**1 January 2004** Tens of thousands march in Hong Kong demanding direct elections of the chief executive and legislature.

Thousands of non-Kurdish protesters battle Kurdish militiamen in Kirkuk during the night. They are protesting the creation of an autonomous Kurdish region.

**3 January 2004** A Flash Airlines 737 crashes in to the Red Sea after taking off from Sharm el-Sheikh International Airport. All 148 people on board are killed.

**4 January 2004** 04:35 UTC The unmanned US spacecraft *Sprit* makes a successful soft landing in the Gusev crater near the equator of Mars. Later in the day it begins sending back images.

Moslem separatists in Thailand set fire to 21 schools and attack an army post. Four people are killed and a number of weapons are stolen. The government declares martial law in the three southernmost provinces of the country.

A grand council in Kabul approves a new constitution for Afghanistan.

**5 January 2004** Jakob "Jaap" Gijsbert de Hoop Scheffer of the Netherlands replaces Alessandro Minuto Rizzo of Italy as Secretary-General of NATO.

**6 January 2004** Two bombs explode in Kandahar, Afghanistan kill at least 17 people including eight children. Taliban fighters execute twelve civilians west of Kandahar.

**8 January 2004** A missile downs a US helicopter near Fallujah, killing all nine aboard.

**9 January 2004** A bomb is detonated outside a Shia mosque in Baqubah, killing five people.

**11 January 2004** Iran’s Guardian Council eliminates almost half of the candidates for the 20 February parliamentary elections. They are trying to silence criticism of the conservative rulers of the country.

**12 January 2004** Two French journalists are freed on appeal of their conviction in a Pakistani court for visiting the city of Quetta without permission. Originally sentenced to six months in prison, they are released with time served and a fine of $3,500 each.

Yusuf Krymshamkhalov and Adam Dekkushev are convicted in a Moscow court of participating in the 1999 apartment bombings in that city. They are sentenced to life in prison and ordered to pay 4,500,000 rubles to the victims.

A law providing for domestic partnership rights for homosexual couples is signed by Governor Bill McGreevey of New Jersey.

*Abraham*, a motet for chorus and brass by John Harbison (65) to words of Genesis, is performed for the first time, at the Vatican.

Jean-René Gehan, Cultural Counselor for France, presents Ned Rorem (80) with the medal of Chevalier of the Order of Arts and Letters at the French consulate in New York.

**13 January 2004** Dr. Harold Shipman, convicted killer of 15 of his patients and believed to have killed 200 more, hangs himself in Wakefield Prison, West Yorkshire.

The Italian Constitutional Court rules that a law granting Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi immunity from prosecution is unconstitutional.

*Seven Tableaux Vivants Depicting the Angel of History as Melancolia* for chamber ensemble by Brian Ferneyhough (60) is performed for the first time, at the Musée d’Orsay, Paris.

**14 January 2004** The government of Libya approves the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and agrees to monitoring by the IAEA.

An Arab terrorist explodes a bomb at an industrial park near the Gaza Strip. Four people and the bomber are killed.

Former Enron CFO Andrew Fastow pleads guilty in federal court in Houston to two felony charges. He is sentenced to ten years in prison.

**15 January 2004** *Micomicón* for orchestra by Elliott Carter (95) is performed for the first time, in Symphony Hall, Boston.

Sonata for solo violin by Donald Martino (72) is performed for the first time, in Alice Tully Hall, New York.

**16 January 2004** *Brentano-Phantasie*, a cycle for voice and piano by Wolfgang Rihm (51) to words of Brentano, is performed for the first time, in the Alte Oper, Frankfurt.

**17 January 2004** Two works for chorus to words from the *Liber Usualis* by Peter Maxwell Davies (69) are performed for the first time, at Lighthouse, Poole, Dorset: *Dum Complerentur* and *Veni Sancte Spiritus*.

**18 January 2004** 500 kg of explosives in a truck is detonated by a suicide bomber outside the main gate of the Coalition Provisional Authority headquarters in Baghdad. 31 people are killed, over 120 injured, mostly Iraqis.

*Spirit Songs* for cello and piano by TJ Anderson (75) is performed for the first time, in Durham, North Carolina.

**19 January 2004** 100,000 Shia march in Baghdad calling for direct elections.

**20 January 2004** In an address to Congress, US President Bush asserts that his inspectors have “identified dozens of weapons of mass destruction-related program activities and significant amounts of equipment…”

**22 January 2004** Former Rwandan education minister Jean de Dieu Kamuhanda is sentenced to two life sentences by the UN International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in Arusha, Tanzania. He was convicted of personally overseeing the murders of Tutsis attempting to hide in a school and a church during the genocide of 1994.

*Stanze* for baritone, three male choruses and orchestra by Luciano Berio (†0) to words of various authors is performed for the first time, in Théâtre Mogador, Paris.

**23 January 2004** David Kay, the US official in charge of uncovering Iraq’s weapons of mass destruction, resigns his post. He says that no such weapons or development programs exist.

*Dialogues* for piano and chamber orchestra by Elliott Carter (95) is performed for the first time, in Queen Elizabeth Hall, London.

**24 January 2004** US Secretary of State Colin Powell concedes that there are probably no weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.

**25 January 2004** The unmanned US spacecraft *Opportunity* lands on Mars in the Meridiani Planum.

Mikheil Nikolozis dze Saakashvili replaces Nino Anzoris asuli Burdzhanadze as President of Georgia.

*New Morning for the World* for narrator and chamber orchestra by Joseph Schwantner (60), to words of Martin Luther King, Jr., is performed for the first time, in Sanders Theatre of Harvard University.

*Strut* for band by Libby Larsen (53) is performed for the first time, at St. Andrew’s Lutheran Church, Mahtomedi, Minnesota.

**28 January 2004** An independent report by Lord Hutton exonerates British Prime Minister Tony Blair and his government of exaggerating claims of Saddam Hussein’s weapons of mass destruction in the run up to the invasion of Iraq.

Israeli forces attack an area in Gaza used by Arab terrorists to fire mortars into Israel. Eight people are killed in the battle.

Former Croatian Serb political leader Milan Babic is convicted of one count of persecution, a crime against humanity, at The Hague. Four other charges were dropped in exchange for his testimony against Slobodan Milosevic.

**29 January 2004** An Arab terrorist bomb explodes on a bus in Jerusalem, killing ten people and the bomber.

The warring factions in Somalia sign a peace agreement in Nairobi intended to form a national government. Somalia has been without an effective government since 1991.

**30 January 2004** A court in Nanterre convicts former French Prime Minister Alain Juppé, now head of the Union pour un Mouvement Populaire, of corruption while in the administration of Mayor Jacques Chirac of Paris. Chirac is now President of the Republic. Juppé is given an 18-month suspended sentence.

*Ninety-six* for quintet by Frederick Rzewski (65) is performed for the first time, at a concert to honor Elliott Carter (95) at the Angel Orensanz Foundation Center, New York. Also premiered is *for ec* for string quartet by Christian Wolff (69).

**31 January 2004** Several bomb explosions across Iraq kill 18 people.

**1 February 2004** Two bombs explode at the headquarters of the two main Kurdish political parties in Erbil, Iraq. 101 people are killed.

Over one-third of Iran’s parliament resign to protest the bans of 11 January.

Over 251 pilgrims are killed in a stampede during the annual hajj in Mecca.

At an intermission show during the Super Bowl, the championship game of American football, a breast belonging to popular music entertainer Janet Jackson is exposed on national television. Her performance partner, Justin Timberlake, will call it a “wardrobe malfunction.” Great controversy ensues.

*Aristaeus* for narrator and orchestra by Hans Werner Henze (77) to his own words, is performed for the first time, in the Konzerthaus, Berlin.

**3 February 2004** The British government announces an independent investigation of prewar intelligence about weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.

Three office buildings at the US Senate are closed when ricin is found in the mail room of Majority Leader Bill Frist. They will reopen in two days.

*Angelus* for chorus by Peter Maxwell Davies (69) to medieval Italian words is performed for the first time, in the Church of St. Giles Cripplegate, London.

**4 February 2004** In a radio interview, Australian Prime Minister John Howard admits prewar intelligence might have been wrong, but going to war in Iraq was the right decision.

US Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld tells congressional committees that it is too early to draw any conclusions about whether Iraq had WMD programs.

Mark Zuckerberg, Eduardo Saverin, Andrew McCollum, Dustin Moskovitz, and Chris Hughes found Facebook.

**5 February 2004** A court in Hamburg acquits Abdelghani Mzoudi of charges linking him to the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001.

*Shûnya* for chorus by John Tavener (60) is performed for the first time, in Temple Church, London.

*The Phoenix* for soprano and orchestra by Bright Sheng (48), to his own words after Andersen, is performed for the first time, in Seattle.

**6 February 2004** An explosion on a Moscow subway car kills 39 people and injures at least 200 others. Chechen rebels are blamed.

**8 February 2004** In a television interview, US President George W. Bush admits he might have been wrong when he claimed that Iraq had stockpiled weapons of mass destruction.

**10 February 2004** At least 53 Iraqis waiting for interviews to join the police force are killed by a truck bomb in Iskandariyah, 50 km south of Baghdad.

*The Tempest*, an opera by Thomas Adès (32) to words of Oakes after Shakespeare, is performed for the first time, in the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

*Tableaux: Convolutions on a Theme* for alto saxophone and octophonic computer music by Larry Austin (73) is performed for the first time, at Northern Illinois University, DeKalb.

**11 February 2004** 47 Iraqis are killed by a car bomb while in line for jobs with the Iraqi army.

**12 February 2004** Scientists at Seoul National University announce they have successfully cloned human embryos and harvested embryonic stem cells.

In defiance of California law, officials in San Francisco begin issuing marriage licenses for same-sex couples.

**13 February 2004** The Brazilian news magazine *Epoca* releases a videotape showing an advisor to President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, Waldomiro Diniz, asking for $100,000 in kickbacks from a lottery owner in exchange for political favors. The President sacks Diniz today.

**14 February 2004** Iraqi insurgents make a two-pronged attack in Fallujah against a police post, killing at least 23 people, and civil defense headquarters, freeing 87 prisoners.

*Echappées* for celtic harp and computerized sounds by Jean-Claude Risset (65) is performed for the first time, in Marseille.

**15 February 2004** Aborigines riot in Sydney after an aborigine teenager allegedly dies accidentally while being chased by police. Rioters set fires, throw gasoline bombs and other projectiles, and battle with riot police.

**18 February 2004** A runaway train crashes into the village of Khayyam, near Nishapur, in Iran and explodes. Khayyam is destroyed and over 300 people are killed.

Suicide truck bombers attack a Polish military base in Hilla, 100 km south of Baghdad. 11 people are killed, over 100 injured.

Over 60 leading US scientists, including 20 Nobel laureates, accuse the Bush administration of “distortion of scientific knowledge for partisan and political ends.” Accompanying the statement is a 38-page report from the independent Union of Concerned Scientists documenting the claims.

**19 February 2004** *Fantasy on “Nobody Knows”* for baritone and orchestra by David Del Tredici (67) is performed for the first time, in Saratoga Springs, New York. Also premiered is *Ain’t Goin’ to Study War No Mo’* for baritone and chamber ensemble by John Harbison (65).

**20 February 2004** Conservative candidates win control of the Iranian parliament in elections today. Thousands of reformers were prohibited from standing by the Guardian Council.

**21 February 2004** The Ugandan rebel group Lord’s Resistance Army kills about 200 refugees near Lira, 380 km north of Kampala.

*Episodes* for violin and piano by Ellen Taaffe Zwilich (64) is performed for the first time, in Ruth Eckerd Hall, Clearwater, Florida.

*Telino's Acrobats* for bass clarinet by Richard Wernick (70) is performed for the first time, at the Everson Museum of Art, Syracuse, New York.

**22 February 2004** An Arab terrorist explodes a bomb aboard a bus in Jerusalem. Eight people and the bomber are killed.

Armed rebels seeking the overthrow of Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide capture Cap-Haïtien.

**23 February 2004** US Secretary of Education Rod Paige says the National Education Association is like a “terrorist organization” because it opposes Bush administration policies.

**24 February 2004** An earthquake centerd near Al Hoceima, Morocco kills 629 people.

President Vladimir V. Putin sacks his entire cabinet including Prime Minister Mikhail Mikhailovich Kasyanov, ahead of next month’s presidential election. Viktor Borisovich Khristenko becomes acting prime minister.

US President Bush calls on Congress to pass a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriages.

**26 February 2004** President Boris Trajkovski of Macedonia is killed when the plane he is travelling in crashes near the village of Huskovici, Bosnia and Hercegovina. Eight other people are also killed. Ljupco Jordanovski becomes acting president.

**27 February 2004** Shoko Asahara, former leader of Aum Shinrikyo, is sentenced to death by a Tokyo court in the 1995 nerve gas attack in the Tokyo subway. He is the twelfth and last member of the religious group to be sentenced to death.

A bomb planted by Moslem terrorists explodes aboard the Philippine *SuperFerry14* in Manila Bay. Around 116 of the 900 aboard are killed in the blast, the resulting fire, and by jumping overboard.

Clarinet Trio by Jonathan Harvey (64) is performed for the first time, at Michigan State University.

**28 February 2004** Sulejman Tihic replaces Dragan Covic as Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Hercegovina.

**29 February 2004** Jean-Bertrand Aristide resigns the presidency of Haiti and is flown in a US jet to the Central African Republic. Boniface Alexandre becomes provisional president.

**1 March 2004** A parliamentary investigating committee reports that Australian Prime Minister John Howard did not mislead the public about weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. However it did find the government was selective in the intelligence it chose to believe.

UN peacekeepers from France and Canada arrive in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, as do rebels soldiers.

**2 March 2004** Simultaneous explosions in Baghdad and Karbala kill over 180 people and injure 400. Shia worshippers are targeted on the holy day of Ashura.

