

Background dates for Popular Music Studies

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-4000 to -1

- c.4000 End of palaeolithic period in Mediterranean
- c.4000 Sumerians settle on site of Babylon
- 3500-2800: King Menes the Fighter unites Upper and Lower Egypt; 1st and 2nd dynasties
- 3500-3000: Neolithic period in western Europe (ends 1700 BC)
 - Harps, flutes, lyres, double clarinets played in Egypt
- 3000-2500: Old Kingdom of Egypt (3rd to 6th dynasty), including Cheops (4th dynasty: 2700-2675 BC), whose pyramid conforms in layout and dimension to astronomical measurements. Sphinx built. Egyptians invade Palestine. Bronze Age in Bohemia. Systematic astronomical observations in Egypt, Babylonia, India and China
- 3000-2000 'Sage Kings' in China, then the Yao, Shun and Hsai (-2000 to -1760) dynasties
- 3000-2500: Chinese court musician Ling-Lun cuts first bamboo pipe. Pentatonic scale formalised (2500-2000). Chinese emperor checked if court and village songs corresponded with the five notes (acc. The 'Shiu CHing' (=Book of History)
 - Bronze age in Britain
 - Shang dynasty in China. Decline of Babylon. 18th dynasty in Egypt: irrigation, trigonometry, sun dials. Indus culture flourishes. Iron in China, India, Mesopotamia, Egypt. Minoan culture in Crete. Bronze age in western Europe. Stonehenge
 - Moses leads Israelites out of Egypt. Trojan war. Nebuchadnezzar in Babylon. 19th-21st dynasties in Egypt. Tutankhamen's tomb
 - Cretan-Mycenaean cultures flourish. Trojan war. Foundation of Corinth
 - Teotihuacan Sun Pyramid (Mexico)
- 2200-525: dynasty of Pharaohs (god-kings)
- c-1000 Indian Rigveda (Veda of Hymns) and Samaveda (Veda of Chants) developed (forerunners to Jewish & Gregorian chants?)
 - Phoenicians main traders in western Mediterranean
 - Temple and Song of Solomon
 - India: transmigration of souls (Brahminism and Atmanism) and caste system. China: rational philosophy of Chou dynasty gains over mysticism of earlier Shang (Yin) dynasty. Chinese textbook of maths and physics
 - Homer's Iliad and Odyssey
 - Iron and steel production in Indo-Caucasian culture
 - Greeks settle in Spain, Southern Italy, Sicily. First Greek iron utensils
 - Pentatonic and heptatonic scales in Babylonian music. Earliest recorded music - hymn on a tablet in Sumeria (cuneiform). Greece: devel of choral and dramatic music. Rome founded (Ab urbe condita - 753 BC)
 - Kung Tu-tzu (Confucius, b. -551) dies
 - Sappho of Lesbos. Lao-tse (Chinese philosopher). Israel in Babylon. Massilia (Marseille) founded
- c 600 Shih Ching (Book of Songs) compiles material from Hsia and Shang dynasties (2205-1122 BC)
- 517 Lao Tzu (founder of Taoism, b. -604, d.)
- c 550 Pythagoras 'discovers' octave
- c 550 Indian vina (2 hollow gourds connected by strings and a bamboo reed) - origin of many hollow string instruments?
- c.500 BC: Celts arrive in Britain
- c 440 Sophocles' Theban trilogy
- c 340 Plato's Republic
- c 330 Aristotle's Politics and Poetics
- c 320 Aristoxenos 'Harmonics'. Defines rhythm as tripartite: speech, melody, movement
- 221 Ch'in dynasty in China
- c200. 'Natyasastra' (Indus) codifies Hindu classical music practices (e.g. for epics Ramayama, Mahabharata and Bhagavad-gita)
- 215 Great Wall of China built (2250 km)
- 55 Roman invasion of Briatn
- c.100 Emperor Wu founds Imperial Office of Music (Yüeh-fu), attached to the Office of Weights and Measures, for standardising pitch and supervising music
- 5 Christ born

