**1 January 1999** Eleven European nations introduce a common currency, the Euro. The transition process goes smoothly. Participating nations are Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, and Spain.

**3 January 1999** Security forces open fire on demonstrators in the separatist Aceh Province of Indonesia. 16 people are killed, 170 arrested.

A bomb explodes on a bridge in Lahore over which Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif is scheduled to travel. Four people are killed, three injured.

**4 January 1999** Gunmen open fire on a Shia mosque in Quereshi More, Punjab, Pakistan. Six people are killed, 25 injured.

Trading in euros begins on world currency markets.

**6 January 1999** The One Hundred-and-sixth Congress of the United States convenes in Washington. The opposition Republican Party controls both houses.

**7 January 1999** The impeachment trial of US President Bill Clinton opens in the Senate in Washington. He is accused of perjury and obstruction of justice.

*Une tour de Babel* for tape by Pierre Henry (71) is performed for the first time, in Salle Olivier Messiaen of Radio France, Paris.

**9 January 1999** French troops shoot and kill Dragan Gagovic, wanted for war crimes, while trying to arrest him in Foca, Bosnia.

State elections are held in Nigeria in the second of three rounds of return to democratic rule.

**11 January 1999** The Australian government changes its policy and now supports “an act of self-determination” for East Timor.

British American Tobacco PLC announces plans to buy Rothmans International BV for £5,280,000,000 in stock transactions. The new company is expected to have roughly the same market share as the current leader, Philip Morris Cos. Inc.

**12 January 1999** Suite for solo violin in the sixth-tone system op.85b by Alois Hába (†25) is performed for the first time, over the airwaves of Czech Radio originating in Prague, 44 years after it was composed.

**13 January 1999** The Brazilian government allows the real to fall 8.3% in value creating fears of economic instability and causing world markets to fall.

*Feng* for woodwind quintet by Chen Yi (45) is performed for the first time, in St. John’s Presbyterian Church, Berkeley, California.

**14 January 1999** The Liberal Party joins with the ruling Liberal Democratic Party to form a new government for Japan under Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi.

“Managers” from the US House of Representatives begin presenting three days of evidence before the Senate for the removal of President Bill Clinton from office.

In Kingsport, Tennessee, Rev. Jerry Falwell reveals that the Antichrist is alive in the world today and that he is a male Jew.

Peter Maxwell Davies (64) receives an honorary Doctor of Letters from the University of Salford.

The orchestration of Pierre Boulez’ (73) *Notations VII* is performed for the first time, in Chicago.

**15 January 1999** Serbian security forces kill 45 ethnic Albanians in the Kosovo town of Racak. Witnesses say the Albanians were murdered and their bodies mutilated.

The Brazilian government allows the real to float freely. This causes fluctuations in the Brazilian stock market.

**16 January 1999** William Walker, head of the OSCE mission to Kosovo, calls the events of yesterday a “crime against humanity.”

**17 January 1999** Bulent Ecevit replaces Mesut Yilmaz as Prime Minister of Turkey at the head of a minority leftist government.

President Boris Yeltsin of Russia enters a Moscow hospital with a bleeding ulcer. It is his third hospitalization in three months.

*Three Poems of Oscar Wilde* for baritone and piano by Thomas Pasatieri (53) is performed for the first time, in New York.

**18 January 1999** Former President Canaan Banana of Zimbabwe is sentenced to ten years in prison for raping a former assistant and sexually molesting ten young men. The judge suspends five years and offers to suspend the other five if Banana will pay restitution to the victims.

Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic orders William Walker, head of the OSCE mission to Kosovo, out of the country. He also orders that representatives of the Hague war crimes tribunal may not enter the country to investigate the killings at Racak.

**19 January 1999** Lawyers for US President Bill Clinton present three days of evidence before the Senate in his defense.

**20 January 1999** A Tokyo court fines Nomura Securities Co. Ltd. ¥100,000,000 ($884,000) for making illegal payments to mobster Ryuichi Koike.

**22 January 1999** Senators pose 105 questions today and tomorrow to both prosecution and defense in the impeachment trial in Washington.

*La Primavera de Sottoripa* for soprano and chamber ensemble by John Harbison (60) is performed for the first time, in Eugene, Oregon.

*Postcards* for chamber orchestra by Bright Sheng (43) is performed for the first time, in Ordway Music Theatre, St. Paul.

**23 January 1999** Sifiso Nkabinde, Secretary-General of the opposition United Democratic Movement, is killed in Richmond, north of Durban, South Africa. Hours later, eleven people die in what are presumably revenge killings.

For the first time, light emitted by gamma ray bursts, is photographed. Two orbiting spacecraft catch the phenomenon, NASA’s Compton Gamma Ray Observatory and BeppoSAX, an Italian-Dutch craft.

*Voices from the Ancient World* for three flutes and percussion by Thea Musgrave (70) is performed for the first time, in Glasgow.

*Three Women* for soprano and orchestra by Thea Musgrave (70) is performed for the first time, in San Francisco.

**24 January 1999** The Deputy Chairman of the opposition United Democratic Movement, Valindlela Matiyase, is shot to death in Cape Town South Africa.

Duos op.66, one for violin and viola and one for two violins by Alexander Goehr (66) are performed for the first time, in the Wiener Saal, Mozarteum, Salzburg.

Philip Glass (61) and Burkhard Dallwitz win a Golden Globe Award for Best Original Score of *The Truman Show*.

**25 January 1999** Missiles from US warplanes hit targets in and around Basra.

An earthquake centered at Armenia, Colombia kills 1,900 people.

Robert Shaw dies in New Haven, Connecticut at the age of 82.

**26 January 1999** King Hussein of Jordan swears in his oldest son Abdullah as crown prince and regent.

**27 January 1999** The US Senate votes not to end the trial of President Bill Clinton and to call three witnesses.

**28 January 1999** Two Xinjian separatists, Yibulayin Simayi and Abudureyimu Aisha, are executed by Chinese authorities.

NATO demands that Yugoslavia and the Kosovo Albanians attend peace talks or face air strikes.

Ford Motor Company announces plans to buy Volvo Cars for $6,470,000,000.

**29 January 1999** *Odysseus’ Women* for four women’s voices and chamber orchestra by Louis Andriessen (59) to words of Homer, is performed for the first time, in Amsterdam.

**1 February 1999** Monica Lewinsky gives a videotaped deposition in the case against US President Bill Clinton.

**2 February 1999** Vernon Jordan gives a videotaped deposition in the case against US President Bill Clinton.

A federal court jury in Portland, Oregon awards $107,000,000 in damages to Planned Parenthood Foundation of America and a group of doctors to be paid by twelve individuals and the American Coalition of Life Activists and Advocates for Life Ministries. The jury found that the defendants ran a website which calls for violence against 200 abortion providers. Some of the doctors named on the website have already been killed. After the verdict, several of the defendants announced that they will never pay the damages and have already transferred money out of their bank accounts.

Hugo Rafael Chávez Frías replaces Rafael Caldera Rodríguez as President of Venezuela.

**3 February 1999** *Quatre chants pour franchir le seuil* for soprano and 15 instruments by Gérard Grisey (†0) is performed for the first time, in London.

*Como cierva sedienta* for soprano and orchestra by Arvo Pärt (63) to words of the Psalms is performed for the first time, in Teatro Guimera, Santa Cruz de Tenerife. See 16 June 2000.

**4 February 1999** The government of Yugoslavia agrees to peace talks with the Kosovo Liberation Army, thus avoiding NATO air strikes.

Deutsche Bank AG confirms that it helped to finance the building of the Auschwitz death camp in World War II.

The US Senate votes not to call three witnesses as requested by the House managers but to use videotaped recordings of their testimonies.

Police in New York fire 41 shots at Amadou Diallo, an immigrant from Guinea, in his apartment building. 19 of the shots hit Diallo, who is unarmed. An investigation is launched.

**5 February 1999** *Rockpool Dreaming* for soprano saxophone and strings by Peter Sculthorpe (69) is performed for the first time, in City Hall, Newcastle, New South Wales.

**6 February 1999** An ongoing border dispute erupts into fighting between Eritrea and Ethiopia.

Excerpts from videotaped testimony by three witnesses are shown to the US Senate in the impeachment trial.

*Special Events* for piano and cello by Earle Brown (72) is performed for the first time, in the Theaterhaus, Stuttgart.

**7 February 1999** The Indonesian *MV Harta Rimba*, already without power, is struck by a wave and goes down west of Borneo. Over 300 people are lost, with only 19 saved.

King Hussein ibn Talal of Jordan dies in Amman of cancer. He is succeeded by his son, Abdullah bin Hussein al-Hashem.

**8 February 1999** Heads of state and government join 1,000,000 Jordanians taking part in the funeral of King Hussein in Amman.

Both sides give final arguments before the US Senate in the impeachment trial of President Bill Clinton.

**9 February 1999** Former Prime Minister of France Laurent Fabius and two other former cabinet members go on trial for manslaughter and criminal negligence. The ministers are accused of delaying the testing of the blood supply for HIV, thus allowing several people to receive transfusions of blood tainted with the virus.

The US Senate begins deliberations in the impeachment trial of President Bill Clinton.

**10 February 1999** Christian leader Rev. Jerry Falwell charges that Tinky Winky, a character in the children’s television program *Teletubbies,* is homosexual.

A jury in Los Angeles awards $50,000,000 in punitive damages to Patricia Henley to be paid by Philip Morris Cos. Inc. because she contracted inoperable lung cancer from using Philip Morris’ product.

**11 February 1999** *Zwei Räthsel von W.A.M.* for soprano, alto, viola, cello, six cymbals and electronics, by Olga Neuwirth (30), to words of WA Mozart (†207) and Leopold Mozart (†211), is performed for the first time, in Teatro Fondamenta Nuove, Venice.

**12 February 1999** The US Senate votes to acquit President Bill Clinton of both charges brought against him by the House of Representatives. On the perjury count the vote is 45-55. On the obstruction of justice count, the vote is 50-50. A two-thirds vote is necessary for removal.

*Wood and Reed Transformed* for bassoon and wind ensemble by Leslie Bassett (76) is performed for the first time, at the University of Michigan.

*Lux Perpetua* for organ and orchestra by Samuel Adler (70) is performed for the first time, in Dallas.

**15 February 1999** Turkish agents kidnap Kurdish leader Abdullah Ocalan in Nairobi and spirit him to Turkey. Kurds around the world demonstrate their anger at the event.

**16 February 1999** At least six car bombs explode in Tashkent. 13 people are killed, about 120 injured. No group takes responsibility.

The Northern Ireland Assembly approves a new structure for the government of the province, thus furthering the peace accord.