Piano Trio by Joan Tower (65) is performed for the first time, in Tucson, Arizona.

**3 March 2004** *Requiem* for chorus, didjeridu, and orchestra by Peter Sculthorpe (75) is performed for the first time, in Adelaide Town Hall.

**5 March 2004** Mikhail Yefimovich Fradkov replaces Viktor Borisovich Khristenko as Prime Minister of Russia.

**6 March 2004** *Fetzen 4* for viola and accordion by Wolfgang Rihm (51) is performed for the first time, in Brussels.

*Rituals* for five percussionists and orchestra by Ellen Taaffe Zwilich (64) is performed for the first time, in Germantown, Tennessee.

**7 March 2004** In parliamentary elections in Greece, the ruling PASOK loses 41 seats and its majority to the conservative New Democracy Party.

Israeli troops battle Arabs in the Gaza Strip. 14 Arabs are killed.

The ferry *Samson* capsizes in Cyclone Gafilo off Mahajanga, Madagascar. Three people survive from the 120 who are on board officially. The death toll may be higher.

Buckingham Palace announces that Peter Maxwell Davies (69) is named Master of the Queen’s Music for a ten year term.

*Recalling the Yesterdays* for soprano, flute, clarinet, violin, cello, piano, and percussion by Samuel Adler (76) is performed for the first time, in Dallas.

**8 March 2004** The governing council of Iraq signs an interim constitution for the country.

An autobiography by former President Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado reveals that the 1988 election of his successor, Carlos Salinas, was fraudulent.

**9 March 2004** Indulis Emsis of the Green Party replaces Einars Repse of the populist New Era Party as Prime Minister of Latvia. He is the first European head of government from a green party.

A judge in Chesapeake, Virginia sentences John Allen Muhammad to death in connection with the sniper killings around Washington in October 2002. His accomplice, Lee Boyd Malvo, is sentenced to life in prison.

Scientists in Baltimore release two images from the Hubble Space Telescope showing the furthest from Earth yet witnessed. They show objects 13,000,000,000 light years away, shortly after the big bang.

*The Royal Banners Forward Go* for chorus by Jonathan Harvey (64), to words of Venantius Fortunatus (tr.Neale) is performed for the first time, at St. John’s College, Cambridge.

**10 March 2004** Konstantinos Alexandrou Karamanlis replaces Konstantinos Georgiou Simitis as Prime Minister of Greece.

**11 March 2004** 07:30 Ten bombs explode almost simultaneously on four commuter trains in Madrid. 190 people are killed instantly with more than 1,400 injured. Three unexploded bombs are found. Interior Minister Angel Acebes says he has “no doubt whatsoever” that Basque separatists (ETA) are responsible. The Foreign Minister instructs all Spanish embassies to “exploit those occasions that arise to confirm ETA’s responsibility.”

The California Supreme Court orders a halt to the issuing of marriage licenses to same-sex couples in San Francisco.

**12 March 2044** President Roh Moo Hyun is impeached by the National Assembly of South Korea. His power is temporarily suspended and taken by Prime Minister Goh Kun.

For the first time, the Basque separatist group ETA issues a denial of involvement in a terrorist bombing.

8-11,000,000 people march in Madrid and other Spanish cities against terrorism.

European countries greatly increase security on their rail systems.

*Secret Window*, a film with music by Philip Glass (67), is released in the United States.

Two Pieces for organ by Paul Hindemith (†40) are performed for the first time, in Vienna, 86 years after they were composed.

**14 March 2004** Spanish authorities arrest five people in connection with the 11 March bombings. Evidence increases that the culprits are not Basques, as the conservative government alleged, but al-Qaeda.

In elections to the Spanish Cortes, leftist parties led by the Socialist Workers Party unexpectedly make significant gains at the expense of the ruling conservative Peoples Party. The vote is seen as a rejection of conservative attempts to blame the Madrid bombings on Basque separatists and cover up al-Qaeda involvement. The Spanish government’s support for the invasion of Iraq is widely unpopular.

Voters in Russia reelect Vladimir V. Putin to a second term as president.

*Verwandlung* for trombone, saxophone quartet, cello, double bass, and tam-tam by Sofia Gubaidulina (72) is performed for the first time, in Turku, Finland.

*Nach-Schrift* for 17 players by Wolfgang Rihm (52) is performed for the first time, in the Funkhaus, Cologne.

**16 March 2004** *Taking Lives*, a film with music by Philip Glass (67), is released in the United States.

**17 March 2004** A car bomb explodes at the Mount Lebanon Hotel in Baghdad killing seven people and injuring 35.

Ethnic Serbs and Albanians begin three days of violent clashes in Kosovo. 28 people will be killed, 600 injured, including many peacekeeping troops.

Sasa Cvjetan is convicted in a Belgrade court for the murder of 14 ethnic Albanians in Kosovo in 1999.

Two Interludes and a scene for an Opera for chamber ensemble and electronics by Jonathan Harvey (64) is performed for the first time, in Queen Elizabeth Hall, London.

**18 March 2004** President Aleksander Kwasniewski of Poland says he was misled by the United States into joining the invasion of Iraq.

The Pan-African Parliament holds its first session in Addis Ababa.

*Anthem of St. John the Baptist* for chorus and organ by Arvo Pärt (68) to words of the Bible is performed for the first time, in the University Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Oxford.

*Yawawot* for violin and electroacoustic sounds by Gordon Mumma (69) is performed for the first time, in Merkin Concert Hall, New York.

**19 March 2004** Three Moroccans and two Indians are indicted in a Madrid court for the 11 March bombings. They are ordered held without bail.

Former Finnish Prime Minister Anneli Jäätteenmäki is acquitted in Helsinki of leaking government documents to discredit a previous government’s policies.

The American Academy of Arts and Letters inducts Sofia Gubaidulina (72) as a Foreign Honorary Member.

**21 March 2004** *locus…doublure…solus* for three orchestra by Olga Neuwirth (35) is performed for the first time, in Berlin. See 8 September 2001 and 8 February 2002.

**22 March 2004** Israeli missiles kill eight people in Gaza including Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, the founder of the Arab terrorist group Hamas, and his bodyguards.

**23 March 2004** Iraqi insurgents kill eleven policemen and trainees in Hilla and Kirkuk.

Mijailo Mijailovic is convicted by a court in Stockholm of the 2003 stabbing murder of Swedish Foreign Minister Anna Lindh. He is sentenced to life in prison.

After a campaign by residents of the island of Ikaria, the farmhouse to which Mikis Theodorakis (78) was exiled during the Greek Civil War is now a listed building. Local authorities begin investigating the possibility of funds from the Ministry of Culture to restore the building.

**24 March 2004** Former head of counterterrorism under Presidents Clinton and George W. Bush, Richard Clarke, testifies before the independent panel investigating the 11 September 2001 attacks. He says that counterterrorism was not a priority for the Bush administration before that date.

*Music for the Same Sea*, a theatre piece by Paul Lansky (59) is performed for the first time, in Princeton, New Jersey.

**26 March 2004** A gun battle erupts in Fallujah between US troops and Iraqis. 16 people are killed.

Seven people are killed in fighting in Tikrit.

**27 March 2004** Iraqi insurgents fire a rocket into the city hall of Mosul, Iraq killing four people.

*The Mallet Concerto* by Ned Rorem (80) is performed for the first time, in New York.

**28 March 2004** Five days of fighting between Islamic militants and government forces erupt in Tashkent and Bukhara, Uzbekistan. 44 people are killed.

Peter Ustinov dies in London at the age of 82.

Trio for flute, cello, and piano no.1 op.83 by Lowell Liebermann (43) is performed for the first time, in Kansas City Music Hall, Kansas City, Missouri.

**29 March 2004** Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia are admitted to membership in NATO in a ceremony at the White House in Washington.

A ban on smoking in restaurants, public houses, and most workplaces goes into effect in Ireland.

**30 March 2004** British security forces conduct 24 raids around London and arrest eight suspected terrorists. They also take 500 kg of fertilizer.

Spanish Interior Minister Angel Acebes identifies the Moroccan Islamic Combatant Group as responsible for the Madrid train bombings.

At The Hague, Bosnian Serb Miroslav Deronjic is sentenced to ten years in prison for the ethnic cleansing of the Moslem town of Glogova in 1992. 64 Moslems were killed in the operation.

In testimony before a congressional committee, chief US weapons inspector Charles Duelfer reports no progress in finding weapons of mass destruction programs in Iraq.

Alistair Cooke dies in New York at the age of 95.

**31 March 2004** A bomb explodes in Habaniyah, Iraq killing five US soldiers.

Four US civilian security contractors are shot and killed in Fallujah. Hundreds of angry Iraqis then drag the bodies through the streets, mutilating and burning them. Two are suspended from a bridge.

*Ayre* for soprano and chamber ensemble by Osvaldo Golijov (43), to various texts, is performed for the first time, in Zankel Hall, New York.

**1 April 2004** *Turbulent Landscapes*for orchestra by Thea Musgrave (75) is performed for the first time, in Symphony Hall, Boston.

**3 April 2004** Four suspects in the Madrid train bombings blow themselves up as Spanish police close in on their apartment in Leganes, south of the capital. The explosion is preceded by a two-hour gunfight. One policeman is killed and twelve injured.

*Tell My Fortune* for chamber orchestra by Michael Daugherty (49) is performed for the first time, in Southern Theatre, Columbus, Ohio.

The octaphonic “surround sound” version of *Iridescence* by Hubert Howe (62) is performed for the first time, in Gainesville, Florida.

**4 April 2004** Shia protesters battle occupation troops (El Salvador, Spain) in a fire fight in Kufa. 20 people are killed before US helicopters arrive to chase the Iraqis away. Then Shia cleric Moqtada al-Sadr calls for his followers to rise against the US occupation of Iraq. Shortly thereafter, armed militias appear on the streets of Baghdad, Najaf, Kufa, and Amara taking over police stations and checkpoints, and then battling US troops. Protesters battle British troops in Amara.

*Otter Island* for children’s chorus and piano by Peter Maxwell Davies (69) to his own words is performed for the first time, at the United Reform Church, Enfield, London.

Piano Concerto no.3by Samuel Adler (76) is performed for the first time, in Weston, Massachusetts.

**5 April 2004** Parliamentary elections in Indonesia result in a plurality of seats for the former ruling party Golkar. They win 128 of 550 seats, an increase of eight. The Indonesian Democratic Party—Struggle, formerly the largest party, loses 44 seats for a total of 109.

2,000 US troops occupy Fallujah in punishment for the actions of 31 March. Gun battles erupt and continue for days.

French police arrest 15 people in Paris in connection with the Moroccan Islamic Combatant Group.

**6 April 2004** Shia militias battle Italian troops in Nasiriyah, Iraq. 15 people are killed.

Battles between militias and British troops in Amara kill 15 people.

The Parliament of Lithuania votes to remove President Rolandas Paksas from office on three counts of violating the constitution. Speaker of the Parliament Arturas Paulauskas becomes acting president pending new elections.

**7 April 2004** US warplanes attack a mosque in Fallujah. Ukrainian troops withdraw from Kut, leaving it in militia control. US troops kill eight protesters in Hawijah.

The government of Kazakhstan announces it will withdraw its troops from Iraq next month.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and US President George W. Bush warn that a genocide is underway in the Darfur region of Sudan.

**8 April 2004** Iraqi insurgents kidnap three Japanese civilians and threaten to kill them if Japanese troops are not withdrawn from Iraq. Eleven other foreign nationals are kidnapped. Seven South Korean missionaries are released later today.

Food aid from Baghdad is allowed into Fallujah and refugees allowed out by US troops. Gun battles continue in the city.

The government of Sudan signs a cease fire with two insurgent groups in Darfur, brokered by President Idriss Deby of Chad.

*Tu* for wind ensemble by Chen Yi (51) is performed for the first time, in White Hall of the University of Missouri at Kansas City.

**9 April 2004** US troops fight their way into Kut in an attempt to retake the city.

**11 April 2004** Seven Chinese nationals are kidnapped in Fallujah but will be released tomorrow.

Insurgents attack a fuel convoy outside Baghdad. Two Americans are killed and seven abducted.

**12 April 2004** Three Czech journalists and eleven Russian nationals are reported abducted in Iraq.

**13 April 2004** *Folk Tropes* for chorus by Paul Lansky (59), to words of Greene, is performed for the first time, at Princeton University.

**14 April 2004** UN envoy Lakhdar Brahimi outlines plans for a caretaker government for Iraq that will take over from the US occupation administration at the end of June.

The African National Congress wins 70% of the vote and more than two-thirds of the seats in Parliament in South African general elections.

**15 April 2004** The liberal Uri Party, supporters of impeached President Roh Moo Hyun, win a majority in Parliament, tripling their former total, in South Korean general elections.

**17 April 2004** Missiles from Israeli helicopters kill Abdel Aziz al-Rantisi, newly appointed leader of the Arab terrorist group Hamas, in Gaza. Two of his bodyguards are also killed.

Former parliament speaker Ivan Gasparovic unexpectedly defeats former Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar for President of Slovakia.

José Luis Rodriguez Zapatero of the Spanish Socialist Workers Party replaces the conservative José María Aznar as Prime Minister of Spain.

The exhibition *Nam June Paik* (71)*: Global Groove* opens at Deutsche Guggenheim, Berlin.

**18 April 2004** Prime Minister Zapatero of Spain orders the withdrawal of his country’s 1,300 troops from Iraq.

*Montale Sketches* for piano by John Harbison (65) is performed for the first time, at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

**19 April 2004** The US military and Iraqi insurgents reach an agreement to end two weeks of fighting in Fallujah.

An appeals court at the UN tribunal in The Hague rules that the massacre of 8,000 Moslems by Serbs at Srebrenica in 1995 constitutes genocide.