1-999

- 30 Crucifixion of Christ
- 58 Buddhism introduced into China
- 300 Maya civilisation flourishes
- 324 Christianity official religion of Roman Empire
- 340 Definite split of Roman Empire in two
- 350 Foundation of Schola Cantorym for church song in Rome
- 378 St Ursus builds Ravenna cathedral
- 385 Roman legions evacuate Britain
- 386 Hymn singing introduced by Ambrosius, bishop of Milan
- 410 Alaric and Goths sack Rome
- 432 St Patrick starts mission to Ireland
- 440 Jutes, Angles and Saxons arrive and control most of England by 800
- 450 Responsorial singing (precentor and congregation) after Jewish pattern common in Roman church
- 476 Goths conquer Rome: end of Western Roman Empire
- 520 Boethius: De institutione musica - Greek music theory to Latin (letter notation, misunderstanding of modes)
- 563 St Columba (Irish abbot) on Iona to convert Picts and Scots
- 570 Muhammed the prophet (b)
- 596 Pope Gregory dispatches St Augustine of Canterbury as missionary to Britain
- 600 'Antiphonar' - Pope Gregory's collection of church chants. Refounds Schola Cantorum in Rome
 - Book printing in China
- 619 Orchestras of hundreds of players in China
- 622 'Originum sive etymologiarum libri XX' - encyclopedia of arts and sciences by Isidore of Seville
- 632 Muhammed the prophet (d)
- 642 Arabs conquer Egypt (642), Byzantium (655), Crete (674), Tunis (700), most of Pain (718)
- 650 Neumes (notation for groups of notes) used until 1050
- 685 Founding of Winchester cathedral
- 687 Sussex, last heathen kingdom in England, converted to Christianity
- 715 Moslem empire extends from Pyrenees to China with Damascus as capital
- 725 Court orchestra of Emperor Ming-Huang is high culture of T'and dynasty: no harmony or polyphony, five note scale without semitones: flutes, guitars,

- bells, gongs, drums
- 750 Arab alchemist discovers effect of light on silver nitrate
- Gregorian church music in England, France, Germany
- 787 Harun al-Raschid caliph of Baghdad (to 809) - golden period of Arabic learning
- 790 Schools for church music established at Paris, Köln, Soissons & Metz under supervision of Schola Cantorum (Rome)
- 800 Charlemagne crowned first Holy Roman Emperor
- City of Machu Picchu (Inca, Peru) - rediscovered 1911
- 814 Arabs take over Indian numerals (incl 0) to multiply by ten
- c825 Ishaq-al-Mausili (767-850), Arab singer and music theorist (cf.900)
- 841 Vikings invade what is now Normandy
- c850 Greek musical theory translated into Arabic and developed (e.g. 'Treatise concerning the Inner Knowledge of Melodies' by Al-Kindi (d.874). 'Al-musiqi' important subject in Arab universities.
- 860 Danes sack Winchester. Constant raids until c1010
- 870 'Musica enchiriadis' - MS using Latin letters for musical notation
- 890 Rathbert of St Gallen, hymn writer and composer
- 900 c. Ibn al-Munajjim (d.912) 'Risala fi'l-musiqi' (=Book about Music) showing Arab classical scales as Pythagorean but ascending
- 935 Odo de Cluny: Enchiridion musices
- 940 Postal and news services in the caliph's empire have at their disposal c. 1000 stations
- Manufactories of linens and woollens in Flanders
- 942 Arabs bring kettledrums and trumpets to Europe
- 950 Al-Farabi (d), working at Aleppo and Córdoba, author 'Kitab al-musiqi al-kabir' (=The Great Book on Music)