**17 February 1999** Claiming that Israel assisted in the capture of Abdullah Ocalan, Kurds attack and enter the Israeli embassy near Berlin, taking one embassy worker hostage. Guards inside the building fire on them, killing three and injuring 16. German police arrest over 100 of the Kurds as order is restored.

*Orkney Saga III: An Orkney wintering. Stone poems in Orkahowe: “great treasure...”* for alto saxophone and orchestra by Peter Maxwell Davies (64) is performed for the first time, at the University of Warwick, conducted by the composer.

**18 February 1999** Fighting begins again in eastern Congo as rebels renew their attempt to overthrow President Laurent Kabila.

**19 February 1999** Grand Ayatollah Mohammed Sadeq al-Sadr, leading Shia cleric in Iraq, is shot to death by unknown gunmen in Najaf.

*Naive and Sentimental Music*, an orchestral essay by John Adams (52), is performed for the first time, in Los Angeles.

**20 February 1999** Nigerians vote for members of a National Assembly as part of the return to democratic rule.

**21 February 1999** Prime Ministers Atal Bihari Vajpayee of India and Nawaz Sharif of Pakistan sign documents pledging their two countries to reduce the threat of nuclear conflict.

**23 February 1999** A Turkish court on the prison island of Imrali charges Kurdish leader Abdullah Ocalan with treason.

Representatives of the Serbian government and ethnic Albanian rebels reach agreement in principle on autonomy for Kosovo at Rambouillet, France.

A jury in Jasper County, Texas convicts John King of murdering James Byrd. Byrd was an African-American who King killed by dragging him five km attached to the back of a truck.

**24 February 1999** A government commission releases a report documenting rampant racial bias in the police forces of Great Britain.

*Xi* for chamber ensemble and electronics by Unsuk Chin (37) is performed for the first time, in Cité de la musique, Paris.

**25 February 1999** China vetoes the extension of the UN peacekeeping mission in Macedonia in retaliation for the recognition of Taiwan by Macedonia.

A jury in Jasper County, Texas sentences John King to death for killing James Byrd. Only one other white person has ever been executed in Texas for killing an African-American.

Quintet for trumpet and strings by Peter Maxwell Davies (64) is performed for the first time, in Mitchell Hall of the University of Aberdeen.

**26 February 1999** The UN Security Council votes to remove peacekeepers from Angola since fighting has begun there again.

**27 February 1999** In the last of a series of elections to return Nigeria to democracy, Olusegun Obasanjo is elected president.

**28 February 1999** Israeli air forces strike at terrorist bases deep in Lebanon after a roadside bomb kills Brigadier General Erez Gerstein and three other Israelis.

14 bombs explode in Lusaka, Zambia. One goes off at the embassy of Angola, killing one person. Another cuts the city’s main water line.

**1 March 1999** The UN peacekeeping mission in Macedonia officially ends.

The Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production, and Transfer of Antipersonnel Mines and on Their Destruction goes into effect with a ceremony at UN offices in Geneva. China, Russia, and the United States are not parties to the treaty.

**4 March 1999** A military court at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina acquits Captain Richard Ashby of any wrongdoing when he flew under an Italian ski lift cable, snapping it, and sending 20 people to their deaths. The Italian government and families of the victims express outrage at the verdict.

*Dracula* for soprano and eleven instruments by David del Tredici (61) to words of Corn, is performed for the first time, at the Ethical Culture Society, New York.

*The Suit* for male chorus by TJ Anderson (70) to words of Levine is performed for the first time, in San Francisco.

**5 March 1999** Russian General Gennady Nikolayevich Shpigun is kidnapped by Chechen separatists as he tries to leave Grozny.

**6 March 1999** The *New York Times* reports that China gained secret information in the 1980s from the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico.

**7 March 1999** Stanley Kubrick dies at his home in Hertfordshire at the age of 70.

**8 March 1999** The US Department of Energy sacks Wen Ho Lee, the scientist identified as passing nuclear secrets to China.

**9 March 1999** Former Prime Minister Laurent Fabius and Former Minister of Social Affairs Georgina Dufoix are acquitted in a French court of manslaughter and negligence. They were charged in contamination of the blood supply with HIV. Former Minister of Health Edmond Herve is convicted on two counts of involuntary manslaughter for not adequately overseeing the blood supply. The court, feeling he has suffered enough from the adverse publicity, imposes no sentence.

Police in Paris arrest six members of the Basque separatist group ETA.

*Poem of Love and Life* for orchestra by Frederick Delius (†64) is performed for the first time, over the airwaves of the BBC, 81 years after it was composed.

*The Woman and the Hare* for soprano, speaker, and ensemble by Harrison Birtwistle (64) to words of Harsent is performed for the first time, in Purcell Room, London.

**10 March 1999** A Paris court convicts five Libyan intelligence agents and a Libyan diplomat in absentia for the bombing of a French airliner over Niger in 1989. 170 people were killed in the incident.

Concerto for double bass and orchestra by Robin Holloway (55) is performed for the first time, in St. Andrew’s, Fife.

**11 March 1999** Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr announces the Justice Department will be taking over the investigation of his office regarding improper leaks of information to the press. He also announces that his press spokesman, Charles Bakaly, is resigning and has retained counsel.

A revised version of *A Dylan Thomas Trilogy* for soloists, chorus, and orchestra by John Corigliano (61) is performed for the first time, in Washington. See 24 April 1976.

**12 March 1999** The Czech Republic, Hungary, and Poland officially join NATO in a ceremony in Independence, Missouri, the birthplace of Harry Truman. They are the first former Warsaw Pact members to join NATO.

Ion Sturza replaces Ion Ciubuc as Prime Minister of Moldova.

Yehudi Menhuin dies in Berlin at the age of 82.

*3 späte Gedichte von Heiner Müller* for alto and orchestra by Wolfgang Rihm is performed for the first time, in Berlin on the eve of the composer’s 47th birthday.

**13 March 1999** Bombs explode in marketplaces of predominantly Albanian Kosovo towns. Six people are killed, 58 injured.

Kurdish separatists take responsibility for firebombs thrown into an Istanbul department store. 13 people are killed in the attack.

**14 March 1999** Sonata for violin and piano by Richard Wernick (65) is performed for the first time, at the Cleveland Museum of Art.

**15 March 1999** An independent investigation of the European Union executive finds widespread mismanagement and nepotism. “It is becoming difficult to find anyone who has even the slightest sense of responsibility.” Commissioners are not found to be directly involved in fraud.

Representatives of Yugoslavia and the Kosovo Albanians resume talks in Rambouillet, France in an attempt to finalize the tentative agreement reached 23 February.

**16 March 1999** North Korea agrees to allow the US to inspect an underground site suspected of being part of a nuclear weapons program.

In light of the investigative findings of yesterday, all 20 members of the European Union executive resign.

**17 March 1999** A Finnish forensic team investigating the killings of over 40 people in Racak, Kosovo finds that they were the result of an organized massacre of unarmed civilians.

Voting in Lausanne, the International Olympic Committee expels six members for taking bribes from the organizers of the Salt Lake City games.

**18 March 1999** Representatives of Kosovo Albanians sign a peace agreement brokered at Rambouillet, France. Serbian negotiators reject it because it calls for NATO enforcement.

*Akrodha* for percussion by Kevin Volans (49) is performed for the first time, in Stockholm.

*Still Lives* for piano and electronics by Alvin Lucier (67) is performed for the first time, in Merkin Hall, New York.

**19 March 1999** New Caledonia becomes an overseas collectivité of France.

A bomb explodes in a marketplace in Vladikavkaz, North Ossetia killing 53 people and wounding over 100 others. Russia blames “religious fanaticism.”

**20 March 1999** International cease-fire monitors depart Kosovo because of increasing Serb attacks on Albanians.

Bertrand Piccard of Switzerland and Brian Jones of Great Britain complete the first non-stop circumnavigation of the Earth in a balloon as it passes over Mauritania.

*Spleen II* for bass flute by Olga Neuwirth (30) is performed for the first time, in Frankfurt.

**21 March 1999** Parliamentary elections in Finland result in a loss of twelve seats for the leftist Social Democratic Party. Gains are made by center and center-right parties.

*Three Dream Songs* op.53 for baritone and piano by Lowell Liebermann (38) is performed for the first time, in New York, the composer at the keyboard.

**23 March 1999** Roland Dumas, the head of the Constitutional Council (the highest legal authority in France), announces he is temporarily stepping down to battle allegations of corruption.

**24 March 1999** NATO launches air strikes against Yugoslavia to degrade their ability to carry out military operations against Kosovo and to force them to the negotiating table. Ethnic Albanians begin fleeing Kosovo under threats from Serbian authorities.

An appellate committee of the Law Lords rules that the British arrest of former dictator Augusto Pinochet last October was legal.

**25 March 1999** Mart Laar replaces Tiit Vähi as Prime Minister of Estonia.

Yugoslavia breaks diplomatic relations with France, Italy, the UK, and the US.

**26 March 1999** The UN Security Council votes 3-12 to reject a Russian call for a bombing halt in Yugoslavia.

*Placid Mobile* for 36 muted trumpets by Harrison Birtwistle (64) is performed for the first time, in London.

**28 March 1999** An earthquake centered in the Chamoli District of Uttar Pradesh (now Uttarakhand), India kills about 100 people.

NATO announces that Serbian authorities have undertaken ethnic cleansing against Albanians in four Kosovo communities.

Two movements of *Litany--for a ruined chapel between sheep and shore* for trumpet by Peter Maxwell Davies (64) are performed for the first time, at the Royal Academy of Music, London. See 23 June 1999.

*Motet III “Hunc igitur terrorem”* for chorus and baroque orchestra by Betsy Jolas (73) is performed for the first time, in Paris.

**30 March 1999** A jury in the State of Oregon awards $81,000,000 to the family of a deceased smoker to be paid by Philip Morris Cos. Inc.

**31 March 1999** Serbian police arrest Kosovo Albanian leader Ibrahim Rugova at his home in Pristina. By this date, 160,000 ethnic Albanians have fled Kosovo.

**1 April 1999** Nunavut, a predominantly Inuit territory of Canada, is created from the Northwest Territories.

A Ukrainian court sentences Anatoli Onoprienko to death for killing 52 people between 1989 and 1996.

*Cantigas* for orchestra by Magnus Lindberg (40) is performed for the first time, in Cleveland.

**2 April 1999** US and British warplanes resume bombing missions over Iraq.

**3 April 1999** NATO forces put seven cruise missiles into the Yugoslav and Serbian Interior ministries in Belgrade. They are responsible for carrying out the crackdown against ethnic Albanians in Kosovo.

**4 April 1999** Arab Moslems and Christians battle in Nazareth over Moslem plans to build a mosque near the Church of the Annunciation.

**5 April 1999** NATO implements a plan to airlift as many as 110,000 Kosovo refugees from Albania, Macedonia, and Montenegro to any country that will accept them.

