transfer process and apparatus.” It is the first practical photocopier.

*Alarms and Diversions* by James Thurber is published in the United States.

**13 November 1957** President Antonín Zapotocky of Czechoslovakia dies in Prague of a heart ailment. Viliám Siroky becomes acting President.

King Hussein of Jordan renounces his country’s defense agreement with Syria and Egypt. He says that the two countries are “instruments of international Communism against Jordan.”

**14 November 1957** Israel and Syria agree to allow civilian construction to proceed in the demilitarized zone on their common border.

The fourth movement of *Folk Fantasy for Festivals* for folksingers, soloists, speakers, chorus, and piano by Roy Harris (59) is performed for the first time, in University Auditorium, Oklahoma State University. See 22 February 1956 and 6 May 1963.

**15 November 1957** Arms from the US and UK arrive in Tunis for use by the pro-western Tunisian government. France strongly protests the sales, fearing the arms would end up in the hands of Algerian rebels.

**17 November 1957** Piano Piece 1956B by Morton Feldman (31) is performed for the first time, in New York.

**18 November 1957** A joint meeting of the Egyptian and Syrian Parliaments in Damascus votes to join the two countries together.

New music by Pauline Oliveros (25) is performed for the first time, at San Francisco State College: Three Songs for soprano and piano to words of Duncan and Olson, and Three Songs for soprano and horn, to words of Sandburg and Whitman.

*Proclamation* for trumpet and orchestra by Ernest Bloch (77) is performed for the first time, in New York.

**19 November 1957** The Czechoslovak National Assembly elects First Secretary Antonín Novotny to succeed Antonín Zapotocky as President.

31 Cubans are arrested near Key West, Florida while attempting to bring arms and other materials to the rebels in Cuba.

Leonard Bernstein (39) is named co-Music Director of the New York Philharmonic.

**20 November 1957** US officials confirm that it has unfrozen about one-quarter of the $40,000,000 in Egyptian assets seized during the Suez Canal crisis last year.

**21 November 1957** Israel complains to the UN that Jordan is not allowing the normal biweekly shipments of fuel to the Israeli enclave on Mt. Scopus.

**22 November 1957** *Doktor Zhivago* by Boris Pasternak is published by Giangiacomo Feltrinelli Editore in Milan, in Italian.

**23 November 1957** Moroccan irregulars attack the Spanish possession of Ifni in the southwest of the country. They report initial successes.

**24 November 1957** Diego Rivera dies in Mexico City at the age of 70.

Two Russian Folksongs op.104, a setting for chorus by Dmitri Shostakovich (51), is performed for the first time, in Moscow Conservatory Bolshoy Hall.

**26 November 1957** *The Unbalanced Wheel*, a film with music by Toshiro Mayuzumi (28), is released in Japan.

The legislature of the State of Texas passes measures allowing the governor to close any public school where violence might cause the intervention of federal troops, authorizing aid for school districts fighting legal battles against integration, and requiring any organization seeking to change public schools to make their membership public. This last is aimed at the NAACP.

**27 November 1957** British Foreign Secretary Selwyn Lloyd reveals in the House of Commons that some US planes based in Britain carry nuclear weapons.

The last federal troops depart Little Rock, Arkansas.

**29 November 1957** Berndt Rainer von Feiandt replaces Väinö Johannes Sukselainen as Prime Minister of Finland.

The UN General Assembly votes 41-29-11, short of the two-thirds necessary, against urging further negotiations between the Netherlands and Indonesia over West Irian.

Erich Korngold dies in Hollywood at the age of 60.

**30 November 1957** Indonesian rebels attempt to kill President Sukarno in a grenade attack at a school in Jakarta. The President is almost unharmed but six children are killed and over a hundred are injured.

The French National Assembly approves a new Basic Law for Algeria. They affirm that Algeria is “an integral part of the French Republic.” Moslems and French in the region are given equal voting rights, but proportional representation.

The White House releases a report by the President’s Commission on Scientists and Engineers that says “we are already in a technological race with the Russians,” and “the Russians are gaining on us.”

**1 December 1957** Indonesian President Sukarno announces the nationalization of assets owned by 246 Dutch companies, over the West Irian dispute. Dutch publications are banned and landings by KLM at Indonesian airports are ended.

Voters in Colombia accept a constitutional amendment to allow the Conservative and Liberal parties to govern jointly. Women vote in the country for the first time.

Igor Stravinsky’s (75) ballet *Agon* is staged for the first time, in City Center, New York. The music, and the choreography by George Balanchine, are a stupendous success. See 17 June 1957.