1000-1399

- 1000 Musical notation improved by Guido d'Arezzo (musica mensurata)
- 1015 At Poposa monastery (Ravenna), sight singing is introduced
- 1026 Guido d'Arezzo introduces solmisation (do re mi fa so la)
- 1045 Split between Roman and Eastern Orthodox church
- 1050 Harp arrives in Europe (Arabic). Time values given to notes
- 1065 Consecration of Westminster Abbey
- 1066 Battle of Hastings
- 1071 Constatine the African (1020-1087) brings Greek medicine (via Arabs) to Western Europe
- 1081 Commercial treaty between Venice and Byzantium
- 1094 El Cid takes Valencia from the Moors
- 1096 First Crusade begins
- 1100 Secular music school of St Martial at Limoges uses polyphonic styles
- 1119 Bologna University founded
- 1130 Troubadour and trouvère music evolves
- 1150 Paris University founded
- 1151 Leonin and 'ars antiqua'
- c.1155: Minnelieder, Minnesinger (e.g. Kurenberg)
- 1167 Oxford University established
- 1199 Founding of Liverpool
- 1200 Cambridge University founded
- Faux bourdon style in GB. Carmina Burana (Latin monastic songs) in Germany
- 1201 Façade of Notre Dame completed
- 1215 Magna Carta
- 1218 Genghis Khan captures Persia
- 1225 Roman de la rose
- Sumer is icumen in
- 1233 Coal mined for first time in Newcastle
- 1237 Mongols capture Moscow
- 1238 Adam de la Halle (b)
- 1249 Roger Bacon records the existence of explosives
- 1250 Establishment of four national colleges at Paris University
- Magister Perotinus (Notre Dame, Ars antiqua)
- c. Music faculty at Salamanca University
- 1265 Franco of Cologne, Pierre de la Croix writing motets
- 1267 R Bacon (1214-1294) on lenses & distorted images
- 1271 Marco Polo (1254-1324) journeys to China (return 1295)
- 1277 Roger Bacon imprisoned for heresy
- 1285 Adam de la Halle (1238-1287) 'Le jeu de Robin et Marion'
- 1287 Adam de la Halle (d)
- 1289 Block printing in Ravenna
- 1291 Arabs capture Acre. End of crusades
- York Minster nave erected
- 1307 Dante starts 'Divina Commedia' (ends 1321)
- 1313 German Grey Friar Berthold Schwarz reinvents gunpowder
- 1322 Pope forbids use of counterpoint in church music
- 1325 Tournai Mass - first polyphonic mass
- 1327 Aztecs establish Mexico City
- 1329 Philippe de Vitry coins 'ars nova' (v. contrapuntal style)
- 1330 Paris Musicians' Guild (Les ménestriers) formed (ends 1773)
- 1331 First record of weaving in England (York)
- 1332 Black Death (bubonic plague) originates in India
- 1348 Black death sweeps across Europe
- Order of the Garter (!)
- 1349 Black death kills 1/3 of English population
- 1351 1347-1351 Black Death kills 75,000,000
- 1354 Mechanical clock at Strasbourg Cathedral
- 1360 Lute (via Arabs) playing popular in Europe
- Beginnings of development of clavichord and cembalo
- 1361 Black Death reappears in England
- 1365 Guillaume de Machaut (1300-1377) 4-voice Mass
- 1378 Papal schism (until 1417)
- 1381 Venice wins 100-yr war with Genoa - flourishing trade
- Peasants' Revolt under Wat Tyler
- 1382 Wyclif (church reformer) expelled from Oxford by London synod
- 1384 Incorporation (Guild) of Fishmongers founded
- 1387 Chaucer (1340-1400): The Canterbury Tales

1400

- 1411 London Guildhall built (finished 1426)
- 1414 Medici of Florence bankers to papacy (until 1476)
- 1431 Jeanne d'Arc burnt at stake
- First German peasants' revolt
- 1437 fl John Dunstable (1369-1453)
- 1440 Henri Arnault de Zwolle describes technique of, but does not construct, the piano (see 1709)
- 1450 Gutenberg prints the 'Constance Mass Book'
- Battista's camera lucida (lense & prism)
- 1451 Glasgow University founded
- 1453 Turks take Constantinople, converting St Sophia Basilica into a mosque
- 1455 Venetian Cadamosto explores Sénégal river
- 1456 Turks conquer Athens (burning Acropolis in 1458)

- 1463 Turks conquer Bosnia (also Herzegovina in 1467)
 1465 First music printing
 1470 Portuguese navigators reach the Gold Coast
 1471 Jakob Obrecht: St Matthew Passion (Latin text)
 1472 Start of Portuguese Empire (Fernando Po)
 1473 Woodcut music printing (Eslingen, Germany)
 1474 William Caxton prints first book in English (at Bruges)
 1477 Torquemada (1420-1498) in full swing with the inquisition
 1483 Botticelli paints 'Birth of Venus'
 1484 Portuguese navigator Diego Cam discovers mouth of Congo river
 — Johannes de Tinctoris (1436-1511): 'De inventione et usu musicae'
 1492 Columbus's voyage to Caribbean
 — Spanish conquer Granada and extinguish Moorish kingdom in Spain
 — Turks invade Hungary
 — da Vinci draws flying machine
 1493 Pope Alexander VI divides lands found in Americas between Spain and Portugal
 — Peasants' revolt in Alsace and S W Germany
 — Turks invade Dalmatia and Croatia
 — Heinrich Isaak court composer in Bavaria
 1495 Greek and Latin classics published by Aldine Press, Venice
 — da Vinci paints 'The Last Supper'
 — Bosch paints 'The Garden of Worldly Delights'
 — Josquin des Près (1450-1521) appointed organist at Cambrai
 1498 Vasco da Gama, Portuguese navigator (1469-1524) reaches India
 1499 Oxford University institutes degrees in music