President Ricardo Maduro of Honduras announces he will withdraw his country’s 370 troops from Iraq as soon as possible. The Dominican government also announces the withdrawal of its 302 soldiers from Iraq.

*Telos 135* for four trumpets and two timpani by Peter Maxwell Davies (69) is performed for the first time, in London.

**20 April 2004** *Terre d’ombre* for orchestra and electronics by Tristan Murail (57) is performed for the first time, in the Berlin Philharmonie.

**21 April 2004** Insurgents in Fallujah attack US forces surrounding the city.

Five car bombs explode outside police facilities in Basra, almost simultaneously. At least 50 people are killed and over 200 injured.

A car bomb is exploded by a suicide bomber in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia when it is fired on by police. Four people are killed and 148 injured.

**22 April 2004** A train carrying dangerous cargo explodes at Ryongchon Station, North Korea. The Red Cross will report about 160 people killed with 1,300 injured.

Karlheinz Stockhausen (75) is awarded an honorary D.Mus. by Queen’s University, Belfast.

**23 April 2004** Reversing a previous position, the US authority in Iraq invites former Baath party members to help form a new Iraqi army.

US President Bush announces the end of most sanctions against Libya.

Human Rights Watch releases a report detailing the complicity of the Sudan government with militias carrying out genocide in Darfur.

*Métamorphoses d’Ovide I* for trumpet and tape by Pierre Henry (76) is performed for the first time, in Vélizy.

*I Dreamt a Dream* for female chorus and piano by Tod Machover (50) to words of Blake is performed for the first time, in New York.

**24 April 2004** Both Turkish and Greek Cypriots vote on a UN reunification plan. Turks approve the plan, Greeks reject it.

US and Iraqi government troops begin joint patrols of Fallujah.

28 Iraqi civilians and six US military are killed in separate insurgent attacks in Iraq.

*Aria* for mezzo-soprano, oboe, clarinet, horn, bassoon, and piano by John Harbison (65) to words of Bishop is performed for the first time, in Boston.

**25 April 2004** At least ten people are killed in battles between Christians and Moslems in Ambon, Indonesia. Over 90 people are injured.

The board of Aventis SA, a French pharmaceutical company, accepts a takeover bid of €55,000,000,000 by the French-German Sanofi-Synthelabo SA. The new company will be the third larged pharmaceutical company in the world.

Social Democrat Heinz Fischer defeats Foreign Minister Benita Ferrero-Waldner of the Peoples Party in Austrian presidential elections.

*Fetzen 5, 6, 7, 8* for accordion and string quartet by Wolfgang Rihm (52) are all performed for the first time, in the Rudolf Steiner Schule, Witten.

*Mittwochs-Gruss* from the opera *Mittwoch aus Licht* by Karlheinz Stockhausen (75) is performed for the first time, in the Sonic Arts Research Centre, Belfast.

*Boatmen’s Song*, the first of the *Two Folk Songs* for female or children’s chorus and harp by Bright Sheng (48) is performed for the first time, at the 92nd Street Y in New York. See 18 February 2012.

**26 April 2004** The Chinese government refuses to institute universal suffrage or other democratic reforms in Hong Kong.

Shia militiamen attack US forces outside of Najaf, losing 64 men in the process.

**27 April 2004** Battles between government forces and Moslem insurgents in the southern provinces of Thailand result in the deaths of 108 people.

Janus Capital Group Inc. agrees to pay $226,200,000 in restitution and fines for illegal mutual funds trading.

*My Goldberg (Gymnopedie)* for piano by David Del Tredici (67) is performed for the first time, in Alice Tully Hall, New York.

**28 April 2004** US forces begin major air strikes against Fallujah.

Prime Minister Branko Crvenkovski defeats Sasko Kedev in a presidential runoff election in Macedonia. He will replace President Boris Trajkovski who was killed on 26 February.

US Army photographs detailing physical and sexual abuse of detainees at the Abu Ghraib prison near Baghdad are broadcast on CBS television in the United States. They inspire worldwide outrage.

*Solo e pensoso*, two sonnets by Petrarch for baritone, viola, and harp by Wolfgang Rihm (52), is performed for the first time, in the Bavarian Academy of Fine Arts, Munich.

*Night Thoughts* for flute, cello, and piano by Chen Yi (51) is performed for the first time, in Norfolk, Virginia.

**29 April 2004** A car bomb kills eight US soldiers south of Baghdad.

*Litanie du Miel des Nuits Hivernales* for viola and piano by Henri Pousseur (74) is performed for the first time, in Ixelles.

*Praise One* for chorus and orchestra by Libby Larsen (53) is performed for the first time, in Jones Concert Hall, Baylor University, Waco, Texas.

**30 April 2004** As air strikes against Fallujah continue, US forces begin to withdraw from the city.

Popular music entertainer Michael Jackson is indicted in Santa Maria, California on ten felony counts charging him with molestation of a 13-year-old boy.

**1 May 2004** Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, and Slovenia are admitted to the European Union. Celebrations are held across the continent.

**2 May 2004** Polish Prime Minister Leszek Cezary Miller of the Democratic Left Alliance resigns due to falling popularity. He is replaced by Marek Belka of the same party.

Arab gunmen kill a pregnant Jewish woman and her four children in Gaza. They are thereupon killed by Israeli troops.

Christian militants attack the Moslem village of Yelwa in the state of Plateau, Nigeria. 600 people are killed.

*Thirteen Ways of Looking at the Goldberg* for piano by Jennifer Higdon (41) is performed for the first time, in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

**3 May 2004** Trio for clarinet, cello, and piano by Donald Martino (72) is performed for the first time, in Merkin Concert Hall, New York.

**4 May 2004** US forces attack the militia of Shia cleric Moqtada al-Sadr in Karbala and Diwaniya.

**5 May 2004** The US Defense Department announces it will not reduce troops levels in Iraq as previously anticipated. Current troop levels will be maintained through 2005.

*L’abbé Agathon* for soprano and eight cellos by Arvo Pärt (68) is performed for the first time, in Beauvais. See 10 July 2005.

*Call* for two trumpets and horn by Elliott Carter (95) is performed for the first time, in United Artists Battery Park Theatre, New York.

**6 May 2004** The central government of Georgia reasserts its control over the Adzharia region as the local leader, Aslan Abashidze, flees to Russia.

US forces capture Najaf and install a new governor.

A court in Benghazi, Libya sentences one Palestinian doctor and six Bulgarian nurses to death for infecting 426 children with the HIV virus. The conviction is based on two confessions which the defendants claim were a result of their torture and rape.

Additional photographs of abuse of prisoners at Abu Ghraib prison appear on the website of the *Washington Post*.

US President Bush offers his first apology for the Abu Ghraib revelations, more than a week after they were revealed.

*Due liriche greche* by Luigi Nono (†13) are performed for the first time, in Klaus-von-Bismarck-Saal, Cologne 55 years after they were composed. They consist of *La Stella mattutina* for female chorus, flute, alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, vibraphone, tam-tam, piano, and viola, and *Ai Dioscuri* for chorus, timbales, tam-tam, and piano.

**7 May 2004** Japan’s Chief Cabinet Secretary Yasuo Fukuda resigns after it is revealed that he and several other top government and party leaders failed to make payments to the country’s national pension program.

Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin is inaugurated for a second term as President of Russia in St. Andrew’s Hall in the Kremlin.

The UN High Commission for Refugees reports that the government of Sudan directs and organizes the campaign of murder and rape against citizens of its Darfur Province.

President Ricardo Lagos Escobar of Chile signs a bill legalizing divorce.

*Chinese Ancient Dances* for clarinet and piano by Chen Yi (51) is performed for the first time, in Alice Tully Hall, New York.

**8 May 2004** US forces raid the headquarters of Shia cleric Moqtada al-Sadr in Baghdad, arresting many of his followers.

*The Nothing that Is* for baritone, two speakers, child’s voice, chorus, and several instruments by Libby Larsen (53), to various texts, is performed for the first time, in Kresge Auditorium of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

**9 May 2004** While attending a Victory Day celebration in a Grozny stadium, President Akhmed Kadyrov of Chechnya is killed by a bomb planted under the stands. Six others are also killed, and 50 injured.

**10 May 2004** Voters in the Philippines reelect President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo over the actor Fernando Poe, Jr. and three other candidates. Lakas wins the most seats in the House of Representatives with 92 of 209.

Parliamentary elections concluding today in India result in a surprising upset by the left-leaning Indian National Congress over the ruling Hindu nationalist Indian Peoples Party (BJP). The BJP loses over 100 seats in the 543-seat Lok Sabha.

US forces attack the headquarters of Shia cleric Moqtada al-Sadr in Baghdad, destroying it and killing 16 people.

US forces and Iraqi government troops peacefully enter Fallujah under a cease fire agreement.

The *Wall Street Journal* publishes a confidential ICRC report on treatment of prisoners by occupation forces in Iraq. It cites numerous, widespread violations of international law “tantamount to torture.” The Red Cross says that its president, Jacob Kellenberger, informed members of the US cabinet of the abuses on 15-16 January.

Citigroup Inc. agrees to pay $2,650,000,000 to investors in WorldCom Inc. who lost billions when WorldCom went bankrupt last year.

*Letter to Warsaw*, a cycle for soprano and chamber orchestra by Thomas Pasatieri (58) to words of Braun, is performed for the first time, in Seattle. The work is a memorial to holocaust musicians.

**11 May 2004** A terrorist group publishes on its website a video recording of their execution of American hostage Nick Berg. The group claims they killed Berg in retaliation for the abuses at Abu Ghraib. The US government confirms that a decapitated body found in Baghdad on 8 May is that of Berg.

Arab terrorists blow up an Israeli APC as it was withdrawing from Gaza, killing six soldiers. They display parts of the remains of the dead for reporters and issue demands for their return.

Moslems in Kano, Nigeria, begin two days of rioting in response to a Christian attack upon them.

**12 May 2004** Branko Crvenkovski replaces Ljupco Jordanovski as President of Macedonia. Radmila Sekerinska replaces him as acting Prime Minister.

US armored and air forces attack the Sadr militia in a mosque in Karbala. 22 Iraqis are killed.

The National Broadcasting Company in the US buys 80% of Vivendi Universal Entertainment for $14,000,000,000.

**13 May 2004** Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee of India resigns after losing recent elections but stays on in a caretaker capacity.

Arab terrorists destroy an Israeli APC in Gaza, killing five soldiers. Later, Israeli helicopters kill seven people in Gaza.

The *New York Times* publishes practices by the CIA which approximate torture to extract information from detainees.

Pfizer Inc. agrees to pay a $430,000,000 fine for illegally marketing its drug Neurontin for unapproved practices.

**14 May 2004** The Constitutional Court of South Korea nullifies the impeachment of President Roh Moo Hyun by the National Assembly and restores him to office.

The Polish Sejm votes no confidence in Prime Minister designate Marek Belka of the Democratic Left Alliance.

*Undertow*, a film with music by Philip Glass (67), is shown for the first time, in Cannes.

**15 May 2004** *Yellow Jersey* for two clarinets by Libby Larsen (53) is performed for the first time, in the Sara M. Snell Music Theatre, SUNY Potsdam.

**16 May 2004** *Bildnis: Anakreon* for tenor, piano, harp, clarinet in A, and cello by Wolfgang Rihm (52) to words of Mörike is performed for the first time, in the Liederhalle, Stuttgart.

**17 May 2004** Ezzedine Salim, head of the governing council of Iraq, is killed by a car bomb at an occupation authority checkpoint in Baghdad. Eight other people are killed.

Up to 16 Iraqis are killed in a US airstrike 50 meters from the Imam Hussein shrine in Karbala.

*Newsweek* magazine publishes internal Bush administration memoranda stating the legal opinion that the Geneva Conventions are outdated and do not apply to terrorism suspects.

Massachusetts becomes the first state in the US to issue marriage licenses to same sex couples.

*Étude II* for piano by Magnus Lindberg (45) is performed for the first time, in Wigmore Hall, London.

**18 May 2004** Israeli forces enter Rafah in search of tunnels used to smuggle arms from Egypt into the Gaza Strip. Ten people are killed.

President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria declares a state of emergency in Plateau state due to religious violence.

The State of Texas, led by Governor Rick Perry, kills Kelsey Patterson, a diagnosed paranoid schizophrenic, despite a recommendation by the state parole board that his sentence be delayed or commuted.

*Pinocchio* for ten players by John C. Eaton (69) is performed for the first time, at the Tribeca Performing Arts Center, New York.

**19 May 2004** In a special courtroom in Baghdad, Spec. Jeremy Sivits pleads guilty to four counts related to his actions at Abu Ghraib in return for testimony against six other US soldiers.

**20 May 2004** Mutual fund trader Richard Strong agrees to pay $60,000,000 in fines and to apologize for illegally trading in his company’s mutual funds. He is banned for life from the securities industry. Strong Capital Management is required to pay $80,000,000 in restitution and penalties. Two other officials of the company are barred for life from the securities industry.

**21 May 2004** The *Washington Post* publishes more photographs of prisoner torture and sexual humiliation at the Abu Ghraib prison in Baghdad.

The Supreme Court of Canada rules that a farmer in Saskatchewan infringed on a patent of Monsanto Co. when he grew their gene engineered grain, then saved the seeds which the plants produced.

*Doctor Atomic, Easter Eve 1945* for soprano and orchestra by John Adams (57) is performed for the first time, in Avery Fisher Hall, New York.

**22 May 2004** Manmohan Singh replaces Atal Bihari Vajpayee as Prime Minister of India at the head of a left-leaning minority coalition. He is the first non-Hindu to serve in that post.

The Commonwealth readmits Pakistan to membership after it was suspended in 1999 after the coup of Pervez Musharraf.

**23 May 2004** Shia militia give up control of Karbala to US forces.

Meeting at the Reichstag in Berlin, the electoral college names Horst Köhler as President of Germany.