Two Libyans charged with the 1988 bombing of a PanAm airliner over Scotland arrive in the Netherlands for trial.

Russell Henderson is sentenced to two consecutive life terms in a Wyoming court for the kidnapping and murder of Matthew Shepard. Henderson and an accomplice allegedly killed Shepard because he was a homosexual.

*Über die Linie* for cello by Wolfgang Rihm (47) is performed for the first time, in Cologne.

**6 April 1999** Yugoslavia closes its borders with Albania and Macedonia. They order refugees waiting to leave Kosovo to return to their homes.

With a stock transaction of $37,700,000,000, Zeneca Group PLC of Britain and Astra AB of Sweden merge to become AstraZuneca, the third largest pharmaceutical company in the world.

**7 April 1999** Edgar Pearce pleads guilty to 20 charges in a bombing campaign of over three-and-a-half years against Barclays PLC and the supermarket chain J. Sainsbury PLC. Pearce planted over 30 bombs to extort money. He will be sentenced to 21 years in prison.

**8 April 1999** President Slobodan Milosevic of Yugoslavia declares “peace” in Kosovo and calls on NATO to halt air strikes. By this date, 400,000 ethnic Albanians have fled Kosovo.

**9 April 1999** Yugoslavia reopens its borders with Albania and Macedonia and the exodus of ethnic Albanians from Kosovo resumes.

President Ibrahim Baré Mainassara of Niger is killed at the Niamey airport by members of the Presidential Guard.

*Huh! (What did you say?)* for two violins, viola, cello and clarinet by TJ Anderson (70) is performed for the first time. Also premiered is Anderson’s *Aurelia, In Memoriam* for violin.

*Concert Suite* for alto saxophone and band by William Bolcom (60) is performed for the first time, in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

**10 April 1999** An Iranian opposition group kills Brigadier General Ali Sayyad Shirazi, deputy chief of staff of the armed forces, in Teheran.

**11 April 1999** India tests an intermediate range ballistic missile capable of carrying a nuclear warhead.

The military of Niger names Daouda Malam Wanke as President.

**12 April 1999** A federal judge in Little Rock, Arkansas finds President Bill Clinton in contempt of court for providing false testimony in the Paula Jones sexual harassment case. She orders Clinton to pay “any reasonable expenses” Jones incurred because of his false testimony.

The Pulitzer Committee bestows a special citation posthumously on Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington (†24), commemorating the centennial year of his birth, in recognition of his musical genius, which evoked aesthetically the principles of democracy through the medium of jazz and thus made an indelible contribution to art and culture.

*Feuilles à travers les cloches* for flute, violin, cello, and piano, from *Portulan* by Tristan Murail (52) is performed for the first time, in Stockholm.

**13 April 1999** Yugoslav troops raid a border post in Kamenica, Albania.

Dr. Jack Kevorkian is sentenced to 10-25 years in prison in a Michigan court for assisting a terminally ill man to kill himself. Kevorkian claims that he has helped 130 people to kill themselves.

*Fiddle Suite* for Huqin and string quintet by Chen Yi (46) is performed for the first time, in Norfolk, Virginia. See 19 February 2000.

**14 April 1999** Pakistan responds to the test of 11 April by testing two similar missiles.

*In the Shadow of the Tree* for koto, bass koto, cheng, and orchestra by Sofia Gubaidulina (67) is performed for the first time, in Tokyo.

**15 April 1999** Former Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and her husband Asif Ali Zardari are found guilty of corruption by a Rawalpindi court. They are both sentenced to five years in jail and a fine of $8,600,000. Their property is confiscated and both are forbidden to hold public office. Bhutto is presently abroad.

Latvia abolishes the death penalty.

By this date, 487,000 ethnic Albanians have fled Kosovo.

A new five-party coalition government takes office in Finland led by Social Democratic Prime Minister Paavo Lipponen.

Two separate teams of scientists announce the discovery of a solar system orbiting Upsilon Andromedae. It is the first time multiple planets have been inferred orbiting a star other than the sun. One team was from San Francisco State University, the other is made up of scientists from the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics and the National Center for Atmospheric Research.

**17 April 1999** Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee of India resigns after he loses a confidence vote in the Lok Sabha.

A nail bomb explodes in the Brixton section of London. Over 40 people are wounded. The bomb was set by David Copeland, a fascist and racist.

*Apparitions concertées* for tape by Pierre Henry (71) is performed for the first time, in Poitiers.

**18 April 1999** A military court in Cairo sentences nine members of Islamic Jihad to death for plotting to overthrow the government.

NATO bombs destroy an oil refinery at Panchevo, seriously hampering the ability of Yugoslavia to make fuel.

The Democratic Left Party of Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit wins the highest number of seats in Turkey’s parliamentary elections. The Islamic group, the Virtue Party, sees a sharp drop.

**19 April 1999** Yugoslavia closes its borders again, stopping the flow of refugees.

For the first time since before World War II, the German Bundestag convenes in the Reichstag in Berlin.

Serenata Concertante by Donald Martino (67) is performed for the first time, in Merkin Concert Hall, New York.

*Resurrection*, an opera by Tod Machover to (45) words of Harrington and Murray after Tolstoy, is performed for the first time, at Houston Grand Opera.

**20 April 1999** Radcliffe College announces that it will merge with Harvard University.

15 people are killed and 30 wounded when two students go on a shooting rampage for five hours at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado. Among the dead are the two gunmen who killed themselves.

**21 April 1999** Forces of the Northern Alliance in Afghanistan capture Bamiyan, 100 km west of Kabul, from the Taliban.

Deutsche Telekom AG of Germany and Telecom Italia SpA of Italy announce they will merge in a stock trade estimated to be €77,000,000,000 in the second-largest merger in history.

**22 April 1999** NATO bombs strike a residence of President Slobodan Milosevic in Belgrade. No one is hurt.

*Four Psalms* for vocal soloists, chorus, and orchestra by John Harbison (60) is performed for the first time, in Chicago.

**23 April 1999** NATO bombs destroy the studios of Yugoslav state television killing 16-20 people.

**24 April 1999** A bomb explodes in a street market in a largely Bangladeshi neighborhood of London. Seven people are injured. The bomb was set by David Copeland, a fascist and racist.

**25 April 1999** 10,000 members of Falun Gong join in silent protest outside Zhongnanhai, the area in Beijing where high government officials live and work.

**27 April 1999** NATO commander General Wesley Clark estimates that by this date, 700,000 ethnic Albanians have fled Kosovo.

**28 April 1999** President Slobodan Milosevic of Yugoslavia sacks Deputy Prime Minister Vuk Draskovic after he publicly criticized Milosevic.

NATO planes attack a military airfield near Podgorica, Montenegro.

**29 April 1999** *Love Cries* for soprano, mezzo-soprano, tenor, and orchestra by Harrison Birtwistle (64) to words of Hoban, made up of excerpts from the opera *The Second Mrs. Kong*, is performed for the first time, in Royal Festival Hall, London.

*Two Paths* for two violas and orchestra by Sofia Gubaidulina (67) is performed for the first time, in Avery Fisher Hall, New York.

**30 April 1999** A nail bomb explodes in a London bar frequented by homosexuals. Three people are killed, 70 wounded. The bomb was set by David Copeland, a fascist and racist.

**1 May 1999** Mountain climbers from the US find the body of George Mallory who died trying to reach the summit of Mt. Everest in 1924.

Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic orders the release of three US soldiers captured a month ago.

London police arrest David Copeland in connection with three recent bombings in the city. He will be charged with three counts of murder.

**2 May 1999** NATO planes hit five electricity transformers cutting power to 70% of Serbia, including Belgrade.

Newly elected member Merve Kavakci causes controversy when she arrives for the swearing in of the Turkish National Assembly wearing a traditional Islamic head scarf. The gesture is seen as an attack on Turkey’s official secularism. She receives angry shouts and desk-banging from other members and is treated to a withering denunciation by Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit. After a recess, Kavakci does not return to be sworn in.

**3 May 1999** A complaint is filed on behalf of Mikis Theodorakis (73) with the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal at The Hague against the “political and military leadership of NATO for war crimes, that were perpetrated through the bombings from 24 March to 1 May 1999 against the former Yugoslavia.”

**4 May 1999** Irena Degutiene replaces Gediminas Vagnorius as acting Prime Minister of Lithuania.

Prime Minister Lionel Jospin of France sacks Bernard Bonnet, prefect of Corsica, after allegations that Corsican police set fire to a restaurant frequented by Corsican nationalists.

Double Violin Concerto by Kevin Volans (49) is performed for the first time, at Queen’s University.

**5 May 1999** An agreement is reached between Indonesia and Portugal on a referendum in East Timor to see if it should become an autonomous region of Indonesia.

Macedonia closes its borders to refugees from Albania. Henceforth it will accept only as many refugees as are airlifted out every day.

Kosovo Albanian leader Ibrahim Rugova is released from custody and travels to Italy.

**6 May 1999** The G-8 countries, including Russia, agree on a diplomatic solution to the Kosovo problem.

The ruling Labour Party wins the most seats in elections to the new legislative assemblies in Scotland and Wales.

Guy Wagner begins a series of 170 broadcasts over the airwaves of Radio socio-culturelle, Luxembourg which will present the complete works of Mikis Theodorakis (73). It will continue until 26 December 2002.

Sofia Gubaidulina (67) is awarded the Léonie Sonning Music Prize.

Cello Concerto by Magnus Lindberg (40) is performed for the first time, in Cité de la Musique, Paris.

**7 May 1999** A NATO warplane drops three bombs on the Chinese embassy in Belgrade by mistake. Three Chinese citizens are killed. 20 people are injured.

A military court at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina convicts Captain Richard Ashby of obstructing justice and conspiracy by helping to burn the videotape of his flight which caused the death of 20 people in the Italian Alps. He has already been acquitted of manslaughter. He is sentenced to six months in prison and dismissal from the Marine Corps.

*Wild Air*, a dance by Kevin Volans (49) to a choreography of Davies, is performed for the first time, in the Oxford Playhouse.

**8 May 1999** Thousands of protesters begin four days of demonstrations outside the US embassy in Beijing to protest the bombing of yesterday. US President Bill Clinton and NATO Secretary General Javier Solana apologize for the “tragic mistake” in Belgrade.

Elections are held in Qatar for the first time.

**10 May 1999** Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic announces that he has defeated the KLA and is beginning to withdraw troops from Kosovo.

**12 May 1999** Sergey Vladimirovich Stepashin replaces Yevgeny Maksimovich Primakov as Prime Minister of Russia.

Members of the newly elected Scottish Parliament are sworn in in Edinburgh. David Dewar is named the first minister. The new assembly for Wales meets for the first time. Alun Michael is named first secretary.