1500

- 1500 Josquin des Près at court of Louis XII
 — da Vinci's Camera Obscura
 — Petrucci's movable type music printing (Venice)
 1502 Petrucci publishes 1st Book of Masses by J d Près
 1503 da Vinci paints 'Mona Lisa'
 1505 Thomas Tallis (b)
 1506 Niccolò Machiavelli at 37 creates Florentine militia, first national army in Italy
 1509 Beginnings of slave trade; Bartolomé de las Casas, bishop of Chiapas, states that each Spanish settler should bring a certain number of Negro slaves to the New World
 1511 Portuguese reach Malacca
 — Diego de Velasquez de Cuellar occupies Cuba
 1512 Royal Navy builds double-deck ships with 70 guns, 1,000 tons
 — Copernicus states that earth and other planets turn around sun
 1513 Portuguese under Jorge Alvarez reach Canton. Spanish reach Florida
 — 1st known popular printed song published in GB: John Skelton's 'Ballade of the Scottyshe Kynges'
 1515 Spanish under Diaz de Solis reach mouth of Rio de la Plata
 1517 Luther's 95 Theses
 — Archduke Charles grants monopoly of slave trade to Flemish merchants. License to import 4,000 African slaves to Spanish American colonies granted to Lorenz de Gominot
 1518 Spanish reach Yucatán and Mexico
 1521 Luther imprisoned
 1522 Magellan sails round the world
 1524 Johann Walther (1496-1570) produces, in collaboration with Martin Luther, the hymnal 'Geystlich Gesangk-Büchleyn'
 1525 Juan Luis Vives demands state help for the poor
 1527 Adrian Willaert (1490-1562) maestro di capella at St Mark's, Venice
 1528 Erasmus: 'Ciceronianus' - satire on Latin scholarship
 — Atttaignant 1st book published
 1530 Portuguese colonise Brazil
 1531 Halley's comet arouses wave of superstition
 1533 Henry VIII excommunicated
 — Pizarro executes the Incas of Peru
 1534 Luther completes German bible
 — Jesuit order founded by Ignatius Loyola
 — Susato starts publishing in Antwerp
 1535 Jacques Cartier's second voyage: Québec et Montréal
 1536 Jean Calvin: 'Christianae religionis Institutio'
 — Pedro de Mendoza founds Buenos Aires and sends expeditions in search of Peru
 — First song book with lute accompaniment published in Spain
 1537 Gerardus Mercator produces first map of Flanders
 — Conservatoires of music founded in Naples for boys, in Venice for girls
 1539 Spain annexes Cuba
 — Olaus Magnus produces map of world
 1541 John Knox (1505-1572) leads Calvinist Reformation in Scotland
 1543 Parliament Act restricts ballad printing
 — Calvin, Geneva Psalter
 1545 Council of Trent (Concilium Tridentinum) meets to discuss Reformation and Counter Reformation (-1564)
 1546 Mercator states that earth has magnetic poles
 — Abortive attempts to find El Dorado in Venezuela
 1548 Louis Bourgeois (1510-1561): Psalter
 1549 Jesuit missionaries to South America
 — Thomé de Souza founds S<176>o Salvador (Bahía)
 1551 Palestrina made music director at St Peter's, Rome
 1555 Aztec dictionary published
 1556 Lassus publishes his first book of motets
 1557 State bankruptcy in Spain and France
 — Stationers' Guild mus print monopoly GB
 1558 English lose Calais; Elizabeth I ascends throne
 — Pieter Breughel paints 'Children's Games'
 — Gioseffo Zarlino (1517-1590): 'Istituzioni armoniche' defines modern major and minor scales
 1560 Church of Scotland founded
 — Lassus made court Kapellmeister in München
 1562 John Hawkins makes first journey to New World; starts slave trade between Guinea and West Indies
 1563 Breughel paints 'The Tower of Babel'
 1564 English Merchant Adventurers granted new royal charter
 — Scots' Psalter (Dunfermline?)
 — First of Andrea Amati's violins
 1565 Palestrina: 'Missa Papæ Marcelli'
 1572 William Byrd and Thomas Tallis organists at the Chapel Royal
 1574 Portuguese found S<176>o Paolo and colonise Angola
 1575 Paris pop. 300,000; London 180,000; Cologne 35,000
 1580 Francis Drake returns from world circumnavigation
 — Jan Pietszoon Sweelink organist at Dude Kerk, Amsterdam
 1581 'Greensleeves' mentioned for first time
 — Vincenzo Gallilei (Gallileo's Dad, 1520-1591), lutenist and scientist, engraves music examples. Publishes 'Dialogo della musica antica e della moderna'
 1583 English merchant expeditions to Mesopotamia, India and Persian Gulf
 1585 Bartholomew Newsam constructs first English travelling and standing clocks