Two male choruses by Leos Janácek (†29) are performed for the first time, in Prague, approximately 75 years after they were composed: *On the Bushy Fir Tree Two Pigeons are Perched*, and *On the Ferry*.

**2 December 1957** Indictments of violating the Smith Act against ten communists in California are thrown out of court for lack of evidence.

*The Duel*, a film with music by Aram Khachaturian (54), is released.

*Dark Rapture Crawl* for orchestra by Bruno Maderna (37) is performed for the first time, in Rome. Also premiered is Divertimento for orchestra by Bruno Maderna and Luciano Berio (32).

**3 December 1957** Indonesian workers seize control of the Dutch Royal Interocean Lines (KPM).

After the arrival of reinforcements, Spanish troops begin expelling Moroccan irregulars from Ifni.

Piano Sonata by Bohuslav Martinu (66) is performed for the first time, in Brno.

**4 December 1957** Indonesian workers seize three Dutch banks. The government orders the Netherlands to close all its consulates in the country. It names committees to run seized Dutch companies.

UN Secretary General Dag Hammarkjöld, in the region since 30 November, wins approval from Jordan to allow convoys to resume to the Israeli enclave of Mt. Scopus. All other Arab-Israeli disputes remain unresolved.

*Le visage nuptial* for soprano, alto, female chorus, and chamber orchestra by Pierre Boulez (32) to words of Char, is performed for the first time, in Cologne, the composer conducting.

**5 December 1957** The Indonesian government orders that 46,000 Dutch nationals be expelled from the country.

**6 December 1957** The first attempt by the United States to launch a space satellite ends in failure when a Vanguard rocket blows up during launch at Cape Canaveral, Florida.

Symphony no.3 by Roger Sessions (60) is performed for the first time, in Boston. Public and press are cool.

**8 December 1957** The Soviet government announces that Irkutsk, Lvov, and Latvia are now open to foreign tourism.

On his 67th birthday, a plaque honoring Bohuslav Martinu is unveiled at the church tower where he was born, in Policka, Czechoslovakia. Martinu is currently in exile.

**9 December 1957** Indonesia announces it has seized all Dutch farms in the country, including their assets.

75 people are injured, 150 arrested in rioting by Greek Cypriots.

Harry Partch (56) moves into a studio on North Orleans Street, Chicago.

**10 December 1957** Permina, the state-owned oil company, is founded in Indonesia. 51 Dutch citizens arrive in Singapore, the first to be expelled from Indonesia.

**11 December 1957** Mohammed ben Sadok, who confessed to killing Ali Chekkal, former Vice-President of the Algerian Assembly, is sentenced to life imprisonment at hard labor by a Paris court.

**12 December 1957** Walter Nash replaces Keith Hoyoake as Prime Minister of New Zealand.

**13 December 1957** An earthquake centered near Sahneh, Iran kills 1,130 people.

A report by the French government’s Commission for the Safeguard of Rights and Individual Liberties is made public. It says that atrocities committed by Algerian rebels were provoked by French brutality and other excesses. They allege brutality and “disappearances” brought about by French authorities. The report was delivered to the Prime Minister on 14 September but kept secret because of demands from conservatives. Today it appears in *Le Monde*.

Sonata for viola and piano by Leslie Bassett (34) is performed for the first time, in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

**14 December 1957** The UN General Assembly votes 31-23-24 (short of two-thirds necessary) to reject a Greek proposal for self-determination for Cyprus.

**15 December 1957** *Line Studies* for flute, clarinet, viola, and trombone by Kenneth Gaburo (31) is performed for the first time, in New York.

Piano (Three Hands) and Two Pianos, both by Morton Feldman (31) are performed for the first time, in Paine Hall of Harvard University by John Cage (45) and David Tudor. Also premiered is Duo for Pianists I by Christian Wolff (23).

**17 December 1957** The United States successfully tests an Intercontinental Ballistic Missile for the first time, from Cape Canaveral, Florida.

Dorothy Sayers dies in Witham, Essex, England at the age of 64.

*The Nat King Cole Show*, a popular television variety show in the United States, is cancelled because of its inability to attract a sponsor. The star of the show is black.

**18 December 1957** The first nuclear power plant in the US meant for civilian use goes on line in Shippingport, Pennsylvania. It produces electricity for customers in the Pittsburgh area.

**19 December 1957** The NATO heads of government meeting in Paris agree to set up an integrated nuclear missile force.

*The Music Man* by Meredith Willson opens in New York.

**25 December 1957** Frederick Law Olmstead dies in Malibu, California at the age of 87.

**29 December 1957** Eydie Gorme marries Steve Lawrence in Las Vegas.

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