The British government announces that several undercover agents for the Secret Intelligence Services have been named on an internet website. They suspect Richard Tomlinson, an agent who was dismissed in 1995 and imprisoned in 1997 for attempting to publish a book about his career, is the culprit.

Trio in three movements for violin, viola, and cello by Hans Werner Henze (72) is performed for the first time, in Schwetzingen.

**13 May 1999** NATO warplanes mistakenly kill up to 100 ethnic Albanian refugees when they bomb Serbian forces in the village of Korisa.

*Singing!...the music of my own time* for solo voice and octophonic computer music on ADAT by Larry Austin (68) is performed for the first time, in Merkin Concert Hall, New York.

**14 May 1999** *Brief Encounters* (String Quartet no.9) by George Perle (84) is performed for the first time, in Chicago.

**15 May 1999** Nicola Mancino replaces Oscar Luigi Scalfaro as acting President of Italy.

The Russian Duma fails to begin impeachment proceedings against President Yeltsin.

*Hidden Voice 2* for twelve players by Jonathan Harvey (60) is performed for the first time, at Imperial College, London.

**16 May 1999** Demonstrations by thousands of women against the war begin in the Serbian towns of Krusevac and Aleksandrovac. They demand the return of their conscripted relatives.

Elliot Carter’s opera *What Next?* is performed privately before an invited audience in Kaplan Penthouse of the Rose Building, Lincoln Center. See 16 September 1999.

**17 May 1999** Mikis Theodorakis (73) is presented with a special award by President Glafkos Clerides of Cyprus for his support of the Cypriot cause.

In national elections in Israel, the two major parties lose seats to smaller centrist parties. Ehud Barak easily defeats Benyamin Netanyahu for the post of prime minister.

*Temenos, with Mermaids and Angels* for flute and orchestra by Peter Maxwell Davies (64) is performed for the first time, in the National Concert Hall, Dublin the composer conducting.

**18 May 1999** Asif Ali Zardari, husband of Pakistani opposition leader Benazir Bhutto, is taken to hospital after being tortured by police.

Great Britain and Iran exchange ambassadors for the first time since the Islamic Revolution in 1979.

Carlo Azeglio Ciampi replaces Nicola Mancino as President of Italy.

Rolandas Paksas replaces Irena Degutiene as Prime Minister of Lithuania.

*Haiku* for piano by Jonathan Harvey (60) is performed for the first time, in Wigmore Hall, London.

**19 May 1999** The Russian Duma confirms Prime Minister Sergey Vladimirovich Stepashin in office.

The Dutch cabinet resigns over the use of popular referenda.

The US government releases evidence of a massacre at Izbica, Yugoslavia.

*The Silk House Tattoo* for two trumpets and percussion by Harrison Birtwistle (64) is performed for the first time, at Lake Placid.

**20 May 1999** Massimo D’Antona, an assistant to Italian Labor Minister Antonio Bassolino, is shot and killed in Rome by the Red Brigades.

A student opens fire at a high school in Conyers, Georgia injuring six people. He then surrenders to school authorities.

The Supreme Court of Canada rules that homosexuals may sue for spousal support.

**21 May 1999** NATO bombing targets the electrical infrastructure of Serbia, cutting power to 80% of the country.

In the largest hostile takeover in Europe to date, Olivetti SpA completes purchasing a majority stake in Telecom Italia. This negates a planned merger between Telecom Italia and Deutsche Telecom AG.

*JUSTICE* for actress, soprano, percussion, and electronic sound generators by Roger Reynolds (64) is performed for the first time, in Shizuoka, Japan.

**22 May 1999** Serbians increase their expulsion of ethnic Albanians from Kosovo causing a new exodus of about 25,000 into Macedonia.

*Sotto voce*, a nocturne for piano and chamber orchestra by Wolfgang Rihm (47), is performed for the first time, in Berlin.

*Statement—Remembering Aaron* for violin by Elliott Carter (90) is performed for the first time, in the Grieghallen, Bergen.

Triple Quartet for string quartet and tape by Steve Reich (62) is performed for the first time, at the Kennedy Center in Washington. See 28 January 2000.

**24 May 1999** The International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia indicts Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic for crimes against humanity in the forced expulsion of hundreds of thousands of ethnic Albanians from Kosovo and the murder of 340 of them. Others indicted are President Milan Milutinovic of Serbia, Deputy Prime Minister Nikola Sainovic of Yugoslavia, Flajko Stojiljkovic, Serbian Minister of Internal Affairs, and Yugoslav Chief of Staff Col. General Dragoljub Ojdanic.

NATO planes destroy part of the Yugoslav power grid, causing widespread water shortages.

**25 May 1999** A committee of the US House of Representatives reports that China has engaged in a largely successful effort to obtain nuclear secrets over the last 20 years.

A New York City police officer pleads guilty to six federal crimes in connection with the sodomy and torture of a Haitian immigrant in the bathroom of a police station in 1997.

A team of scientists led by Wendy Freedman of the Carnegie Observatories in Pasadena, California concludes that the age of the universe might be as much as 15,000,000,000 years.

Music for solo violin op.9b by Alois Hába (†25) is performed for the first time, over the airwaves of Prague Radio, 77 years after it was composed.

*Sur terre, en l’air* op.64 for viola and piano by Alexander Goehr (66) is performed for the first time, in the Rokokotheater, Schwetzingen.

Piano Etude no.1 by Unsuk Chin (37) is performed for the first time, in Hannover.

**26 May 1999** Indian forces begin a series of air strikes against Islamic militants on the Indian side of the cease-fire line in Kashmir.

Queen Elizabeth II formally opens the new Welsh Assembly.

Paul Sacher dies in Zürich at the age of 93.

String Quartet no.6 by Richard Wernick (65) is performed for the first time, at the Rubin Academy of Music and Dance, Jerusalem.

*…morphologische Fragmente…* for soprano, clarinet, violin, cello, piano, and percussion by Olga Neuwirth (30), to words of Goethe, is performed for the first time, in Frankfurt.

**29 May 1999** Olusegun Obasanjo replaces Abdulsalami Abubakar as President of Nigeria. A new constitution goes into effect. The slow transition to democratic rule is complete.

*All Ye that in Christ have been baptised* for chorus by John Tavener (55) to words of Mother Thekla is performed for the first time, at Hurstpierpoint College in West Sussex.

**2 June 1999** Finnish President Maarti Ahtisaari and Russian envoy Viktor Chernomyrdin present the joint NATO-Russia peace plan to Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic in Belgrade.

Voting in South Africa results in a strong win for the African National Congress. The ANC will win 266 of 400 seats in the National Assembly, ensuring the election of Thabo Mbeki as President.

A String Quartet by Louis Andriessen (59) is performed for the first time, in the Walloon Church, Amsterdam, 42 years after it was composed.

**3 June 1999** Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic and the Serbian Parliament accept a peace agreement based on the recent Rambouillet agreement. Serbian forces will be withdrawn from Kosovo. An international (mostly NATO) military force will enter Kosovo to ensure the safety of returning Albanian refugees. An autonomous Kosovo will receive an interim administration until their own institutions of government can be set up. NATO will continue the bombing campaign until Yugoslavia’s compliance is verified.

President Boris Yeltsin of Russia commutes the sentences of all prisoners in the country presently on death row, some 716 people.

*The Red Violin: Suite for violin and orchestra* by John Corigliano (61) is performed for the first time, in New York.

*Concerto for water percussion and orchestra--In Memory of Toru Takemitsu* (†3) by Tan Dun (41) is performed for the first time, in Avery Fisher Hall, New York.

**4 June 1999** Deutsche Bank AG purchases Bankers Trust Corp. of New York making it the largest bank in the world.

**7 June 1999** Prime Minister José María Aznar of Spain reveals that members of his government have met with representatives of ETA, the main Basque separatist group, for the first time.

**9 June 1999** After five days of meetings by military officials of both sides, Yugoslavia and NATO sign an agreement at a French air base in Kumanovo, Macedonia. Yugoslavia agrees to withdraw all of its forces from Kosovo.

Three Baritone Songs for voice and piano by David Del Tredici (62) to words of Rumi, Klein, and Manrique, is performed for the first time, in Weill Recital Hall, New York the composer at the keyboard.

**10 June 1999** NATO suspends its bombing campaign over Yugoslavia 78 days after it began. The UN Security Council votes 14-0-1 to authorize an international military force to enter Kosovo to maintain peace and security. The UNHCR says that 988,525 ethnic Albanians fled the province since the start of the NATO bombing campaign. The US further estimates about 400,000 are displaced within Kosovo.

*Tranquil Abiding* for chamber orchestra by Jonathan Harvey (60), is performed for the first time, in Lincoln Center, New York.

**12 June 1999** Unbeknownst to NATO, Russian forces occupy the airport at Pristina, Kosovo. Hours later, the first NATO troops begin to enter the province, along with the first returning refugees. They begin to find villages looted, burned, and razed, and dead bodies in the streets.

*Five Haydn Miniatures* for two flutes, clarinet, piano, and two violins by Robin Holloway (55) is performed for the first time, in Jubilee Hall, Aldeburgh.

**13 June 1999** National elections in Belgium see a resounding defeat for the Christian Peoples Party and Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene.

The original version of Kurt Weill’s (†49) biblical drama *Der Weg der Verheissung* to words of Werfel is performed for the first time, in Chemnitz, 64 years after it was composed. See 4 January 1937.

**14 June 1999** *Cloud Atlas X* for piano by Toshi Ichiyanagi (66) is performed for the first time, in Tokyo.

Belgium bans the sale of products made by the Coca-Cola Company because of health problems in children blamed on those products.

Provisional results from elections to the European Parliament over the last four days show a gain for center-right parties.

**15 June 1999** Ante Jelavic replaces Zivko Radisic as Chairman of the Presidency of the Republic of Bosnia and Hercegovina.

Rudolf Schuster replaces Mikulás Dzurinda as President of Slovakia.

The Netherlands and Luxembourg join in the ban imposed by Belgium yesterday.

**16 June 1999** Japan’s Ministry of Health and Welfare approves sale of the oral contraceptive pill. Japan is the last member of the United Nations to do so.

Thabo Mvuyelwa Mbeki replaces Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela as President of South Africa.

**17 June 1999** A British official estimates that 10,000 ethnic Albanians were killed by Serbs in Kosovo.

*Marahi* for chorus by Jonathan Harvey (60) is performed for the first time, in Stuttgart.

**18 June 1999** After three days of talks in Helsinki, representatives of NATO and Russia reach agreement on Russia’s role in Kosovo.

**19 June 1999** *Bählamms Fest*, a music theatre by Olga Neuwirth (30) to words of Carrington and Jelinek, is performed for the first time, in Vienna.