- Thomas Tallis (b. 1505) dies
- 1588 Spanish Armada defeated. English Guinea Company founded
- 1590 First Shakespeare plays performed
 - Coal mining starts in the Ruhr
- 1592 Portuguese settle at MObasa
 - Monteverdi's 3rd Book of Madrigals
- 1593 Saint Ambrogio Bank founded in Milan
- 1594 English navigator James Lancaster breaks Portuguese trade monopoly in India
 - G P da Palestrina (b. 1525) dies
 - Orlando di Lasso dies (b. 1532)
- 1595 Dutch start colonising East Indies

- 1596 English pacification of Ireland
- 1597 Thomas Morley (1557-1603): 'A Plaine and Easie Introduction to Practicall Musick'
 - Dowland: 'First Booke of Songs'
- 1598 4th world circumnavigation by Olivier van Noort
- 1599 Shakespeare's Julius Caesar, As You Like It and Twelfth Night
- 159s Anti minstrel act from Queen Elizabeth I: they shall be 'grievously whipped and burned through the gristle of the ear with a hot iron of the compass of an inch about'. The third offence could bring 'death without benefit of clergy or privelege of sanctuary'

1600

- 1600 English East India Company founded. Amsterdam Bank founded
 - Dutch opticians invent telescope
 - Approximate populations (in millions): France 16, Germany 14.5, Poland 11, Spain 8, Hapsburg dominions 5.5, England and Ireland 5.5, Holland 3
- 1602 Dutch East India Company founded with capital of £540,000 in Batavia: first modern public company
- 1605 Santa Fé (now New Mexico) founded
 - Barbados claimed as English colony
 - English government farms all customs revenue to a London consortium for merchants for an annual rent (-1671)
- 1606 G Galilei invents proportional compass
- 1607 Jamestown landing: Virginia Company of London, granted royal charter, sent 120 colonists
 - Monteverdi's Orfeo
- 1608 O'Dogherty rebellion in Ireland fails
- 1610 Galileo Galilei's telescope
 - Parthenia printed & published
- 1614 Virginian colonists prevent French from settling Nova Scotia, Maine and Maryland
- 1615 English fleet defeat Portuguese off coast of Bombay
 - G Galileo faces Inquisition
- 1616 Sir Walter Raleigh released from tower to lead expedition in Guiana to find El Dorado. James I sells peerages to improve disastrous financial position
 - William Shakespeare dies (b. 1564)
 - Collegium musicum founded at Prague
- 1618 Thirty years war starts (ends 1648)
- 1619 First African slaves on North American continent arrive in Virginia
 - Fitzwilliam Virginal Book (see 1816)
- 1621 Michael Praetorius dies (b. 1621)
- 1623 New Netherlands (from Chesapeake Bay to Maine) formally organised as Dutch province
 - William Byrd dies (b. 1542)
- 1624 Monteverdi's II combattimento di Tancredi e Clorinda
- 1625 French occupy the Antilles and Cayenne
 - Orlando Gibbons dies (b. 1583)
- 1626 Knighthoods for all Englishmen with property over £40/yr to help royal revenue
 - Peter Minuit (director-general of Dutch West India Company's N Amer. settlement), buys the entire Island of Manhattan from Native Americans for 60 guilders' worth of goods. New Amsterdam founded
 - Professorship of music at Oxford
 - John Dowland dies
- 1628 Ignácio Loyola canonised by Gregory XV (!)
 - Pilgrim Fathers, leaving Plymouth (Devon) in the Mayflower, land at New Plymouth (Massachusetts) to found Plymouth colony
- 1629 Heinrich Schütz: Symphoniarum Sacrarum
- 1630 Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden marches his army into Germany (30 yrs war)
 - Beginning of public advertising in Paris