**24 May 2004** The Ministry of Islamic Affairs in Kuwait bans all public music and dance performances by women.

**25 May 2004** The European Union approves a plan by the French government for a €4,000,000,000 bailout of the engineering conglomerate Alstom SA.

*Shadowtime*, an opera by Brian Ferneyhough (61) to words of Charles Bernstein, is performed for the first time, in Munich.

**26 May 2004** The government of Sudan and the rebel SPLA sign an agreement in Naivasha, Kenya for power-sharing in three central states.

Jan Egeland, UN undersecretary for humanitarian affairs, tells the Security Council that there are now 2,000,000 people in need of “acute assistance” in the Darfur region of Sudan, about one-third of the population. She says that the government of Sudan is actively blocking food and medical supplies to the region.

Terry Nichols is found guilty of 161 counts of murder in a court in Macalester, Oklahoma. He is convicted for his part in the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing. He has already been convicted in federal court for killing eight federal agents.

**27 May 2004** British police arrest militant Moslem cleric Abu Hamza al-Masri on an extradition request from the US.

Martin Grass, former Chairman and CEO of Rite Aid, is sentenced to eight years in prison, a $500,000 fine and forteit $3,000,000 in earnings, by a federal judge in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, for his part in an accounting scandal at his firm. Three other Rite Aid executives were recently sentenced to prison terms.

Citigroup Inc. agrees to pay $70,000,000 in fines to settle charges it engaged in predatory lending practices with poor customers.

**28 May 2004** Grant Graham, former Senior Vice President of Qwest Communications International Inc., pleads guilty to one count of accessory to wire fraud in a federal court in Denver.

**29 May 2004** Four gun-wielding Moslem militants attack a foreigners’ compound in Khobar, Saudi Arabia, killing 22 people and taking hundreds of hostages.

*On Wings of Song*, a cycle for soprano and piano by David Del Tredici (67) to words of various authors, is performed for the first time, in Merkin Hall, New York, the composer at the keyboard.

**30 May 2004** Sunni cleric Mufti Nizammudin Shamzi, a supporter of the Taliban and al-Qaeda, is shot to death outside his apartment in Karachi.

Saudi police storm the building in Khobar where Moslem militants hold hundreds of hostages. The militant leader is captured but the other three escape.

*Magnificat and Nunc Dimitis--The Edinburgh Service* for chorus and organ by Peter Maxwell Davies (69) is performed for the first time, at St. Mary’s Cathedral, Edinburgh.

**31 May 2004** A bomb explodes outside a Shia mosque in Karachi, killing 20 people and injuring dozens more, apparently in response to the killing of yesterday.

**1 June 2004** Australian citizen Jack Roche is sentenced to nine years in prison for his part in plots to bomb the Israeli embassy in Canberra and the consulate in Sydney.

In a ceremony in Baghdad, UN representative Lakhdar Brahimi installs the 36-member interim government for Iraq. Ghazi Mashal Ajil al-Yawer is the president. Iyad Allawi takes office as prime minister.

A total ban on smoking in all restaurants and bars goes into effect in Norway.

**2 June 2004** Several thousand Congolese rebels seize the eastern town of Bukavu.

Hari Kostov replaces Radmila Sekerinska as Prime Minister of Macedonia.

John Adams (57) wins the first Michael Ludwig Nemmers Prize in Musical Composition from Northwestern University. He receives $100,000.

**3 June 2004** Former Ukrainian Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko is found guilty in federal court in San Francisco of 29 counts of money laundering, wire fraud, and extortion between 1992-1997.

The UN Special Court for Sierra Leone begins operations with the trial of three leaders of the Civil Defense Force militia.

US President Bush announces the resignation of George Tenet as Director of Central Intelligence. Tenet was DCI during the intelligence failures which led to the 2001 terrorist attack on New York.

Concerto grosso no.2 for five clarinets and orchestra by Krzysztof Penderecki (70) is performed for the first time, in Auditorio Nacional de Música, Madrid.

*Orion*, a multi-disciplinary collaborative work for various ethnic instruments and western ensemble by Philip Glass (67) is performed for the first time, in Athens as part of the Olympiad.

**4 June 2004** *Return to Faust* for cello and piano by Magnus Lindberg (45) and Anssi Karttunen is performed for the first time, in Bruges, by the composers.

*HyperEtudes* for piano by Tod Machover (50) is performed for the first time, in Kresge Auditorium of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

*Tremors: Spatial Declamations for 4 singers and 16 instrumentalists* by Henry Brant (90) is performed for the first time, in the Harold Williams Auditorium of the Getty Center, Los Angeles.

*Oracle*, part 2 of *Sanctuary*, for percussion quartet, real-time computer processed and spatialized sound, and lighting design by Roger Reynolds (69) is performed for the first time, at the University of California at San Diego. See 7 June 2007 and 18 November 2007.

**5 June 2004** Ronald Reagan dies in Los Angeles at the age of 93.

*Three Songs to Poems by János Pilinszky* for male voice and piano by György Kurtág (78) is performed for the first time, in Hamburg.

**6 June 2004** At least ten Iraqi policemen are killed by a bomb in Musayyib.

*Ricercare una melodia* for trombone and electronics by Jonathan Harvey (65) is performed for the first time, in Paris.

*snagS&Snarls* for soprano and orchestra by Unsuk Chin (42), to words of Carroll and the composer, is performed for the first time, in Libby Bowl, Ojai, California.

**7 June 2004** Shia militiamen attack police stations in Najaf but are repulsed.

*Pealing Fire* for carillon by Libby Larsen (53) is performed for the first time, at the Memorial Chapel of the Culver Academies in Culver, Indiana.

**8 June 2004** Italian police arrest Rabei Osman Sayed Ahmed who is connected to the Madrid bombings of 11 March. In Brussels, Antwerp, and Schaerbeek, Belgian police arrest 15 members of an Arab terrorist cell led by Ahmed.

The UN Security Council votes 15-0-0 to approve a plan to transfer political and economic power to the interim government of Iraq appointed last week. This will take effect 30 June.

Announcement is made in Berlin that Krzystof Penderecki (70) has been awarded the Praemium Imperiale for music.

**9 June 2004** Shia militiamen attack police stations in Najaf but are repulsed.

Iraqi Deputy Health Minister Ammar al-Safar escapes a murder attempt in Baghdad.

Congolese government troops recapture Bukavu from rebels.

The Turkish government releases four former members of Parliament who were convicted of associating with Kurdish separatists in 1994. They are released pending appeals. The four have already served ten years of a 15 year sentence. The move is seen as intended to help Turkey’s application for membership in the EU, as is the beginning of Kurdish language broadcasts by state media today.

**10 June 2004** A motorcade carrying Lt. Gen. Ahsan Salim Hayat in Karachi is attacked by Islamic militants. Eleven people are killed but Hayat survives.

Armed men kill 10 Chinese road construction workers and an Afghan guard south of Kunduz, Afghanistan.

The *New York Times* reveals an internal Iraqi government report showing saboteurs have destroyed 111 main power lines and 1,200 electrical towers since the US invasion.

**11 June 2004** The government of the Netherlands announces a new mandate for its 1,300 troops in Iraq to extend to March, 2005 but also says they will return home at that time.

The Sejm having failed to name a replacement, Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski renominates Marek Belka as prime minister.

For the first time, officials of Republika Srpska admit that Bosnian Serb officials took part in the massacre of Moslem men at Srebrenica in 1995.

*Fanfare for Carinthia* for four trumpets by Peter Maxwell Davies (69) is performed for the first time, at the Carinthian Summer Festival, Austria.

*The Io Passion*, a chamber opera by Harrison Birtwistle (69) to words of Plaice, is performed for the first time, in Snape Maltings, Aldeburgh. See 10 June 2006.

**12 June 2004** Bassam Salih Kubba, interim deputy foreign minister of Iraq, is shot to death while driving to work in Baghdad.

**13 June 2004** A car bomb in Baghdad kills 12 people.

Kamal al-Jarrah, head of cultural relations in the Iraqi education ministry, is shot to death outside his home in Baghdad.

Four days of elections to the European Parliament ending today result in gains for Euroskeptic parties.

Parliamentary elections in Luxembourg see a gain for the largest party, the Christian Social People’s Party. Its coalition partner, the Democratic Party loses five seats and will be replaced in the coalition by the Socialist Workers Party, which gained one seat.

**14 June 2004** A car bomb kills 13 people near Coalition Provisional Authority headquarters in Baghdad.

*Sequenza XIVb* for double bass by Luciano Berio (†1) is performed for the first time, in Stuttgart.

**15 June 2004** Two oil pipelines in southern Iraq are forced to close after bombing attacks over the last two days.

Ivan Gasparovic replaces Rudolf Schuster as President of Slovakia.

**16 June 2004** Bombs damage a third oil pipeline in southern Iraq.

27 retired US officials, including generals, admirals, ambassadors from administrations of both parties, release a statement condemning the foreign policy of President George W. Bush. “Never in the two and a quarter centuries of our history as the United States been so isolated among the nations, so broadly feared and distrusted.”

The independent commission investigating the 11 September attacks on the US finds “no credible evidence” connecting al-Qaeda to the Iraqi government, despite claims by President Bush, Vice-President Cheney, and other high officials of the Bush administration to the contrary.

MGM Mirage. the Las Vegas gambling giant, acquires Mandalay Resort Group for $7,900,000,000 creating the largest gambling company in the world.

**17 June 2004** A bomb kills 35 people and the bomber at a recruiting base in Baghdad for the Iraqi army. 138 people are injured.

US President Bush reasserts the false claim of a connection between Iraq and al-Qaeda. Vice-President Cheney attacks the press and says that he “probably” has information about the alleged link that the commission does not.

*Secret Land* for twelve solo cellos and orchestra by Tan Dun (46) is performed for the first time, in Berlin.

Chamber Concerto no.2 by Hubert Howe (62) is performed for the first time, in The Flea Theatre, New York.

Symphony no.4 by John Harbison (65) is performed for the first time, in Seattle.

**18 June 2004** European heads of state and government meeting in Brussels reach agreement on a new constitution for the European Union. It creates the posts of EU president, foreign minister and public prosecutor.

A Saudi terrorist group posts images on their website of their execution of American hostage Paul Johnson. Later in the day, the leader of the group, Abdulaziz al-Muqrin and three of his associates are killed in a gunfight with security forces in Riyadh.

*Threnody*,in an arrangement for english horn and piano by Thea Musgrave (76), is performed for the first time, in Leicester. See 20 June 1997.

**20 June 2004** After deliberating for more than a month, a special congressional committee names Gloria Macapagal Arroyo as the winner of the Philippine presidential election.

**22 June 2004** Their demands that South Korea withdraw its military from Iraq unmet, insurgents kill hostage Kim Sun Il, videotaping the event.

Electrician Marc Dutroux is sentenced to life in prison in a court in Arlon, Belgium for the kidnapping, imprisonment, and rape of six girls and the murder of two of them in 1995-96.

Hundreds of pages of previously classified documents on the treatment of detainees are released by the Bush administration. They include a memorandum from President Bush in which he asserts that he has the power under the US constitution to suspend the Geneva Conventions when he finds it necessary.

*Seven Skies of Winter* for five instruments by Peter Maxwell Davies (69) is performed for the first time, in St. Magnus’ Cathedral, Orkney.

**23 June 2004** *Requiem for Fossil Fuels*, a sound installation by Bruce Odland (52) and Sam Auinger, opens at the Sophienkirche, Berlin.

**24 June 2004** *When in Jordan* for chorus by John Tavener (60) is performed for the first time, in Rochester Cathedral.

*Buddhist Song no.2*for mezzo-soprano and piano by Jonathan Harvey (65) is performed for the first time, in London.

**26 June 2004** Israeli forces discover a hideout in Nablus and kill seven leaders of three separate Arab terrorist groups.

President Olafur Grímsson of Iceland is elected to a second term with 85.6% of the vote.

Harrison Birtwistle (69) gives a lecture on the art of Paul Klee at the Royal Academy of Arts.

**27 June 2004** Over 200,000 people march in Mexico City to protest the high rates of kidnapping and other crimes in the city and the US border region.

Voters in Lithuania elect Independent Valdas Adamkus to the presidency over former Prime Minister Kazimiera Danute Prunskiene.

**30 June 2004** The *Washington Post* reports that Laurie Anderson (57) has been appointed by NASA as artist-in-residence. She receives $20,000 to produce a work of art at her discretion.

**1 July 2004** *Da pacem Domine* for chorus by Arvo Pärt (68) is performed for the first time, in Barcelona. See 27 April 2008.

Trio for violin, cello, and piano by John Harbison (65) is performed for the first time, in Bedford Hill, New York.

*Concertino* for tenor steel drum and chamber ensemble by Libby Larsen (53) is performed for the first time, in Egg Harbor, Wisconsin.

**2 July 2004** *River Fanfare* for band by Libby Larsen (53) is performed for the first time, at Bay Point Park, Red Wing, Minnesota.

**3 July 2004** The second part of *26 Orpheus Elegies* for counter-tenor, oboe, and harp by Harrison Birtwistle (69) to words of Rilke is performed for the first time, at St. Andrew’s Church, Toddington, Great Britain.

**4 July 2004** *Today Too* for tenor, flute, and guitar by Harrison Birtwistle (69) to words of Tanko (tr. Hoffmann) is performed for the first time, in Pittville Pump Room, Cheltenham.

**7 July 2004** A suicide bomber kills four police officers and injures nine others in Colombo, Sri Lanka, in an apparent attempt to kill a moderate Tamil politician.

Offices of OMO Yukos, the largest oil producer in Russia, are raided by officers of the court after they failed to pay 99,000,000,000 rubles in back taxes.

The Russian NTV network cancels the last live, open debate political talk show in the country, *Free Speech*. The show often aired criticism of the government.

Kenneth Lay, founder and former Chairman and CEO of Enron Corp., is indicted in federal court in Houston for his part in the fraud which brought down the company.