**20 June 1999** NATO officials confirm the completion of Serbian troop withdrawals from Kosovo and the bombing campaign is officially ended.

*Wedding Anthem* for chorus by Peter Maxwell Davies (64) to his own words is performed for the first time, in St. Rognvald’s Chapel of St. Magnus Cathedral, Kirkwall, Orkney.

**21 June 1999** Leaders of the Kosovo Liberation Army sign an agreement to disarm within 90 days.

Arab terrorists fire mortars into civilian areas of northern Israel from Lebanon.

*Songs of Sanday*, a cycle for children’s voices and ensemble by Peter Maxwell Davies (64) to words of Thorne, is performed for the first time, in the Arts Theatre, Kirkwall, Orkney.

**23 June 1999** Belgium lifts the week-long ban on Coca-Cola products after the company agrees to five demands.

**23 June 1999** *Fragment no.2* for string quartet by Elliott Carter (90) is performed for the first time, in the Cuvilliestheater, Munich. Also premiered is *Fetzen* for string quartet by Wolfgang Rihm (47) and *Settori* for string quartet by Olga Neuwirth (30).

*Litany--for a ruined chapel between sheep and shore* for trumpet by Peter Maxwell Davies (64) is performed completely for the first time, in St. Magnus Cathedral, Kirkwall, Orkney. See 28 March 1999.

*Gamper Festival Concerto* for flute, clarinet, violin, cello, piano, and chamber orchestra by Ralph Shapey (78) is performed for the first time, at Brunswick High School, Maine.

**24 June 1999** Arab terrorists fire about 50 rockets into northern Israel from Lebanon. Israeli warplanes retaliate, striking the terrorist bases in Lebanon. Ten people are killed.

*Aus der Ferne V* for string quartet by György Kurtág (73) is performed for the first time, in Munich.

**26 June 1999** The leader of the East Timor independence movement, José Ramos Horta, returns to East Timor after an exile of 24 years.

*Gilded Goldbergs* op.86 for two pianos by Robin Holloway (55) is performed publicly for the first time, at Snape Maltings. See 1 February 1998.

**27 June 1999** *Ikon of St. Hilda* for soprano and female chorus by John Tavener (55) to words of Mother Thekla is performed for the first time, in Wakefield Cathedral.

**28 June 1999** Two works by Henri Pousseur (70) are performed for the first time, in L’église Saint Jacques, Liège: *Les Métamorphoses de Marie-Madeleine* for chorus, piano, and two percussionists to his own words, and *Ombres enlacées* for organ.

**29 June 1999** A Turkish court on Imrali Island convicts Kurdish leader Abdullah Ocalan of treason and sentences him to death. Human rights advocates call the trial unfair.

The first anti-Milosevic demonstrations since the NATO bombing campaign occur in Cacak, Yugoslavia.

**30 June 1999** German peacekeepers find a mass grave containing 78 bodies near Przra, Kosovo.

*Yobikake* for chorus by Toshi Ichiyanagi (66) is performed for the first time, in Tokyo.

**1 July 1999** Johannes Rau replaces Roman Herzog as President of Germany. It is the last time the Bundestag convenes in Bonn.

The first Scottish Parliament since 1707 is opened by Queen Elizabeth II.

**2 July 1999** A white racist goes on a three-day shooting spree in Chicago targeting Blacks, Jews, and Asians. He kills two people and wounds nine others before he kills himself.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern offer a joint plan to end the deadlock in Northern Ireland negotiations.

US President Clinton announces that the bald eagle will soon be removed from the endangered species list because of a resurgence in its population.

*The World* for soprano and string quartet by John Tavener (55) to words of Raine is performed for the first time, in West Cork.

**5 July 1999** Russia and NATO reach agreement on Russian participation in a Kosovo peacekeeping force. After this, Russian forces enter the province.

10,000-20,000 Serbs demonstrate against President Milosevic in Leskovac, a traditional area of support for Milosevic.

*Ypakoë* for piano by John Tavener (55) is performed for the first time, in London.

**6 July 1999** Ehud Barak replaces Benyamin Netanyahu as Prime Minister of Israel, leading a center-left coalition.

The United States imposes economic sanctions on the Taliban militia in Afghanistan for harboring the terrorist leader Osama bin Laden. He is charged with directing the bombing of US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania.

Joaquín Rodrigo Vidre dies at his home in Madrid, aged 97 years, seven months, and 14 days. His mortal remains will be laid to rest next to those of his wife in Aranjuez.

**7 July 1999** Diplomatic relations between Great Britain and Libya are restored.

Three days of protests by tens of thousands against Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic turn violent in Leskovac.

A court in Miami rules that US tobacco companies conspired to keep the addictiveness and health hazards of tobacco from the public and therefore could be sued by smokers.

**8 July 1999** Vaira Vike-Freiberga replaces Guntis Ulmanis as President of Latvia.

Islamic vigilantes attack a student demonstration at Teheran University. The students are demonstrating the closure of a moderate newspaper. Riot police then invade the university, beating students with clubs.

**9 July 1999** Italian peacekeepers find mass graves at Lubinic, Kosovo.

**10 July 1999** String Quartet no.15 by Peter Sculthorpe (70) is performed for the first time, in Melba Hall, Melbourne.

Representatives of Zimbabwe, Angola, Namibia, Rwanda, Uganda, and the Democratic Republic of Congo sign a peace agreement in Lusaka. All have troops in Congo taking part in the civil war there.

**12 July 1999** Guy Verhofstadt replaces Jean-Luc Dehaene as Prime Minister of Belgium heading a six-party coalition.

**14 July 1999** The European Commission ends the ban on British beef.

**16 July 1999** Andris Skele replaces Vilis Kristopans as Prime Minister of Latvia.

John F. Kennedy, Jr., his wife, and her sister are killed in the crash of a private plane off the coast of Martha’s Vineyard.

Concerto for string orchestra and pipa by Tan Dun (41) is performed for the first time, in Sapporo, the composer conducting.

**18 July 1999** *Prayer for the Healing of the Sick* for chorus by John Tavener (55) to words of Mother Thekla is performed for the first time, in the Charterhouse School Chapel.

**19 July 1999** Chinese authorities arrest over 100 leaders of the Falun Gong spiritual group.

**20 July 1999** The European Parliament meets in their new building in Strasbourg. They elect French conservative Nicole Fontaine as President.

The original version of *The Greek Passion*, an opera by Bohuslav Martinu (†39) to his own words after Kazantzakis, is performed for the first time, in Bregenz. See 9 June 1961.

**21 July 1999** *Spinning Jenny* for orchestra by Peter Maxwell Davies (64) is performed for the first time, in Royal Albert Hall, London conducted by the composer.

**22 July 1999** The Chinese government bans the spiritual group Falun Gong after three days of protest by the group in 30 cities.

**23 July 1999** King Hassan II of Morocco dies of a heart attack in a Rabat hospital and is succeeded by his son Mohammed VI.

British peacekeepers discover the bodies of 14 murdered Serbs near the village of Gracko, 25 km southwest of Pristina.

Belgium lifts the ban on Coca-Cola products.

**24 July 1999** *Cronaca del luogo*, an azione musicale by Luciano Berio (73) to words of Pecker-Berio, is performed for the first time, in the Felsenreitschule, Salzburg.

**25 July 1999** Luxembourg and the Netherlands lift the ban on Coca-Cola products.

**26 July 1999** Indian military officials announce that they have pushed back Moslem rebels and reestablished the original line of control in Kashmir.

Three Movements for Chamber Orchestra by Conlon Nancarrow (†1) is performed completely for the first time, in Aldeburgh.

**28 July 1999** The Taliban launches an offensive to conquer the 10% of Afghanistan it does not control.

**29 July 1999** The Chinese government issues an arrest warrant for Li Hongzhi, founder of the Falun Gong spiritual movement. He currently resides in the United States.

The Special Criminal Court in Dublin finds drug dealer Brian Meehan guilty of the 1996 murder of journalist Veronica Guerin. Meehan drove the vehicle which brought the killer to the scene of the crime.

A man in financial difficulty kills nine people and injures 13 others in two office buildings in Atlanta. He later kills himself. The bodies of his wife and two children, killed by him days ago, are found at his apartment.

A federal judge in Little Rock fines President Bill Clinton $89,000 to cover legal costs incurred by Paula Jones when Clinton gave “intentionally false” testimony.

**30 July 1999** *Wedding March* by Robin Holloway (55) is performed for the first time, in St. Mark’s Church, Purley.

**2 August 1999** Two passenger trains collide at Gaisal, 400 km north of Calcutta. 300 people are killed, 500 injured.

**5 August 1999** The Kurdistan Workers Party announces it will give up its armed struggle against Turkey and remove its forces from the country.

The Northern Alliance launches a counteroffensive against the Taliban in Afghanistan. Within two days they will win back all the territory they lost over the last week.

The South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission grants amnesty to 17 people responsible for the 1988 bombing of the Johannesburg office of the South African Council of Churches. Those involved are former government ministers and high officers in the police.

**9 August 1999** President Boris Yeltsin of Russia sacks his entire cabinet. He appoints Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin to replace Sergey Vladimirovich Stepashin as Prime Minister.

Violinist Jean Le Boulaire (Lanier), who played the famous premiere of Olivier Messiaen’s (†7) *Quatour pour la fin du temps*, dies at the age of 86. He was the last surviving member of the quartet. See 15 January 1941.

**10 August 1999** An Indian warplane shoots down a Pakistani military aircraft 10 km inside India. 16 crewmen are killed. India said that the Pakistani plane ignored repeated warnings.

UN officials announce they have exhumed 250 bodies from a mass grave in northeastern Bosnia and Hercegovina. They are believed to be victims of the Srebrenica massacre of 1995.

**11 August 1999** The Board of Education for the State of Kansas votes to remove evolution from all science curricula in the state.

**12 August 1999** *Goddess Variations* for piano by Anthony Davis (48) is performed for the first time, in Lincoln Center, New York by the composer.

**14 August 1999** The first connection between Sweden and Denmark is inaugurated by members of the royal families of both countries. The bridge-tunnel stretches from Malmo, Sweden to Copenhagen, a distance of 15 km. It will open to traffic next year.

Catholic protesters battle police guarding Protestants marching through Catholic neighborhoods in Londonderry and Belfast.

**15 August 1999** Three days of fighting breaks out around Kisingani, Congo between soldiers from Uganda and Rwanda.

**16 August 1999** Two roadside bombs kill Ali Hassan Deeb, a Palestinian terrorist commander, near Saida (Sidon), Lebanon.

**17 August 1999** An earthquake measuring 7.4 on the Richter Scale strikes northwestern Turkey just south of Izmit killing around 17,000 people and injuring 44,000 others. A massive fire is triggered at the country’s largest oil refinery, in Izmit.