Lento by Robin Holloway (61) for string quartet is performed for the first time, in Pittville Pump Room, Cheltenham.

**10 July 2004** *Schuon Hymnen* for chorus by John Tavener (60) is performed for the first time, in Iceland.

**10 July 2004** *Gavel Patter* for piano-four hands by Libby Larsen (53) is performed for the first time.

**11 July 2004** In elections for the upper house of the Japanese Diet, the Liberal Democratic Party retains it hold on the house with a slightly reduced majority.

Arab terrorists explode a bomb at a bus stop in Tel Aviv killing one person and injuring 30.

**12 July 2004** *Little Passacaglia* for piano by Peter Sculthorpe (75) is performed for the first time, at the Sydney Conservatory of Music.

*Archangelus Michael* for chorus by Peter Maxwell Davies (69) to words of the *Liber Usualis* is performed for the first time, in Tewksbury Abbey, Gloucestershire.

*Judas Mercator* for trombone by Peter Maxwell Davies (69) is performed for the first time, in the Purcell Room, South Bank Centre, London.

**16 July 2004** *Schuon Lieder* for soprano, string quartet, and temple bowl by John Tavener (60) is performed for the first time, in Cheltenham.

*Midsummer Fanfare* for orchestra by John Corigliano (66) is performed for the first time, in Chicago.

**17 July 2004** *Lachrimae* for viol consort by John Tavener (60) is performed for the first time, in Cheltenham.

**18 July 2004** *Remembering Lenox Through Michael* for string quartet by John Tavener (60) is performed for the first time, in Cheltenham.

*Atma Mass* for chorus and organ by John Tavener (60) is performed for the first time, in Liverpool Cathedral.

**21 June 2004** As many as 1,000 rebels attack the towns of Nazran, Karabulak, and Sleptsovskaya in Ingushetia, Russia. At least 92 people are killed before the rebels withdraw tomorrow. About half of those killed are government officials and law enforcement personnel.

**24 June 2004** Insurgents in Iraq launch coordinated attacks in Baghdad, Mosul, Baquba, and Ramadi, killing over 100 people.

Israeli forces begin a four-day raid into Nablus after a failed suicide bomber was arrested two days ago.

The Polish Sejm votes confidence in Prime Minister Marek Belka of the Democratic Left Alliance.

**25 June 2004** The Taliban kill 16 civilians in Uruzgan Province, Afghanistan when they are found to be carrying voter registration cards.

The US government tells 292 refugees from volcanic activity on Montserrat that they have to leave by next February.

**28 June 2004** Sovereignty is officially restored to Iraq in a short, unannounced ceremony in Baghdad. Ghazi Mashal Ajil al-Yawer takes office as president. Iyad Allawi is prime minister. 160,000 occupation troops (of which 140,000 are from the US) remain in the country and have wide powers.

The United States opens a Liaison Office in Tripoli, thus restoring diplomatic relations with Libya.

The US Supreme Court rules that prisoners in Guantanamo have the right to challenge their detentions in US courts. They also reject the Bush administration argument that Guantanamo is Cuban territory and therefore outside US jurisdiction.

In Canadian general elections, the ruling Liberals continue as the largest party but lose their majority in Parliament. They lose 37 seats, while the Conservatives, a new alliance of two right wing parties, gains 21 seats over the former combined total of its constituent parts.

**29 June 2004** The European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg rules against two women from Istanbul who were banned from wearing head scarves.

Former Croatian Serb rebel leader Milan Babic is sentenced to 13 years in prison by the Hague tribunal after pleading guilty to one count of persecution.

**30 June 2004** The US spacecraft Cassini becomes the first Earth vehicle to enter the orbit of Saturn.

Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain replaces Mir Zafarullah Khan Jamali as Prime Minister of Pakistan.

Two Russian agents are sentenced to life in prison in Doha, Qatar for killing Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, a leader of the Chechnya separatist movement.

International High Representative Lord Ashdown sacks 60 officials of Republika Srpska for corruption, consorting with organized crime, and obstructing the efforts to apprehend Radovan Karadzic.

**1 July 2004** At least 200,000 people march in Hong Kong for more democracy.

Former President of Iraq Saddam Hussein is arraigned in a courtroom at a US military base in Baghdad.

Prime Minister Vladimir Spidla of the Czech Republic resigns after his Social Democratic Party fares poorly in European elections.

Horst Köhler replaces Johannes Rau as President of Germany.

JP Morgan Chase & Co. announces the completion of its merger with Bank One Corp. Now the second largest financial institution in the US, the new company has assets estimated at $1,100,000,000,000.

Marlon Brando dies in Los Angeles at the age of 80.

*Da pacem Domine* for chorus and orchestra by Arvo Pärt (68) is performed for the first time, in Barcelona. See 27 April 2008.

**5 July 2004** Three US citizens are arrested in Kabul by Afghan authorities and charged with running a private detention center, including torturing detainees. They have no connection to the US military.

US warplanes pound a suspected insurgent safe house in Fallujah killing at least ten people.

**6 July 2004** President Thomas Klestil of Austria dies of multiple organ failure in Vienna. He is succeeded by Andreas Khol as acting President.

For the first time, British Prime Minister Tony Blair admits that weapons of mass destruction may never be found in Iraq.

A US military court finds Major Harry Schmidt guilty of dereliction of duty for dropping a 500 lb (225 kg) bomb on Canadian troops in Afghanistan in April 2002, killing four and injuring eight. Schmidt is ordered never to fly US military planes again.

The Roman Catholic diocese of Portland, Oregon files for bankruptcy because of sex abuse lawsuits filed against it.

**8 July 2004** Heinz Fischer replaces Andreas Khol as President of Austria.

The founder and CEO of Adelphia Communications, John Rigas, and his son Timothy Rigas are convicted of conspiracy, bank fraud, wire fraud, and securities fraud by a federal court in New York.

**9 July 2004** Philip Morris International agrees to give $1,250,000,000 to the European Union to help fight cigarette smuggling. This settles all EU claims against Philip Morris for conspiring with smugglers to avoid taxes.

A committee of the US Senate blames the CIA for incorrect assessments of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq before the US invasion.

**10 July 2004** Three Arab militants are killed in Gaza, probably by elements loyal to Yasir Arafat.

**12 July 2004** The Philippine government announces it will withdraw its military personnel from Iraq as soon as possible.

Independent former President Valdas Adamkus replaces Arturas Paulauskas as President of Lithuania. Paulauskas was president ad interim following the removal from office of President Rolandas Paksas last April.

US President Bush declares, “Although we have not found stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction, we were right to go into Iraq.”

Moments before the trial was set to begin, the investment banking firm Morgan Stanley settles a sex discrimination lawsuit brought by the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. The company will pay $54,000,000.

*Composition of A’s and G’s* for soprano saxophone by Alexander Goehr (71) is performed for the first time, in the Purcell Room, London.

**13 July 2004** A militant Moslem group in Iraq executes a Bulgarian hostage after its demands are not met.

Carlos Kleiber dies at the age of 74.

**14 July 2004** A report by a committee headed by Lord Butler finds that British intelligence was faulty in the run up to the invasion of Iraq, but that Prime Minister Blair did not manipulate the intelligence to provide an excuse for war.

**16 July 2004** Arab militants kidnap Gaza police chief Ghazi Jabali, accuse him of stealing $22,000,000 from the Palestinian Authority, and parade him through the streets of Gaza City. He will be released tomorrow.

Martha Stewart is sentenced to five months in prison followed by five months house arrest for lying to federal agents by a federal court in New York City. She must also pay a $30,000 fine.

The Boeing Co. settles a class-action sex discrimination lawsuit brought by 29,000 current and former female employees. Boeing agrees to pay from $40,600,000-$72,500,000.

**17 July 2004** Pedro Miguel Santana Lopes replaces José Manuel Durão Barroso as Prime Minister of Portugal.

Ahmed Qurei, Prime Minister of the Palestinian Authority, resigns amidst criticism of widespread corruption. President Yasir Arafat refuses to accept the resignation.

**18 July 2004** Gun battles take place in Rafah between Palestinian Authority police and Arab militants. Several people are injured.

US warplanes attack insurgents in Fallujah. Twelve people are killed.

**19 July 2004** The European Commission approves the merger of Sony Music Entertainment (part of Sony Corp.) with BMG Entertainment (part of Bertelsmann AG) to produce the second-largest recorded music company.

**20 July 2004** Iraqi insurgents release a Philippine hostage, one day after the last Philippine troops depart the country.

**21 July 2004** Eight states and the City of New York sue five power companies to force them to lower their emissions of carbon dioxide.

Jerry Goldsmith dies in Beverly Hills at the age of 75.

**22 July 2004** The Australian government releases a report of an independent investigation that concludes the intelligence on which the decision was made to invade Iraq was “thin, ambiguous, and incomplete” but it exonerates Prime Minister John Howard and his ministers from manipulating the information.

The independent National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States issues its final report. It cites “failures in imagination, policy, capabilities, and management at all levels of the US government in the run up to the 11 September 2001 attacks. The commission finds no evidence of any working relationship between Iraq and al-Qaeda, despite claims by President Bush and Vice-President Cheney that they had.

A report by the US Army’s inspector general cites “unauthorized actions taken by a few individuals” for the abuse of prisoners in Iraq and Afghanistan, rather than systemic problems.

**23 July 2004** In ceremonies in Mostar, Bosnia and Hercegovina, the Stari Most (Old Bridge), built in 1566 and destroyed by Bosnian Croats in 1993, is reopened.

**24 July 2004** *Marsyas* for piano by Olga Neuwirth (35) is performed for the first time, in Dortmund.

*A is For…* for clarinet, electric guitar, vibraphone, cello, piano, and speaker by Paul Lansky (60) is performed for the first time, in North Adams, Massachusetts.

**25 July 2004** 13 insurgents are killed by Iraqi forces in Buhriz, north of Baghdad.

**26 July 2004** Social Democrat Stanislav Gross replaces Vladimír Spidla as Prime Minister of the Czech Republic at the head of a three party centrist coalition.

**27 July 2004** A plane carrying 230 North Korean refugees from a third country lands in Seoul.

Popular music entertainer Courtney Love pleads guilty in a Los Angeles court to being under the influence of cocaine when she tried to break into her ex-boyfriend’s house. She is required to undergo drug rehabilitation.

**28 July 2004** A plane carrying 230 more North Korean refugees from a third country lands in Seoul. The total of 460 makes this the largest number of refugees to arrive in South Korea in one operation.

Medicins sans frontieres announces it is withdrawing from Afghanistan. The murder of five of its workers has not been adequately investigated and the lines between humanitarian and military operations have been blurred.

A bomb exploded by a suicide attacker in a minibus kills 68 people and injures 56 others outside a police station in Baqubah, Iraq.

A combined (Iraq, US, Ukraine) operation in Sawayra kills at least 35 insurgents and captures 40. Seven Iraqi soldiers are killed.

The European Commission approves the merger of Sony Music Entertainment (part of Sony Corp.) with BMG Entertainment (part of Bertelsmann AG) to produce the second-largest recorded music company.

Francis Crick dies in San Diego, California at the age of 88.

**29 July 2004** Royal Dutch/Shell Group agrees to pay $151,000,000 in fines to settle investigations by US and UK regulators into its reporting of its oil and gas reserves.

**31 July 2004** The *New York Times* reports that captured al-Qaeda member Ibn al-Shaykh al-Libi, the source for the connection between Iraq and al-Qaeda, has since recanted that claim.

Two works by Karlheinz Stockhausen (75) are performed for the first time, in the Sülztalhalle, Kürten: *Quitt* for alto flute, clarinet, and trumpet, and the revised version of *Tierkreis* for tenor and synthesizer.

**30 July 2004** Islamic militants explode three bombs in Tashkent, at the US and Israeli embassies and at the prosecutor-general’s office. Four people and three bombers are killed.

An Islamic militant kills eight people and himself when he explodes a bomb in Fateh Jang, 45 km from Islamabad. He is trying to kill Prime Minister-designate Shaukat Aziz. 45 people are injured.

The UN Security Council votes to give the government of Sudan 30 days to make demonstrable progress against the rampant murder and rape by Arab militias in Darfur.

**1 August 2004** Iraqi insurgents explode bombs outside four Christian churches in Baghdad and one in Mosul, killing at least eleven people and injuring 47.

A fire in the Ycuá Bolaños supermarket in Asunción, Paraguay kills almost 400 people.

*Sontags-Abschied* from the opera *Sontag aus Licht* by Karlheinz Stockhausen (75) is performed for the first time, in the Sülztalhalle, Kürten.

*The Veil of the Temple* for soprano, chorus, brass, and non-western instruments by John Tavener (60) is performed for the first time, in London.

**3 August 2004** *Fahrenheit 9/11*, a film by Michael Moore, is banned in Kuwait because it criticizes the Saudi royal family.

Henri Cartier-Bresson dies in Cereste, France at the age of 95.

*Messenger* is launched from Cape Canaveral to explore the planet Mercury.

Haliburton Co. agrees to pay $7,500,000 in fines because it failed to disclose that it had changed its accounting methods.

**4 August 2004** Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. agrees to pay $150,000,000 to settle charges that it inflated its revenue in 2000 and 2001.

*Rosa Mystica* for tenor and synthesizer by Karlheinz Stockhausen (75) is performed for the first time, in the Sülztalhalle, Kürten.

**5 August 2004** Vice President Ratu Jope Seniloli of Fiji and four others are convicted for their part in the 2000 coup which brought down the government of Prime Minister Mahendra Chaudhry. They will be sentenced to prison terms.

Shia militiamen shoot down a US helicopter in Najaf. The crew escapes.

Heavy fighting takes place between Shia militia and US forces at the cemetery of the Imam Ali Shrine in Najaf. Fighting also begins in Baghdad, Amara, Nasiriyah, Basra, and Kut.

**6 August 2004** The Indonesian High Court in Jakarta voids all but two convictions against senior military and police officers who oversaw human rights abuses in East Timor in 1999.

Two works by Karlheinz Stockhausen (75) are performed for the first time, in the Sülztalhalle, Kürten: *Vibra-Elufa* for vibraphone, and *Bassetsu* for basset horn.

**8 August 2004** Monsoons have reportedly killed almost 2,000 people in India, Bhutan, and Bangladesh over the last month.

**9 August 2004** *Triplo concerto barocco* for chamber orchestra by Hans Werner Henze (78) is performed for the first time, in the Konzerthaus, Berlin.

**11 August 2004** The British government issues its first license to clone human embryos for stem-cell research. The license goes to Newcastle University.

*3 Hölderlin-Gedichte* for voice and piano by Wolfgang Rihm (52) is performed for the first time, in Bad Reichenhall.

**12 August 2004** UFJ Holdings Inc. agrees to a takeover by Mitsubishi Tokyo Financial Group. This will create the world’s largest bank with ¥188,700,000,000,000 ($1,700,000,000,000) in assets.

US forces make a final push into Najaf against Shia militia. They employ warplanes, helicopters, and tanks. Fighting also continues in Kufa and Kut.

Special Vatican investigator Bishop Klaus Kueng closes the seminary in St. Polten, Austria. He found “active homosexual relationships” have gone on there. Police found 40,000 pornographic photographs and sex videos on a computer, some involving children and animals.

The Supreme Court of California rules that thousands of marriages performed in San Francisco in February and March do not have legal standing.

**13 August 2004** Shia militia and US forces agree to a cease fire.

The Games of the Twenty-eighth Olympiad of the Modern Era open in Athens. At the opening ceremonies, the Olympic flag enters to an excerpt from the ballet *Zorba* by Mikis Theodorakis (79).

**14 August 2004** Hutus attack a Tutsi refugee camp in western Burundi, killing at least 163 people and injuring 100 others. The refugees were mostly those fleeing the fighting in Congo.

Czeslaw Milosz dies in Krakow at the age of 95.

Trio for flute, cello, and piano no.2 op.87 by Lowell Liebermann (43) is performed for the first time, in Opryland Hotel, Nashville, Tennessee.

**15 August 2004** 16 people are killed and 40 injured when a bomb explodes at an Independence Day parade in Assam. Assam separatists are blamed.

After two days of cease fire, fighting resumes in Najaf.

In a ceremony in Namibia marking the 100th anniversary of the Herero uprising, the German minister of development aid delivers her government’s formal apology for the killing of 65,000 Herero.

Prince Alois becomes regent for Prince Hans Adam II of Liechtenstein.

**16 August 2004** In a nationwide referendum, voters in Venezuela reject a recall of President Hugo Chavez by an almost 3-2 margin.

*Mano a mano* for guitar by Magnus Lindberg (46) is performed for the first time,in Turku, Finland.

**17 August 2004** Eight British citizens are charged by British authorities with conspiring to carry out specific terrorist attacks in the US.

*Three Brendel Settings* for voice and orchestra by Harrison Birtwistle (70) is performed completely for the first time, in Royal Albert Hall, London.

**18 August 2004** A national conference in Baghdad approves a list of members to a national assembly, without a formal ballot.

In an address to the Palestinian Parliament, President Yasir Arafat admits making “mistakes.” He does not mention any changes or reforms.

Elmer Bernstein dies in Ojai, California at the age of 82.

Mikis Theodorakis (79) has his gall bladder removed at an Athens hospital.

**20 August 2004** *Naxos Quartet no.4: Children’s Games* for string quartet by Peter Maxwell Davies (69) is performed for the first time, in the Chapel of the Royal Palace, Oslo.

*Hero*, a film with music by Tan Dun (47), is released in the United States.

**21 August 2004** Gunmen throw hand grenades and fire into an opposition rally in Dhaka, Bangladesh. 19 people are killed, hundreds injured.

Harrison Birtwistle (70) takes up duties as composer in residence at the Lucerne Festival.

*Night’s Black Bird* for orchestra by Harrison Birtwistle (70) is performed for the first time in the Kultur- und Kongresszentrum, Lucerne.

**22 August 2004** Three armed men steal *The Scream* and *Madonna* from the Munch Museum in Oslo.

Quartet for oboe and strings by Ellen Taaffe Zwilich (65) is performed for the first time, at Saratoga, New York.

**23 August 2004** Talks between the government of Sudan and two rebel groups from Darfur begin in Abuja, Nigeria sponsored by the African Union.

Night. US forces begin a major assault on Shia militiamen in Najaf.

**24 August 2004** Two Russian passenger jets crash within minutes of each other killing 89 people. One goes down in the Tula region, 200 km south of Moscow. The other crashes near Rostov-on-Don. Chechen suicide bombers bring down both planes.

Two days of a general strike begin in Bangladesh in protest to the attack of 21 August. 80 people are injured in battles with police.

US forces again make a night assault on Shia militiamen in Najaf.

A report by an investigating committee led by former defense secretary and head of central intelligence James Schlesinger says the abuses of prisoners in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Guantanamo go far beyond those directly involved. “There is both institutional and personal responsibility at higher levels.” Many of the questionable interrogation techniques were approved by Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld. The report faults Rumsfeld, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Richard Myers, and head of the US Central Command General John Abizaid for being slow to react to reports of abuse.

**25 August 2004** A US Army investigation into abuses of prisoners in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Guantanamo says that many military intelligence officers and enlisted men were involved.

**26 August 2004** Grand Ayatollah Ali Sistani negotiates a cease fire between US forces and Shia militiamen in Iraq.

The Supreme Court of Chile rules 9-8 that former military dictator Augusto Pinochet may be stripped of his immunity from prosecution. 3,200 people were murdered and thousands more tortured during his 17-year reign.

**27 August 2004** Shia militiamen evacuate the Imam Ali Shrine in Najaf. Thousands of the faithful occupy the site.

**28 August 2004** Shaukat Aziz replaces Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain as Prime Minister of Pakistan.

Shareholders of both companies approve the acquisition of Brazil’s Companhia de Bebidas das Americas SA by Belgium’s Interbrew SA for €8,000,000,000. The new company, InBev SA, is the largest brewer in the world by volume.

*Hymn to Artemis Locheia* for clarinet and string quartet by Peter Maxwell Davies (69) is performed for the first time, in the Schweizerhof Hotel, Lucerne.

**29 August 2004** The Games of the Twenty-eighth Olympiad of the Modern Era close in Athens. In 17 days of competition, 10,625 athletes took part. The International Olympic Committee awards the Olympiart Prize to Mikis Theodorakis (79).

The first complete performance of *26 Orpheus Elegies* for counter-tenor, oboe, and harp by Harrison Birtwistle (70) to words of Rilke takes place in the Lukaskirche, Lucerne.

**30 August 2004** A UN report states that Sudan has not complied with the deadline to disarm Arab militias in Darfur.

**31 August 2004** Iraqi insurgents post a video on their website showing the execution of twelve Nepalese civilians they captured a week ago.

A Chechen militant explodes a bomb at the entrance to a subway station in Moscow, killing at least ten people and herself.

The *Los Angeles Times* reports that US forces have been attacked an average of 60 times a day since the transfer of power in Iraq at the end of June.

**1 September 2004** Thousands of Nepalese attack the only mosque in Katmandu and Moslem-owned businesses in response to the events of yesterday.

32 heavily armed pro-Chechen gunmen take over a school in Beslan, North Ossetia, Russia, taking about 1,200 people hostage. They demand the withdrawal of Russian troops from Chechnya and the release of their comrades from prison. At least seven people are killed in the takeover.

Radoslav Brdjanin, former Deputy Prime Minister of the Bosnian Serbs, is found guilty at The Hague of war crimes and crimes against humanity. He is sentenced to 32 years in prison.

**2 September 2004** Militants in Beslan release at least 31 of their hostages, all women, children, or infants.

A ban on religious symbols and clothing in French schools goes into effect. It has produced protests by Moslems but now prominent Moslem groups have agreed to abide by the ban.

Four Pieces for Orchestra by Hans Abrahamsen (51) is performed for the first time, in Copenhagen.

**3 September 2004** An explosion goes off in the gymnasium of the school in Beslan where Chechen terrorists are holding 1,200 hostages. The hostages begin to panic and run for windows as other devices explode. The gunmen then begin firing on them as Russian security forces outside start firing on the terrorists. Russian military, police, and irregular forces begin fighting their way inside the building. All but one of the Chechens are killed, as are around 20 Russian troops (some killed accidentally by local vigilantes). Around 330 hostages are killed, around 700 wounded, and 200 missing.

**4 September 2004** 17 people are killed by a car bomb in Kirkuk.

**6 September 2004** A car bomb kills seven US and three Iraqi troops near Fallujah.

*Looking Glass*, a film about Philip Glass (67), is shown for the first time, at La Cinémathèque de Chaillot, Paris.

**7 September 2004** US warplanes begin air raids on Sunni insurgents in Fallujah. Battles with Shia insurgents continue in Baghdad.

Hurricane Ivan (Category three) crosses over the Windward Islands causing severe destruction, especially in Grenada. About 40 people are killed.

*The Kestral Road* for chorus and piano by Peter Maxwell Davies to words of George Mackay Brown is performed for the first time, at the City of London School to celebrate the 70th birthday of the composer, which takes place tomorrow.

**9 September 2004** Moslem terrorists explode a bomb outside the Australian embassy in Jakarta killing nine people.

US ground troops enter Samarra, Iraq. US warplanes attack Tal Afar near the border with Syria, killing at least 27 people and injuring 70.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell calls the actions of the Sudanese government and Arab militias in Darfur “genocide.”

**11 September 2004** Hurricane Ivan strikes Jamaica causing widespread damage and 17 deaths. It goes on to hit the Cayman Islands where 85% of the structures sustained some damage.

*Hour of the Soul* for voice and wind orchestra by Sofia Gubaidulina (72) to words of Tsvetayeva is performed for the first time, in Bolzano, Italy, 30 years after it was composed.

**12 September 2004** An attack on a US military vehicle prompts two hours of fighting in Baghdad. 13 people are killed, 61 wounded.

US forces capture Tal Afar, Iraq after several days of attacks. 104 Iraqis are known dead.

*Consider...* for baritone and french horn by Roger Reynolds (70) is performed for the first time, in the Guggenheim Museum, New York.

**13 September 2004** President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia announces political reforms aimed at strengthening his hand in dealing with separatist terrorists.

*The End of the Moon* by Laurie Anderson (57) is performed for the first time, at the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art, North Adams.

**14 September 2004** A car bomb explodes outside a police station in Baghdad killing 47 people and injuring 114. Insurgents attack a bus in Baqubah killing twelve people.

The World Health Organization reports that 6,000-10,000 people are dying in Darfur each month, 15% of them by violence.

*Going Upriver: the Long War of John Kerry*, a film with music by Philip Glass (67), is shown for the first time, at the Toronto Film Festival.

**15 September 2004** Fighting in Ramadi between insurgents and US forces kills 13 people and injures 17.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan tells the BBC that the invasion of Iraq went against the UN Charter and was therefore illegal.

Halldór Ásgrímsson replaces Davíd Oddsson as Prime Minister of Iceland.

**16 September 2004** Hurricane Ivan (Category three) comes ashore on the coast of Alabama. It weakens and drifts across the southeastern United States. Over 50 deaths and considerable damage are caused by the storm.

Quartettstudie for string quartet by Wolfgang Rihm (52) is performed for the first time, in Munich.

*Colors of Crimson*, a fantasy for marimba and orchestra by Bright Sheng (48), is performed for the first time, in Luxembourg.

For Strings (With Winds and Brass) by Steve Reich (67) is performed for the first time, in Davies Symphony Hall, San Francisco.

**17 September 2004** Fighting between Shia militia and British troops begins in Basra.

Hurricane Jeanne kills more than 3,000 people in Haiti, mostly in and around Gonaives. 300,000 are left homeless.

**18 September 2004** 19 people are killed and 63 injured by a car bomb near a national guard building in Kirkuk.

*Lewis and Clark Piano Concerto* by Philip Glass (67) is performed for the first time, in Lied Center for the Performing Arts, Lincoln, Nebraska.

**19 September 2004** *Eine Stimme* for mezzo-soprano and twelve players by Wolfgang Rihm (54) is performed for the first time, in Strasbourg.

**20 September 2004** The US lifts most of the remaining sanctions against Libya.

The Roman Catholic diocese of Tucson files for Chapter Eleven bankruptcy protection due to sexual abuse lawsuits.

**21 September 2004** Two days of fighting in Baghdad between US troops and Shia militia causes 22 deaths and 107 injuries.

The Iranian government announces that it has resumed the enrichment of uranium.

**22 September 2004** A car bomb explodes near a national guard recruiting center in Baghdad. At least eleven people are killed, 54 wounded.

**26 September 2004** Izzideen al-Sheik Khalil, a military commander of the Hamas terrorist group, is killed when a bomb goes off in his car in Damascus. Israel is suspected.

**27 September 2004** At a party conference in Brighton, British Prime Minister Tony Blair partially apologizes for his role in the invasion of Iraq.

Entertainment producer Phil Spector pleads not guilty in a Los Angeles court to killing actress Lana Clarkson.

**28 September 2004** Two works by Paul Lansky (60) are performed for the first time, at Princeton University: *Etudes and Parodies* for french horn, violin and piano, and *Ricercare Plus* for string quartet.

**29 September 2004** 44 North Koreans scale the walls of the Canadian embassy in Beijing and ask for asylum.

Acting Prime Minister Ferenc Gyurcsány replaces Péter Medgyessy as Prime Minister of Hungary. Both men are from the Hungarian Socialist Party.

A court in Sanaa sentences Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri and Jamal al-Badawi to death for planning the attack on *USS Cole* in 2000. Four other men receive prison sentences.