**19 August 1999** 50,000-150,000 people rally in Belgrade demanding the resignation of President Slobodan Milosevic.

**20 August 1999** Three Japanese banks, Dai-Ichi Kangyo Bank Ltd., Fuji Bank Ltd., and Industrial Bank of Japan Ltd. announce they will merge to form the largest financial institution in the world in terms of assets. They new company will be called Mizuho Financial Group.

**22 August 1999** *Altra Voce* for mezzo-soprano, alto flute, and electronic sound generators by Luciano Berio (73) to words of Talia Pecker Berio is performed for the first time, in Salzburg.

**23 August 1999** German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder formally takes up residence in Berlin.

**25 August 1999** Austrian authorities arrest General Momir Talic in Vienna. He is chief of staff of the Bosnian Serb army and is wanted on charges of war crimes during the Bosnian war.

**26 August 1999** Both houses of the Australian Parliament approve a motion expressing regret for injustices born by aboriginal Australians at the hands of whites.

Music for pipa and string quartet by Tan Dun (42) is performed for the first time, in Suntory Hall, Tokyo.

**27 August 1999** The last crew departs the Russia space station *Mir*. It has been manned for the last 13 years.

*The World* for soprano and strings by John Tavener (55) to words of Raine is performed for the first time, in Belfast.

**28 August 1999** Symphony no.5 for five soloists, chorus, and orchestra by Philip Glass (62) is performed for the first time, in Salzburg.

**30 August 1999** A referendum in the territory of East Timor votes overwhelmingly for independence from Indonesia.

Jordanian security agents close the offices of three senior Palestinian terrorists in Amman. Twelve people are arrested.

The constitutional assembly of Venezuela decides to strip Congress of most of its powers and gives them to President Hugo Chávez.

**31 August 1999** Pro-Indonesia militias resume their campaign of violence in East Timor.

A bomb explodes in a shopping mall in Moscow injuring 41 people.

**1 September 1999** Mireya Elisa Moscoso Rodríguez becomes the first woman President of Panama.

**2 September 1999** Bosnian officials announce the discovery of two mass graves, each with 28 bodies. One is near Sarajevo and the other near the town of Teslic. They are believed to contain the bodies of Croats and Moslems killed by Serbs.

**4 September 1999** Results of the voting in East Timor are announced by the UN. 78.5% of the voters reject the autonomy proposal of the Indonesian government. President Habibie of Indonesia announces that he will respect the will of the people. Indonesian paramilitaries begin a campaign of looting, burning, and killing throughout the province.

Moslem extremists detonate a bomb outside an apartment house in Buinaksk, Dagestan killing at least 64 people and wounding over 100. The building houses Russian officers and their families.

A new score for string quartet to accompany the original sound film of *Dracula* by Philip Glass (62) is performed for the first time, in Teeluride, Colorado.

**5 September 1999** Meeting in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Arab leader Yasir Arafat sign an agreement to restart the peace process. Two car bombs explode in Haifa and Tiberias, killing the Arab terrorists in both cars. Several people are injured.

*Upbeat!* for orchestra by Ellen Taaffe Zwilich (60) is performed for the first time, in Washington.

**6 September 1999** When a group of Serbs set upon ethnic Albanians in eastern Kosovo, Russian troops move in to break it up. The Serbs begin firing on the Russians who return fire. Three Serbs are killed.

While President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt is riding in a car through Port Said, a man attacks him with a knife, injuring his hand. Security agents immediately shoot the man to death. Mubarak is treated for his wound, then proceeds to give a planned speech.

**7 September 1999** José Alexandre Gusmão, President of the National Council for Timorese Resistance, is released from prison by Indonesia after seven years. Indonesia declares martial law in East Timor.

An earthquake strikes just north of Athens killing 143 people.

Viacom, Inc. announces plans to buy CBS in a stock transaction valued at $36,000,000,000 plus $1,400,000,000 in assumed debt. It will create the second largest media/entertainment company after Time Warner, Inc.

**8 September 1999** In view of the very dangerous situation in East Timor, the UN decides to withdraw its remaining staff. Indonesia rejects a proposal for international peacekeepers in East Timor.

**9 September 1999** A bomb destroys an apartment building in Moscow. 94 people are killed.

Israel releases 199 Arab prisoners in accordance with the 5 September agreement.

**10 September 1999** 300 UN workers are evacuated from Dili, East Timor to Darwin, Australia.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan demands that Indonesia accept a multi-national force for East Timor and threatens charges of crimes against humanity for Indonesia’s leaders.

**11 September 1999** French peacekeeping troops restore order after two days of ethnic rioting in Mitrovica, Kosovo.

**12 September 1999** President BJ Habibie of Indonesia announces that he will allow an international force to go to East Timor to restore order.

**13 September 1999** A bomb levels an eight-story apartment building in Moscow killing 118 people.

**14 September 1999** All remaining UN employees and about 1,500 East Timorese who have sought their protection, are flown out of Dili on Australian transport planes.

The Republic of Kiribati, the Republic of Nauru, and the Kingdom of Tonga are admitted to the United Nations.

**15 September 1999** The UN Security Council votes unanimously to send a multinational force to restore order in East Timor. The force will be led by Australia.

An entirely new European Commission is approved by the European Parliament.

Sonata for solo trumpet op.94a by Robin Holloway (55) is performed for the first time, in Dukes Hall of the Royal Academy of Music, London.

**16 September 1999** 17 people are killed in a bomb explosion in an apartment building in Volgodonsk, 320 km south of Moscow.

Voters in Algeria approve a plan to grant amnesty or reduced sentences to any rebels who surrender and turn in their arms.

*What Next?*, an opera by Eliott Carter (90) to words of Griffiths, is performed for the first time, in the Staatsoper Unter den Linden, Berlin.

*Solo Symphony* (Symphony no.5) by Libby Larsen (48) is performed for the first time, in Boettcher Concert Hall, Denver.

**17 September 1999** Australian planes begin dropping food and medicine all over East Timor to aid residents fleeing the destruction being wrought by Indonesian troops and paramilitaries.

**18 September 1999** *From Spring to Spring* for marimba by Thea Musgrave (71) is performed for the first time, in Birmingham.

*Carceri d’Invenzione IId* for recorder by Brian Ferneyhough (56) is performed for the first time, at Royaumont.

**19 September 1999** *Kantan and Damask Drum*, an opera by Alexander Goehr (67) to his own words after Zeami and Koto, is performed for the first time, in Dortmund.

**20 September 1999** 2,500 UN troops arrive in Dili, East Timor under Australian command.

**21 September 1999** An earthquake centered 145 km southwest of Taipei, Taiwan kills over 2,400 people and injures 8,000 others.

The Kosovo Liberation Army formally disbands. An agreement between them and NATO creates a 5,000-person Kosovo Protection Force.

The European Commission recommends lifting the ban on Belgian beef.

**22 September 1999** The UN Population Fund announces that worldwide population growth has slowed.

Police in Amman, Jordan arrest three Arab terrorists as they step off a plane from Iran.

**23 September 1999** *My Country Childhood* for string orchestra by Peter Sculthorpe (70) is performed for the first time, in Adelaide, South Australia.

The UNHCR issues a report detailing mass killings, expulsions, rapes, and crimes against property committed by Indonesian troops and paramilitaries in East Timor.

Russian warplanes bomb Chechen separatists on the outskirts of Grozny.

The British periodical *Nature* reports the discovery of the oldest still-playable musical instrument. Discovered in Henan Province, China, the flute, made from the wing bone of a crane, is about 9,000 years old.

NASA announces that it has lost contact with the Mars Climate Orbiter and that it has probably burned up in the planet’s atmosphere.

**24 September 1999** In a Perugia courtroom, former Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti of Italy and five others are acquitted of conspiring in the 1979 murder of journalist Mino Pecorelli.

**27 September 1999** The Indonesian military departs East Timor and hands over responsibility for security to INTERFET, the international peace keeping force. Violence against civilians from paramilitaries continues.

French peacekeepers announce the arrest of four Serbs suspected of being responsible for the killing of 28 Albanians in Kosovska Mitrovica.

**29 September 1999** Police use force to break up 30,000 people trying to march on the residence of President Slobodan Milosevic in Belgrade.

*In doppelter Tiefe* for two female voices and orchestra by Wolfgang Rihm (47) to words of van der Lubbe is performed for the first time, in Berlin.

**30 September 1999** Russia begins to reoccupy Chechnya.

Technicians at a nuclear power plant in Tokaimura, Japan accidentally create a chain reaction which releases radioactive gas into the atmosphere. 55 people are known to have been exposed to high levels of radiation.

Masato Yokoyama, a member of Aum Shinrikyo, is sentenced to death for his part in the release of nerve gas into the Tokyo subway system in 1995 resulting in twelve deaths.

*Beyond Autumn* for horn and orchestra by Joseph Schwantner (56) is performed for the first time, in Eugene McDermott Concert Hall, Dallas.

**1 October 1999** Kasymzhomart Tokayev replaces Nurlan Balgimbayv as Prime Minister of Kazakhstan.

The French government decides not to lift the ban on British beef because of fears of “mad cow” disease. This comes in spite of a European Commission decision to lift the ban.

**2 October 1999** *Song for Roderick* for chorus by Peter Maxwell Davies (65) to his own words is performed for the first time, in Lyons Hall of York University.

**3 October 1999** National elections in Austria result in losses for the two members of the ruling coalition and gains for the far-right Freedom Party, which is now tied with the People’s Party with the second largest number of seats in Parliament.

*Bethel* for chorus and organ by John Tavener (55) to words from the Bible is performed for the first time, in Bath Abbey.

**4 October 1999** The only Nazi death camp commander believed still to be alive, Dinko Sakic, is convicted of war crimes by a court in Croatia. Tens of thousands of Jews, Serbs, and Roma died at the Jasenovac camp. Sakic has been living in Argentina.

A tropical depression begins causing heavy rains on the Gulf coast of Mexico which will continue for the next two weeks. Floods and landslides will kill 636 people.

*Nipson* for counter tenor and viol consort by John Tavener (55) is performed for the first time, in Norwich Cathedral.

Concerto for cello and orchestra no.2 by Richard Wernick (65) is performed for the first time.

**5 October 1999**  The South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission grants amnesty to nine former security policemen for the 1982 bombing of the London office of the African National Congress.

Israel and the Palestinian authority agree on a land link between Gaza and the West Bank.

MCI WorldCom Inc. and Sprint Corp. announce plans to merge in a stock transaction of $115,000,000,000. It is the largest merger in corporate history.

**6 October 1999** Results of national elections held 5 September to 3 October in India are announced. The ruling coalition led by Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and his Bharatiya Janata Party win 299 of 545 seats.