**30 September 2004** The Russian cabinet approves the Kyoto Protocol on the reduction of greenhouse gases making it almost certain that it will go into effect.

5,000 US and Iraqi troops fight their way into Samarra, 100 km north of Baghdad.

**1 October 2004** A bomb explodes during Friday prayers in a Shia mosque in Sialkot, Pakistan killing 30 people and the bomber. 50 others are injured. Worshippers riot and battle police.

**2 October 2004** In Dimapur, Nagaland, three bombs explode killing 28 people. Separatist rebels are blamed.

After funerals for those killed yesterday in Sialkot, Pakistan, thousands of Shia begin another rampage.

**3 October 2004** Bombings and other killings in Assam state, India, yesterday and today, kill 29 people. Separatist rebels are blamed.

US and Iraqi troops secure Samarra from insurgents.

French police arrest Basque terrorist leader Mikel Albizu Iriarte in Pau.

In parliamentary elections in Slovenia, the center-right Democratic Party wins 29 of 90 seats while Liberal Democracy is second with 23 seats.

**4 October 2004** It is reported that the CIA has determined that there was no link between Saddam Hussein and Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, despite repeated claims to the contrary by US President Bush and high ranking members of his government.

**6 October 2004** The 1,200-member Iraq Survey Group, led by chief US weapons inspector Charles Duelfer, issues its 918-page report. They find that Iraq “essentially destroyed” its non-conventional weapons programs in 1991, twelve years before the Bush administration started a war to destroy them. They found no evidence that Saddam Hussein had attempted to restart his nuclear weapons program, no evidence of the production of chemical weapons, and that the last biological weapons plant was abandoned in 1996. They also found that the Hussein regime made $11,000,000,000 from oil in secret deals with foreign companies and individuals.

*Stella Matutina* for chorus by John Tavener (60) is performed for the first time, in St. Janskerk, Gouda.

**7 October 2004** King Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia, presently in Beijing, abdicates his throne.

A car bomb kills 41 people and injures over 100 at a Sunni gathering in Multan, Pakistan.

Four bombs explode on the Egyptian side of the Gulf of Aqaba, at a vacation hotel and a campsite frequented by many Israelis. At least 32 people are killed.

**8 October 2004** *Eins und doppelt* for voice and piano by Wolfgang Rihm (52) is performed for the first time, in Ludwigshafen.

**9 October 2004** General elections in Australia see a gain of five seats for the Liberal Party of Prime Minister John Howard. The opposition Labor Party loses five seats.

Afghanistan holds its first presidential election.

Shia militias reach a cease fire agreement with US authorities in Baghdad.

Joan Tower (66) is inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in Boston.

**11 October 2004** Shia militias in Baghdad begin turning in their heavy weapons as part of the recent cease fire agreement.

The European Union lifts economic sanctions against Libya.

**12 October 2004** Meeting in Bangkok, a majority of the signatories to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species vote to protect the great white shark.

**14 October 2004** A nine-member throne council in Cambodia chooses Prince Norodom Sihamoni to be king.

Two bombs explode within the Green Zone in Baghdad. At least six people are killed.

Somalia’s interim parliament, meeting in Nairobi, elects Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmed as interim president.

The almost constant bombardment of Fallujah by US forces is sharply increased during the night of 14-15 October with air and artillery attacks.

*Zefiro aleggia…nell’infinito* for bassoon and orchestra by Olga Neuwirth (36) is performed for the first time, in Teatro la Fenice, Venice.

*Step by Circle* for chorus and piano by Peter Maxwell Davies (70) to words of George Mackay Brown is performed for the first time, in St. Giles Cripplegate, London.

*Maha Maya* for chorus by John Tavener (60) is performed for the first time, in Canterbury.

*Hyper Dim-Sums : Glade, Winding Line, and Punchy* for string quartet by Tod Machover (50) is performed for the first time, in the Contemporary Art Museum of La Jolla, California.

**15 October 2004** Sheik Khalid al-Jumali, sent to negotiate by the various insurgent groups in Fallujah, is detained by US troops.

A court in Zimbabwe acquits opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai of plotting to kill President Robert Mugabe.

The World Health Organization reports that 70,000 people have died in Darfur refugee camps since last March. 1,400,000 have fled their homes and 200,000 have crossed the border into Chad.

**16 October 2004** *Licht-Bilder* by Karlheinz Stockhausen (76) is performed for the first time. It is the last section of his massive composition *Licht* which comprises 29 hours of music and on which he has been laboring for the past 27 years.

*Four Seascapes* for orchestra by Dominick Argento (76) is performed for the first time, in Eastman Theatre, Rochester, New York to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Sibley Library at the Eastman School of Music.

**17 October 2004** Citing guards and intelligence agents working at Guantanamo, the *New York Times* reports on harsh and extreme interrogation tactics employed by the US military.

**18 October 2004** After interrogating him for three days, US officials release negotiator Sheik Khalid al-Jumali in Fallujah. Al-Jumali announces that there will be no more peace talks.

Official results of yesterday’s election in Belarus are announced. 77% of registered voters approve of a constitutional amendment allowing President Aleksandr Lukashenko to serve another term. All seats in the legislature are won by Lukashenko supporters. International observers say the voting “fell significantly short” of democratic standards.

*Happy Rain on a Spring Night* for flute, clarinet, violin, cello, and piano by Chen Yi (51) is performed for the first time, in Merkin Concert Hall, New York.

**20 October 2004** An explosion in the Daping coal mine in Henan Province, China kills 148 people.

Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono replaces Dyah Permata Megawati Setyawati Sukarnoputri as President of Indonesia.

Popular music entertainer Courtney Love pleads guilty in a New York court to one count of disorderly conduct. She threw a microphone stand into a nightclub audience, injuring one person. She is also ordered to pay the victim’s medical bill and begin drug rehabilitation.

*Koori Dreaming* for recorder and guitar by Peter Sculthorpe (75) is performed for the first time, at Downing College, Cambridge.

Birtwistle Games, a three week celebration of the 70th birthday of Harrison Birtwistle, opens at the South Bank Centre, London.

*Naxos Quartet no.5* for string quartet by Peter Maxwell Davies (70) is performed for the first time, in Wigmore Hall, London.

**21 October 2004** An Israeli missile kills Arab terrorist leader Adnan al-Ghoul in Gaza.

A US military court in Baghdad sentences Staff Sgt. Ivan Frederick to eight years in prison, reduction in rank, and dishonorable discharge for his part in the Abu Ghraib abuses.

Tempo di valse for cello alone by Krzysztof Penderecki (70) is performed for the first time, in the Joanniskirche, Kronberg.

*…ce qui arrive…* for voice, video, tape, and chamber ensemble by Olga Neuwirth (36), to words of Auster, Patner, and Dee, is performed for the first time, in Helmut-List-Halle, Graz.

**22 October 2004** The Polish Sejm rejects a bill which would reinstate the death penalty.

**23 October 2004** Insurgents disguised as policemen kill 49 army recruits and their three bus drivers at a fake checkpoint 155 km northeast of Baghdad.

Robert Merrill dies in New Rochelle, New York at the age of 87.

**24 October 2004** In the Lithuanian general election, the newly formed centrist Labour Party gains 39 of 141 seats while the center-left coalition of Prime Minister Algirdas Brazauskas wins 31.

*Racconto dall’inferno* for voice and chamber ensemble by Louis Andriessen (65) to words of Dante is performed for the first time, in Klaus-von-Bismarck-Saal, Cologne.

A bomb in Baghdadi, 225 km west of Baghdad kills 16 Iraqi policemen and injures 40 others.

*Songs America Loves to Sing* for flute, clarinet, violin, cello, and piano by John Harbison (65) is performed for the first time, in Atlanta.

*You Are (Variations)* for chorus and chamber ensemble by Steve Reich (68) to words of Rebbe Nachman, the Bible, Wittgenstein, and the Talmud is performed for the first time, in Disney Hall, Los Angeles.

**25 October 2004** The *New York Times* and CBS News report that 341.8 tonnes of explosives went missing from a facility south of Baghdad shortly after the fall of Saddam Hussein last year.

Billionaire Lakshmi Mittal announces the merger of two of his companies, Ispat International NV and LNM Holdings NV, with International Steel Group Inc. to form the largest steel company in the world.

**26 October 2004** The Israeli Knesset approves a plan to dismantle all 21 Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip and remove their inhabitants.

The European Commission gives final approval for the importation of NK603 maize, a type of genetically modified corn made by Monsanto Corp.

Lee Boyd Malvo pleads guilty to two shootings in Spotsylvania County, Virginia in October 2002. They were part of the Washington area sniper attacks. He is sentenced to two life terms without parole.

The US space probe *Cassini* makes the first of about 40 close flybys of Titan, the largest moon of Saturn, taking photographs and radar images of the surface and atmosphere.

**28 October 2004** Borislav Paravac replaces Sulejman Tihic as Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Hercegovina.

Australian and Indonesian archaeologists report in *Nature* that they have found remains of a previously unknown human species on Flores Island. They call the species *Homo floresiensis*.

**29 October 2004** US forces begin bombing and shelling Fallujah in preparation for an assault on the city.

*The Lancet* estimates that 100,000 Iraqis have been killed as a result of the invasion of their country in 2003.

The Constitution Treaty of the European Union is signed by leaders of the 25 members in Rome.

**31 October 2004** Rockets aimed at a hotel in Tikrit kill 15 people.

Socialist Tabare Vazquez is elected the first leftist President of Uruguay.

*Haroun and the Sea of Stories*, an opera by Charles Wuorinen (66) to words of Fenton after Rushdie, is performed for the first time, in New York.

**1 November 2004** Martial law is declared in parts of Hunan Province after four days of violence between Han Chinese and Hui Moslems.

A bomb kills three people and the bomber in a marketplace in Tel Aviv. 32 people are injured.

**2 November 2004** Dutch filmmaker Theo van Gogh is murdered in Amsterdam. Eight Moslems are arrested in connection with the killing. Van Gogh’s film *Submission*, critical of Moslems, was recently shown on Dutch television.

Voting in the United States insures the election of George W. Bush to a second term as President over Senator John Kerry. His Republican Party slightly increases its majorities in the Senate and House of Representatives.

**3 November 2004** Hamid Karzai is declared the winner of the presidential election held in Afghanistan last month.

Prime Minister Ferenc Gyurcsany of Hungary announces that his country’s troops will leave Iraq by next March.

The National Disarmament Commission in Liberia announces that all factions in the three-year civil war have been dismantled.

A federal court in Houston convicts four Merrill Lynch & Co. executives and one Enron executive of conspiracy and fraud in the fake sale of oil barges in Nigeria.

*Recoil* for wind ensemble by Joseph Schwantner (61) is performed for the first time, in Carnegie Hall, New York.

**4 November 2004** The air force of Côte d’Ivoire begins air raids on rebels in the north of the country, ending the May 2003 peace agreement.

**5 November 2004** President Vladimir Putin of Russia signs his country’s ratification of the Kyoto Protocol.

General Juan Emilio Cheyre Espinosa, head of the armed forces of Chile, publishes a statement in two Santiago newspapers saying, “The Army of Chile has taken the difficult but irreversible decision to assume the responsibility for all punishable and morally unacceptable acts in the past that fall on it as an institution.”

**6 November 2004** An Ivorian air raid kills nine French peacekeepers in Brobo. Under orders from President Jacques Chirac, French forces destroy the Ivorian air force. Five days of massive anti-French rioting break out in Abidjan.

**7 November 2004** Iraqi insurgents kill 22 police officers in Haditha and Haqlaniya.

*Hymn of Dawn* for two vocal soloists, violin, flute, percussion, harp, and strings by John Tavener (60) is performed for the first time, in Waterfront Hall, Belfast.

**8 November 2004** An Indonesian government investigation finds that the Newmont Mining Corp. of the US contaminated Buyat Bay in North Sulawesi Province with arsenic and mercury. It says the fish, upon which local residents rely for food and income, are unsafe to eat.

Thousands of US and Iraqi troops fight their way into Fallujah. Up to 80% of the population of the city have already fled.

Thousands of French nationals begin fleeing Côte d’Ivoire.

The Arctic Council issues a summary of its Arctic Climate Impact Assessment. It reports that over the last 30 years, the Arctic ice cap has lost ten percent of its area and half of its thickness.

**9 November 2004** Iraqi insurgents kill 45 police officers near Baquba.

Fighting between rioting Ivorians and French troops in Abidjan leaves 20 people dead and hundreds injured.

The government of Sudan signs two short-term peace agreements with the two largest rebel groups in Abuja, Nigeria. They call for unrestricted access to Darfur by humanitarian groups.

**10 November 2004** US and Iraqi forces control one-half of Fallujah.

An official Republika Srpska report is released showing that the massacre of 8,000 Moslems in Srebrenica in 1995 was carried out by Bosnian Serb troops. For the first time, the government of Republika Srpska takes responsibility for the murders and issues an apology.

**11 November 2004** Yasir Arafat dies in a Paris hospital at the age of 75.

The US military stops about 300 refugees from the fighting in Fallujah, separates the adult males from the group, and forces the men to return to the city.

A car bomb kills 17 people in Baghdad.

**12 November 2004** Suite for orchestra by Conlon Nancarrow (†7) is performed for the first time, in Cologne, about 60 years after it was composed.

**14 November 2004** Sextet for string quartet, double bass, and piano by Richard Wernick (70) is performed for the first time, at SUNY Stony Brook.

**15 November 2004** The US military declares that Fallujah is almost entirely under its control.

The UN Security Council votes an arms embargo on Côte d’Ivoire and threatens further action if the warring parties do not return to the peace agreement of May 2003.

Anthony Braxton’s (59) compact disc *Quintet (London) 2004: Live at the Royal Festival Hall* is recorded in concert. It is *Comp.343.*

Popular music entertainer Young Buck (David Darnell Brown) stabs Jimmy James Johnson at the taping of a rap music awards presentation in Santa Monica, California. Another entertainer, Dr. Dre, also received the attentions of Young Buck when he was punched as he is about to receive a lifetime achievement award. Brown will be charged with assault with a deadly weapon.

**16 November 2004** Graphic film of an American marine killing an apparently unarmed Iraqi in Fallujah is aired on Arabic-language satellite networks. The film was taken by an NBC News cameraman but was not shown on US television.

The US military begins an offensive in Mosul after six days of guerrilla attacks.

*Smart-I* goes into orbit around the Moon, the first European spacecraft to do so.

**18 November 2004** The military dictatorship of Myanmar releases 3,937 prisoners, including 19 political prisoners.

Radmila Sekerinska replaces Hari Kostov as acting Prime Minister of Macedonia.

The British Parliament enacts a ban on hunting foxes, hares, and deer with dogs, to take effect next 18 February.

**19 November 2004** *Pratirùpa* for piano and strings by John Tavener (60) is performed for the first time, in the Barbican Center, London.

*Wind, Water, Clouds, and Fire* for four choruses, solo instruments, and chamber ensemble by Henry Brant (91) is performed for the first time, in St. John’s Cathedral, Milwaukee.

Two works for saxophone quartet are performed for the first time, in Symphony Space, New York: *Wait a Minute* by Libby Larsen (53), and *Animal, Vegetable, Mineral* by Steven Mackey (48).

**21 November 2004** Massive opposition protests begin in Kiev against today’s Ukrainian presidential election. They charge fraud. The protests will grow and spread over coming days.

The 9 November cease fire agreement is broken in Darfur as fighting resumes between government and rebel troops.

*Voix et Vues planétaires* for multimedia by Henri Pousseur (75) is performed for the first time, in the Théâtre de la Balsamine, Brussels.

**22 November 2004** José Manuel Durão Barroso replaces Romano Prodi as President of the European Commission.

**23 November 2004** US, UK, and Iraqi troops begin an offensive south of Baghdad, beginning in the town of Jabella.

Mikis Theodorakis (79) accepts an invitation from the Greek government to lead a campaign against firearms on Crete.

The British Academy of Composers & Songwriters presents a Fellowship of the Academy to John Adams (57) at the Barbican, London.

*Climbing Frame* for 12-15 instruments by Jonathan Harvey (65) is performed for the first time, in Huddersfield, West Yorkshire.

**24 November 2004** Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich is declared the winner of the 21 November presidential election in Ukraine. Monitors from the EU, NATO, the Council of Europe, and the OSCE declare that the election fell far short of accepted international standards for fairness. Exit polls suggest that opposition candidate Viktor Yushchenko won by 11%.

**25 November 2004** The Supreme Court of Ukraine forbids official proclamation of the results of the presidential elections while it investigates claims by the opposition that massive electoral fraud took place.

Philippe de Broca dies in Neuilly-sur-Seine at the age of 71.

**26 November 2004** *The Fall of the Leafe* for string orchestra by Peter Maxwell Davies (70) is performed for the first time, at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, Glasgow.

*Tribute* for orchestra by Magnus Lindberg (46) is performed for the first time, in Walt Disney Concert Hall, Los Angeles.

**27 November 2004** The Ukrainian Rada passes a non-binding resolution declaring the disputed presidential election invalid because of fraud.

**28 November 2004** A coal mine explodes in Tongchuan, Shaanxi Province, China. 166 people are killed.

In parliamentary elections in Romania, the center-left National Union coalition wins 132 of 332 seats while the left-liberal Justice and Truth Alliance wins 112 seats. The presidential election will go to a second round.

Two-thirds of Swiss voters approve embryonic stem-cell research.

President Ricardo Lagos Escobar of Chile releases the 1,200-page Report on Torture and Political Imprisonment, which documents the 17-year reign of terror by the US-backed dictator Augusto Pinochet. The report recommends that 27,255 people be compensated for the detention and torture they suffered under Pinochet. It names specific military and police units which perpetrated the crimes and 1,200 locations. 14 types of torture are specified, including electric shocks, submersion, beatings, fingernail extractions, mock execution, and solitary confinement.

*Two Blank Spirits*, a sound installation by Francisco López(40), opens at Galerie Rachel Haferkamp in Cologne.

**30 November 2004** The *New York Times* reports on a confidential ICRC study showing that the US military is engaging in torture while interrogating prisoners at Guantanamo, Cuba.

AIG announces it will pay $80,000,000 to the US Justice Department and $46,000,000 to the Securities and Exchange Commission to settle charges of fraud.

At the Cairo Opera House, Egyptian Minister of Culture Farouk Hosny presents Mikis Theodorakis (79) with the Gold Pyramid Prize for lifetime achievement. Because of ill health, the composer is unable to attend and is represented by his niece and nephew.

**1 December 2004** The Ukrainian Rada passes a no-confidence motion against the government of Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, the announced winner of the presidential election.

The UN confirms the presence of Rwandan troops in eastern Congo.

The Bush administration announces that it will increase the number of its troops in Iraq by 12,000.

**2 December 2004** Two typhoons over the last four days leaves 1,100 people dead on the Philippine island of Luzon.

Aigars Kalvitis replaces Indulis Emsis as Prime Minister of Latvia at the head of a center-right government.

Alicia Marakova dies in Bath, England at the age of 94.

*Natus Est Emmanuel* for treble chorus by Libby Larsen (53), to anonymous words, is performed for the first time, at Luther College, Decorah, Iowa.

**3 December 2004** The Supreme Court of Ukraine annuls the result of the 21 November presidential election due to widespread fraud.

Janez Jansa of the center-right Slovenian Democratic Party replaces Anton Rop of Liberal Democracy of Slovenia as Prime Minister of Slovenia.

Fisher-Price announces the release of Color Pixter®Symphony Painter in collaboration with the MIT Media Lab and Tod Machover (51). It is music software based on Machover’s Hyperscore that allows children to draw music and have it played back.

**4 December 2004** *Métamorphoses d’Ovide II* for trumpet and tape by Pierre Henry (76) is performed for the first time, in Grenoble.

**6 December 2004** Gunmen attack the US embassy in Jidda, Saudi Arabia killing five people, none of whom are US citizens. Four attackers are killed, one captured.

Musical America names Arvo Pärt (69) as its “composer of the year” in a ceremony in Carnegie Hall, New York.

**7 December 2004** Hamid Karzai takes office as the first democratically elected President of Afghanistan.

Jean-Marie Messier, former CEO of the conglomerate Vivendi Universal SA, is fined €1,000,000 by Autorites des Marches Financiers for releasing “inaccurate and abusively optimistic information” on Vivendi’s financial situation.

IBM agrees to sell its personal computer division to Lenovo Group Ltd. of China for $1,750,000,000.

Antonio Salieri’s (†179) opera *Europa riconosciuta* is performed for the first time since its premiere, for the reopening of Teatro alla Scala, Milan. The theatre has been undergoing renovation for the last three years. See 3 August 1778.

**8 December 2004** Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma and the opposition in the Rada agree on a series of electoral and constitutional reforms. As a result, opposition protesters begin to reduce their takeover of government buildings and streets in Kiev.

Jackson Mac Low dies in New York City at the age of 82.

Popular music entertainer (Dimebag) Darrell Abbott is shot and killed by a deranged gunman on the stage of a Columbus, Ohio nightclub. Three other people are killed, two wounded before the gunman is killed by police.

**9 December 2004** Concerto for piano-left hand and orchestra by Paul Hindemith (†40) is performed for the first time, in Berlin, 81 years after it was composed.

**10 December 2004** A court in Milan finds Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi of Italy not guilty of bribing judges.

French neo-Nazi Maxime Brunerie is sentenced to ten years in prison for firing a rifle at President Jacques Chirac at a Bastille Day celebration in 2002.

*Rilke: Vier Gedichte* for voice and orchestra by Wolfgang Rihm (52) is performed for the first time, in the Casino, Basel.

*Octant* for computerized sounds by Jean-Claude Risset (66) is performed for the first time, in Marseille.

**11 December 2004** Medical experts in Vienna confirm that Ukranian opposition candidate Viktor Yushchenko was poisoned in September with dioxin.

Senator Marcello dell’Utri, a close ally of Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, is found guilty of collusion with the Mafia, in a Palermo court.

*A Wedding*, an opera by William Bolcom (66) to words of Weinstein and Altman, after Altman’s film, is performed for the first time, in Chicago.

*The Shepherds and the Angels* for vocal soloists, chorus, organ, and brass by Libby Larsen (53), to words of the Bible, is performed for the first time, in the National Cathedral, Washington.

**12 December 2004** Mayor Traian Basescu of Bucharest, from the center-left Democratic Party defeats Social Democratic Prime Minister Adrian Nastase in a presidential runoff in Romania.

A law signed by Russian President Vladimir Putin gives him power to appoint governors and other local executives, replacing the system of popular election.

*Fratres*, in the version for brass orchestra, by Arvo Pärt (69) is performed for the first time, in Hilgen.

**13 December 2004** Prime Minister José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero of Spain testifies before a parliamentary committee in Madrid investigating the March terrorist attacks. He says that the government of his predecessor, Conservative José María Aznar, destroyed all records for the three days between the attacks and the subsequent election.

The French Council of State bans the broadcast of Al Manar, the satellite television channel of Hezbollah, based in Lebanon. Al Manar has repeatedly broadcast anti-Jewish content, in violation of French law.

A Chilean judge finds former dictator Augusto Pinochet competent to stand trial. He indicts Pinochet and orders that he be placed under house arrest for the murder of ten people during his reign.

*Ned Rorem: Words and Music*, a film by Jim Dowell and John Kolomvakis, is shown for the first time, at Florence Gould Hall, New York.

**14 December 2004** US Defense Department documents made public today by the ACLU show that eleven marines have been convicted of mistreating Iraqi prisoners since the invasion. Three others have received non-judicial punishments.

Google, Inc. announces that it will digitalize the collections of five research libraries, Oxford University, Harvard University, Stanford University, the New York Public Library, and the University of Michigan.

**15 December 2004** UK Home Secretary David Blunkett resigns his cabinet position after his office gave preferential immigration treatment to the nanny of his lover.

Sprint Corp. and Nextel Communications Inc. announce a $36,000,000,000 merger.

Popular music entertainer Russell Tyrone Jones (aka O.D.B.) collapses and dies in a New York recording studio of “the combined effects of cocaine and Tramadol.”

Fanfare for brass and percussion by Magnus Lindberg (46) is performed for the first time, in Helsinki.

**16 December 2004** The highest court of the United Kingdom, the Law Lords, holds 8-1 that indefinite detention of foreign terrorism suspects is illegal.

A court in Paris sentences ten Moslems to prison for participating in a failed plot to bomb the Strasbourg Christmas market in 2001.

**17 December 2004** Bhutan bans the sale of tobacco and all public smoking, the first country to do so.

Vlado Buckovski replaces Radmila Sekerinska as Prime Minister of Macedonia.

*Jonah*, a cantata by Samuel Adler (76) is performed for the first time, in Mannheim.

**19 December 2004** Two car bombs explode in Iraq, one in Karbala, one in Najaf. About 70 people are killed, 175 injured.

Renata Tebaldi dies in San Marino at the age of 82.

**20 December 2004** Traian Dumitru Basescu replaces Ion Iliescu as Prime Minister of Romania.

Thousands of documents released under a lawsuit by the American Civil Liberties Union show that FBI investigators found that military interrogators committed serious acts of abuse against detainees at Guantanamo Bay.

The Birmingham Repertory Theatre ceases production of the play *Dishonor* after riots by Sikhs claiming that the play is offensive to their religion. The playwright, Gurpreet Kaur Bhatti, is in hiding after receiving death threats.

**21 December 2004** Eugen Bejinariu replaces Adrian Nastase as interim Prime Minister of Romania

An explosion at a US military dining hall in Mosul kills at least 22 people, injures 60.

A poll published by the *Washington Post* shows 56% of the American people believe that the war in Iraq was not “worth fighting.” 52% feel Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld should be sacked.

**22 December 2004** Former Prime Minister of Poland Josef Olesky is found guilty of concealing his role as a paid informant for the secret police from 1970-78.

**26 December 2004** A 9.0 earthquake strikes in the Indian Ocean 100 km south of northeastern Sumatra 30 km below the surface. It is the largest earthquake since 1964 and creates a massive tsunami which kills 166,000 people in Indonesia, 35,000 in Sri Lanka, 12,000 in India, 5,000 in Thailand, and lesser amounts in countries as far away as Kenya and South Africa.

A new presidential election takes place in Ukraine.

**28 December 2004** Returns from the Ukranian presidential election of 26 December released today show a victory for opposition candidate Viktor Yushchenko over Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich.

At least 28 people are killed in a bomb explosion in Baghdad.

Around 26 police and soldiers are killed by insurgents in and around Tikrit.

Susan Sontag dies in New York City at the age of 71.

**29 December 2004** Calin Popescu-Tariceanu replaces Eugen Bejinariu as Prime Minister of Romania.

At least 50 people attack a US outpost in Mosul. Around 25 of them are killed.

**30 December 2004** Artie Shaw dies in Newbury Park, California at the age of 94.

A fire in the República Cromañón nightclub in Buenos Aires kills 194 people.

**31 December 2004** The Shanghai Oriental Arts Center opens. It includes a 2,000-seat concert hall that will be the first permanent home of the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra.

Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich of Ukraine resigns and says he will continue his court battle against certification of his election loss of 26 December.

President Lt. Gen. Omar Hassan Ahmed al-Bashir of Sudan and John Garang, leader of the Sudanese People’s Liberation Army, sign a preliminary agreement on the last two of eight peace protocols, at Lake Naivasha, Kenya.

The *New York Times* reports that as of today, $1,000,000,000 in emergency relief has been pledged for the victims of the tsunami.

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