Preludio a orchestra by Giacomo Puccini (†74) is given its first known performance in Teatro del Giglio, Lucca, 123 years after it was composed.

**7 October 1999** Music for Sophocles’ play *Antigone* by Mikis Theodorakis (74) is performed for the first time, at Megaron, Athens.

*La Lune et les Flots* for string trio by Henri Pousseur (70) is performed for the first time, in Hannover.

**8 October 1999** A London magistrate rules that former dictator Augusto Pinochet may be extradited to Spain to face 35 charges of torture and conspiracy.

**9 October 1999** Two sacred works by Pietro Mascagni (†54) are performed for the first time, in Santa Maria del Soccorso, Livorno: *Alleluja, solemnitas gloriae Virginis Mariae* for soprano and organ 120 years after it was composed, and *Alleluja, Dies sanctificatus*, 118 years after is was composed. The manuscripts were discovered earlier this year.

*The Bridal Chamber* for two counter tenors, three tenors, and two basses by John Tavener (55) is performed for the first time, in Little Missenden Church.

*A View from the Bridge*, an opera by William Bolcom (61) to words of Weinstein and Miller, is performed for the first time, in Chicago.

**10 October 1999** National elections in Portugal result in a virtually unchanged seat total for the ruling Socialist Party of Prime Minister António Guterres. They win exactly 50% of the seats.

**12 October 1999** When Pakistani Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif dismisses armed forces chief General Pervez Musharraf, the military overthrows the democratically elected government in a bloodless coup.

**13 October 1999** The French National Assembly approves a measure to give legal status to unwed couples, whether homosexual or heterosexual. France is the first predominantly Roman Catholic country to do so.

The US Senate refuses to ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty which prohibits nuclear weapons testing.

For the first time, Philip Morris Cos. admits that its product, cigarettes, are addictive and could cause cancer, heart disease, emphysema, and other serious illnesses.

**15 October 1999** The Pakistani military announces that the constitution is suspended. General Pervez Musharraf is named head of state.

The UN Security Council votes unanimously to impose sanctions on the Taliban government of Afghanistan unless it hands over Osama bin Laden by 14 November.

In today’s edition of *Science*, Princeton University scientists announce that brain cells regularly regenerate in monkeys, something thought impossible in primates.

**19 October 1999** Indonesia rescinds its 1976 annexation of East Timor. The People’s Consultative Assembly votes no confidence in President Habibie.

Serb Goran Jelisic is found guilty of 31 counts of torture and murder by the UNICTFY in The Hague. Jelisic commanded the Luka detention camp from 1992-1995, torturing and murdering Croats and Moslems. He is found not guilty of genocide.

*voluta/sospeso* for basset horn, clarinet, violin, cello, percussion, and piano by Olga Neuwirth (31) is performed for the first time, in Munich.

**20 October 1999** Abdurrahman Wahid Gus Dur replaces Bacharuddin Jusef Habibie as President of Indonesia. Supporters of defeated candidate Megawati Sukarnoputri begin rioting in Jakarta.

A Quebec judge overturns part of a provincial law requiring French as the predominant language on all signs in the province.

*Nun* for flute, trombone, chorus, and orchestra by Helmut Lachenmann (63) is performed for the first time, in Cologne.

**21 October 1999** Megawati Sukarnoputri becomes Vice President of Indonesia, assuaging her supporters and seriously reducing violence on the streets.

The Russian military sets off at least ten bombs around the marketplace in Grozny. About 150 people are killed.

**22 October 1999** Independence leader José Alexandre Gusmão returns to East Timor for the first time in seven years and receives an emotional greeting.

*Gondwana Land* for string orchestra by Peter Sculthorpe (70) is performed for the first time, in Malvern, Great Britain.

**23 October 1999** A court in Palermo finds former Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti not guilty of collusion with the Mafia.

A Fugue for solo violin by Alfred Schnittke (†1) is performed for the first time, in New York, 46 years after it was composed.

*El Sueño* for voice, guitar, piano, and electronics by John C. Eaton (64) to words of Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, is performed for the first time, in Chicago.

**24 October 1999** The far-right Swiss People’s Party gains 15 seats in parliamentary elections in Switzerland.

Buenos Aires Mayor Fernando de la Rua of the center-left Alianza coalition wins presidential elections in Argentina.

On her 68th birthday, Sofia Gubaidulina is awarded the Preis der Stiftung Bibel und Kultur by German President Johannes Rau.

**25 October 1999** The United Nations begins to administer East Timor as a transition to independence.

Small groups of Falun Gong members begin gathering peacefully in Tienanmen Square to protest a new law aimed at their group. They will continue to do so for a week, in spite of arrests of everyone who does so.

**27 October 1999** Ilir Rexhep Meta replaces Pandeli Sotir Majko as Prime Minister of Albania.

Irena Degutiene replaces Rolandas Paksas as acting Prime Minister of Lithuania.

Five ultranationalist gunmen led by Nairi Unanyan enter the Parliament building in Yerevan, Armenia and open fire in the chamber. Seven members of the government, including Prime Minister Vazgen Sarkisyan, are killed. The gunmen then take 40 hostages.

Russian warplanes bomb Grozny killing an estimated 116 people.

**28 October 1999** After a guarantee of a fair trial and a promise to broadcast a videotaped message, the five gunmen holding 40 hostages in the Armenian Parliament building surrender. They are charged with terrorism.

**29 October 1999** A cyclone devastates Orissa State, India leaving millions homeless.

Luis Alfredo Garavito tells authorities in Villavicencio, Colombia that he killed 140 boys over a five-year period.

**31 October 1999** Leaders of the Roman Catholic and Lutheran churches sign the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification in Augsburg. It is an attempt to settle the dispute over the Justification by Faith which was an important part of the Protestant Reformation begun by Martin Luther 482 years ago today.

An EgyptAir 767 crashes into the Atlantic south of Nantucket. All 217 people on board are killed. American and Egyptian authorities dispute the cause.

**2 November 1999** Tamil rebels begin an offensive in Sri Lanka, taking ten military bases over the next five days.

Dominique Strauss-Kahn, French Minister of Finance, resigns amidst allegations of corruption. He denies the allegations.

A Spanish judge issues an international arrest warrant for 98 Argentine former military officers charging them with torture, terrorism, and genocide for their activities in the dirty war of 1976-1983.

A man shoots and kills seven coworkers at the offices of the Xerox Corp. in Honolulu. He is later apprehended by police.

**3 November 1999** Aram Sarkisyan replaces his brother Vazgen Sarkisyan as Prime Minister of Armenia. Vazgen Sarkisyan was killed by an assassin on 27 October.

Andrius Kubilius replaces Irena Degutiene as Prime Minister of Lithuania.

David Byrne, the European Union’s commissioner for consumer affairs and food safety, says that France must end sanctions on British beef within eight days or face legal measures.

Aaron McKinney is found guilty by court in Laramie, Wyoming of second degree murder, robbery, and kidnapping. McKinney is one of two men who killed a homosexual, Matthew Shepard, because he was homosexual. He will be sentenced to two consecutive life terms in prison.

*Micro-Concerto* for percussion and five instruments by Steven Mackey (43) is performed for the first time, in New York.

**4 November 1999** Russia opens the border with Chechnya, allowing refugees to flee the province.

**5 November 1999** A federal judge in Washington finds that Microsoft Corp. wields “monopoly power” over its competitors.

*In a Treeless Place, Only Snow* for string quartet, harp, celesta, and two vibraphones by John Luther Adams (46) is performed for the first time, at the Cleveland Museum of Art, Ohio.

**6 November 1999** A proposal to abolish the monarchy and institute a republic is defeated by voters in Australia 55%-45%. Voters also reject a new preamble to the federal constitution recognizing the country’s Aborigines 61%-39%.

**7 November 1999** *Miroirs des temps* for four vocal soloists and orchestra by Unsuk Chin (38) is performed for the first time, in Royal Festival Hall, London.

**8 November 1999** About 1,000,000 people gather peacefully in Banda Aceh to demand independence from Indonesia.

**10 November 1999** *Woefully Arrayed* op.89 for chorus and organ by Robin Holloway (56) is performed for the first time, in St. Alban’s Abbey, St. Alban’s.

**11 November 1999** Former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif of Pakistan is charged with treason by the military government which overthrew him.

Three new works are performed for the first time, in Avery Fisher Hall, New York: Vocalise for soprano and orchestra by John Corigliano (61), *Fraternité: Air pour l’orchestre* by Hans Werner Henze (73), and *America—A Prophecy* for mezzo-soprano, orchestra, and chorus ad.lib. by Thomas Adès (28) to words of Chilam Balam and Matteo Flexa.

**12 November 1999** An earthquake centered in Düzce, Turkey kills 894 people.

Leaders of the Commonwealth meeting in Durban, South Africa, vote to suspend Pakistan from the organization because of the recent military coup there.

Several rockets are launched against UN and US buildings in Islamabad, Pakistan. One person in injured.

Russian troops take control of Gudermes, the second-largest city in Chechnya.

Popular music entertainer Gary Glitter is found guilty in Bristol, England of possessing child pornography.

Musik für Klarinette und Orchester by Wolfgang Rihm (47) is performed for the first time, in Munich.

*Zwiegespräch* for string quartet and electronics by György Kurtág (73) is performed for the first time, in Basel.

*Einige Sätze aus den Sudelbüchern Georg Christoph Lichtenbergs* op.37a for soprano and double bass by György Kurtág (73) is performed for the first time, in Berlin.

**13 November 1999** *Three Elizabethan Songs* op.63 for chorus by Lowell Liebermann (38) is performed for the first time, in Ithaca, New York.

**14 November 1999** The UN imposes sanctions on the Taliban militia in Afghanistan for refusing to turn over Osama bin Laden to the US. All international flights to Afghanistan are banned, except for humanitarian aid. Taliban assets abroad are frozen.

The earliest example of alphabetic writing is found by archaeologists from Yale University, at Wadi el-Hol, between Luxor and Abydos, Egypt. They appear to be as much as 2,100 years old.

**15 November 1999** Representatives of China and the United States sign an historic trade treaty in Beijing. China reduces obstacles to imports and foreign investments in return for US backing of China’s entry into the World Trade Organization.

Anthony Braxton’s (54) compact disc *Tentet (Wesleyan) 1999* is recorded in Crowell Concert Hall, Wesleyan University. On it are *Comp.235* and *Comp.236*.

**17 November 1999** A funeral is held in the Bosnian town of Memici for 274 people whose bodies were unearthed in a mass grave last year. They are believed to be Moslems killed by Serbs at the beginning of the Bosnian war.

**18 November 1999** Russian troops take control of Achkhoi-Martan in their attempt to surround Grozny.

A court in Jasper, Texas convicts Shawn Allen Berry of capital murder in the dragging death of James Byrd. Unlike his two accomplices, Berry is sentenced to life in prison rather than death because he is not known to be a white supremacist.

*Trigon* for female voice and orchestra by Wolfgang Rihm (47) is performed for the first time, in Paris.

*Fantasy—Remembering Roger* for violin by Elliott Carter (90) is performed for the first time, in Paine Concert Hall, Harvard University.

**19 November 1999** Savo Klimovski replaces Kiro Gligorov is acting Prime Minister of Macedonia.

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, meeting in Istanbul, adopts new restrictions on conventional arms in Europe.

*Cantique des degrés* for chorus and orchestra by Arvo Pärt (64) to words of the Psalms is performed for the first time, in the Cathedrale de Monte Carlo.

*Know What is Above You* for chorus and percussion by Steve Reich (63) to words of Pirkei Avos is performed for the first time, in St. Anne’s Church, Brooklyn.

**20 November 1999** China launches an unmanned space probe from the Jiuquan launch facility in Gansu Province. It orbits the Earth 14 times and returns safely by parachute inside China.

*The Light That Fills the World* for violin, contrabass instrument, electronic keyboard, vibraphone, and marimba by John Luther Adams (46) is performed for the first time, in San Francisco.

**22 November 1999** Abdelkader Hachani, a leader of the banned Islamic Salvation Front, is murdered in Algiers.

*…ad auras… in memoriam H.* for two violins and percussion by Olga Neuwirth (31) is performed for the first time, in Munich.

**23 November 1999** Sechs Gesänge aus dem Arabischen for tenor and piano by Hans Werner Henze (73) is performed for the first time, in Cologne.

**24 November 1999** The ferry *MV Dashun* catches fire and begins to break up in heavy seas near Yantai, China. Over 300 people are lost with only 36 rescued. The ship will drift, capsize, and sink shortly after midnight.

**25 November 1999** *Orchestral Theatre IV: The Gate* for soprano, Peking Opera actress, Japanese Puppeteer, string orchestra, and film by Tan Dun (42) is performed for the first time, in Tokyo.

**26 November 1999** Russian forces lay siege to Grozny.

Croatia’s Constitutional Court declares president Franjo Tudjman incapacitated. Speaker of Parliament Vlatko Pavletic becomes acting President.

**27 November 1999** Parliamentary elections in New Zealand result in a victory for the Labour Party, ending the nine-year rule of the conservative National Party.

The Ulster Unionist Party agrees to allow Sinn Fein into the Northern Ireland cabinet before they are disarmed.

**28 November 1999** The Basque separatist group ETA announces it is ending its 14-month cease-fire.

**29 November 1999** A court in Düsseldorf sentences Bosnian Serb Maksim Sokolovic to nine years in prison. He was found guilty of genocide for leading a paramilitary group during the Bosnian war.

**30 November 1999** The Parliament of Kuwait rejects a bill which would give women the right to vote.

130 Kenyans arrive in Freetown, Sierra Leone as the first contingent of a UN peacekeeping force.

Ministers from the 135 members of the World Trade Organization meet in Seattle for four days of talks. The meeting is protested by thousands of union members and other organizations. Some violence occurs, requiring police to use tear gas, pepper spray, and rubber bullets.

The US hands over Fort Clayton to Panama. It is the last US military base in the country and effectively ends the US control over the canal.

**1 December 1999** José Ramos Horta, leader of the East Timor independence movement, returns home after an exile of 24 years.

Scientists from the Human Genome Project announce they have established the chemical sequence of about 97% of chromosome 22, the first time a sequence of genes in a chromosome has been identified.

*Writing to Vermeer*, an opera by Louis Andriessen (60) to words of Greenaway, is performed for the first time, in Amsterdam.

**2 December 1999** The British government returns power over Northern Ireland to a new provincial government. The new cabinet, including equal numbers of Catholics and Protestants, meets for the first time, in Belfast chaired by First Minister David Trimble and Deputy First Minister Seamus Mallon. The Republic of Ireland renounces the goal of unification of the island.

**3 December 1999** All contact with *Mars Polar Lander* is lost as it enters the atmosphere of Mars.

50,000 people gather in Wenceslas Square, Prague to demand the resignation of Prime Minister Milos Zeman and Parliament Speaker Vaclav Klaus.

**6 December 1999** Russian forces warn the residents of Grozny that if they remain after 11 December they risk death.

*Musical Offerings* for piano left hand by George Perle (84) is performed for the first time, in New York.

**7 December 1999** *SOLO* for trombone and orchestra by Luciano Berio (74) is performed for the first time, in Zürich.

**9 December 1999** The US State Department estimates that between March and June, 10,000 ethnic Albanians were killed by Serbs in Kosovo, and 1,500,000 were forced from their homes.

**10 December 1999** Helen Clark replaces Jenny Shipley as Prime Minister of New Zealand leading a minority Labour government.

President Franjo Tudjman of Croatia dies of stomach cancer in a Zagreb hospital. He is replaced by acting President Vlatko Pavletic.

Fernando de la Rúa Bruno replaces Carlos Saúl Menem Akil as President of Argentina.

*Celebration Day* for chorus and orchestra by Thea Musgrave (71) to words of Dryden is performed for the first time, at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

**12 December 1999** President Omar Hassan Ahmed al-Bashir of Sudan declares a three-month state of emergency and dissolves the parliament.

The Maltese tanker *Erika* breaks up in heavy seas off Brittany sending 5,700,000 litres of oil towards the coast.

**13 December 1999** In the largest sexual harassment verdict in Japan, Isamu Yamada, Governor of Osaka prefecture, is required to pay $107,000 to a 21-year-old woman. He was charged with groping her on a campaign bus, then trying to buy her silence, then publicly defaming her.

The British government announces it will end its ban on homosexuals in the military. The policy was found to be in violation of European human rights law by the European Court of Human Rights.

Negotiations begin between French government officials and Corsican nationalists.

President Emil Constantinescu of Romania removes Prime Minister Radu Vasile after ten members of his cabinet resign.

**14 December 1999** Alexandru Athanasiu replaces Radu Vasile as acting Prime Minister of Romania.

Bosnian Serb Goran Jelsic is sentenced to 40 years in prison by the ICTFY in The Hague. He was found guilty of crimes against humanity as a prison camp shift commander responsible for the deaths of 13 prisoners.

The German government agrees to create a fund of DM10,000,000,000 to compensate those forced into slave labor by the Nazi regime.

In a ceremony at the Miraflores Locks, the United States hands over control of the Panama Canal to Panama.

An Algerian-born man is arrested trying to take 60 kg of bomb making materials into the US from Canada, at Port Angeles, Washington.

**15 December 1999** Boris Trajkovski replaces Savo Klimovski as President of Macedonia.

A court in Bavaria sentences Bosnian Serb Djurdadj Kuslijic to life in prison for ordering the murder of Moslems in Bosnia in 1992.

Prime Minister Ehud Barak of Israel and Foreign Minister Farouk al-Sharaa of Syria meet in Washington. It is the first direct contact between the two countries in four years. They lay the groundwork for future negotiations.

Jordan announces the arrest of 13 al-Qaeda suspects.

Iraq fails to meet a deadline to allow inspection of its uranium supply by the IAEA.

Voters in Venezuela approve a new constitution supported by President Hugo Chávez.

**16 December 1999** A UN investigation into the genocide in Rwanda faults high-level officials in the UN, and Security Council members, especially the US, for failing to respond to the tragedy.

The United States agrees to pay $28,000,000 to China for the bombing of the Chinese embassy in Belgrade.

**17 December 1999** The government of Sweden announces that after 1 January there will be no connection between itself and the Lutheran Church of Sweden.

Torrential rains over the last three days in Venezuela have caused mudslides resulting in 30,000 deaths. As many as 150,000 people are homeless.

The UN Security Council votes 11-0-4 to create a new weapons inspection plan for Iraq. They tie the loosening of sanctions with Iraqi compliance.

**18 December 1999** President Chandrika Kumaratunga of Sri Lanka is injured in a bomb attack at a campaign rally in Colombo. 20 people are killed, over 100 injured. The president has shrapnel removed from her right eye.

**19 December 1999** Centrist and pro-government parties do best in elections to the State Duma of Russia.

**20 December 1999** Australian peacekeepers in East Timor find two mass graves containing the bodies of over 100 victims of the anti-independence violence earlier this year.

The Portuguese possession of Macao is returned to China. It is the last European possession in Asia.

The Supreme Court of the State of Vermont orders that same-sex couples have the same rights to benefits and legal protection that married heterosexual couples do.

*The Great Gatsby*, an opera by John Harbison to words of Horwitz and the composer after Fitzgerald, is performed for the first time, at the Metropolitan Opera, New York on the composer’s 61st birthday.

**21 December 1999** Dumitru Braghis replaces Ion Sturza as Prime Minister of Moldova.

Canada sues RJ Reynolds for smuggling cigarettes into the country.

**22 December 1999** Constantin Mugur Isarescu replaces Alexandru Athanasiu as Prime Minister of Romania.

Viktor Andriyovich Yushchenko replaces Valerii Pavlovych Pustovoitenko as Prime Minister of Ukraine.

**23 December 1999** Four paramilitary groups working for the independence of Corsica announce a unilateral cease-fire.

**24 December 1999** Five Kashmiri separatists hijack an Indian Airlines plane between Katmandu and New Delhi. After being denied landing rights at Lahore, the plane puts down at Amritsar. Taking off almost immediately, they land at Lahore for refueling. Landing at Dubai, the hijackers release 27 passengers and the body of a man they killed.

**25 December 1999** A hijacked India Airlines plane lands in Kandahar. The hijackers demand the release of several Kashmiri separatists held by India.

After weeks of bombardment of Grozny, Russian ground troops push their way into the city amidst heavy fighting.

5,700,000 litres of oil from the Maltese tanker *Erika* hit the coast of Brittany affecting 10,000 sea birds. The ship broke up 12 December.

**27 December 1999** Popular music entertainer Jamal Barrow is arrested in New York and charged with three counts of attempted murder.

**30 December 1999** Javed Iqbal surrenders to police in Lahore. He is wanted in connection with the rape and murder of 100 boys.

**31 December 1999** India releases three Kashmiri militants and their colleagues depart an Indian Airlines plane they hijacked in Kandahar.

The United States formally hands over sovereignty of the Panama Canal to Panama.

President Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin of Russia resigns and is replaced by Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin.

*A New Beginning* for high voice, chorus, brass, percussion, and strings by John Tavener (55) is performed for the first time, in the Millennium Dome, Greenwich.

*Trio for the Beginning of Time* for piano trio by Tod Machover (46) is performed for the first time, in First and Second Church, Boston.

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25 May 2016