- 1633 Galileo forced by inquisition to abjure theories of Copernicus
- 1635 Frescobaldi's Fiori musicali di toccate (influential on J S Bach)
- 1636 Welsh Puritan Roger Williams (1603-1683) banished from Massachusetts; establishes Providence (Rhode Island); proclaims complete religious freedom
- 1637 Extermination of Christianity in Japan; prohibition of foreign books and of contact with Europeans (Portuguese, Spanish, Dutch, English)
- 1639 Académie Française compiles first dictionary of French language
- 1640 John Bull dies
- 1641 Rembrandt paints The Night Watch
- 1642 UK Civil War begins (ends 1646)
- 1643 Girolamo Frescobaldi dies (b. 1583)
- 1644 René Descartes 'Principia philosophica' (incl. 'Cogito, ergo sum')
- 1645 Schütz: Die 7 Worte Christi am Kreuz
- 1646 English Civil War ends with defeat of royalists
 - Athanasius Kircher (see 1650) constructs first later-na magica for projection purposes
 - Kircher's Ars Magna Lucis et Umbrae (Rome)
- 1648 Peace of Westphalia ends thirty years war (started 1608). German population shrinks from 17 million (1618) to 8 mill due to war, famine and plague
- 1649 Republic in England until 1660. Charles I beheaded
 - Cromwell invades Ireland, sacking Drogheda and Wexford
 - Free enterprise receives state support in England
 - Anti ballad singers Act of Parliament. Magistrates instructed to flog and imprison them at sight and to confiscate their stock
 - Cyrano de Bergerac's Voyage dans la Lune
- 1650 Beginning of Japanese 'No' drama
 - Quaker movement starts
 - Extermination of Native Americans starts
 - German mathematician and humanist Athanasius Kircher (1601-1680) completes 'Musurgia universalis', in which he describes rudiments of musical acoustics, categorises current musical styles (incl non-European) and prefigures Theory of the Affects (see 1646)
- 1651 Dutch settle Cape of Good Hope
 - John Playford starts music publishing
- 1652 John Hilton publishes 'Catch as Catch Can' (collection of rounds, etc.)
- 1653 Lully director of les petits-violins du roi
- 1655 Cromwell dissolves Parliament, prohibits Anglican services and readmits Jews into England
 - English capture Jamaica
- 1656 Thomas Tomkins dies
- 1657 Dutch scientist Christiann Huygens (1629-1695) designs pendulum clocks
- 1659 Alessandro Scarlatti born
 - Henry Purcell born

- 1660 Dutch peasant farmers (Boeren) settle in South Africa
- 1661 With Long Parliament dissolved (1660), Charles II is crowned. He gets Tangier, Bombay and £300,000 from Portugal as dowry of Catherine of Bragança (marriage 1662)
- Académie Royale de Danse founded by Louis XIV
- 1663 Danish physician Nicolaus Steno determines that the heart is a muscle
- Sir Roger L'Estrange sole ballad licenser GB. Position lasts till 1694
- 1664 British annexe New Netherlands and rename New Amsterdam (surrendered by Peter Stuyvesant) New York
- French horn (cor de chasse/Walthorn) first used as orchestral instrument
- 1665 Molière writes Don Juan
- 1666 Great fire of London: plague wiped out. First Cheddar cheese
- Stradivari labels his first violin
- 1667 Johann Kuhnau born
- 1668 British gain control of Bombay
- La Fontaine starts on Les Fables
 - Dietrich Buxtehude becomes organist of St Mary's, Lübeck
- 1669 Rembrandt van Rijn dies (b. 1606)
- Vermeer paints 'Girl at the Spinnet'
- 1670 First major British settlement in Carolina at Charles-town
- Minute hands first added to watches
- 1672 Heinrich Schütz (b. 1585) dies
- 1673 Matthew Locke: 'The Present Practice of Music Vindicated'
- 1675 Paris population 0.5 mill (1800 650,000; 1930 3 mill)
- 1677 Spinoza, Dutch-Jewish philosopher, dies
- 1678 Thomas Britton (1644-1714) introduces weekly concerts in Clerkenwell (London)
- First German opera house in Hamburg
- 1680 French organise colonial possessions from Québec down to mouth of Mississippi
- Purcell organist of Westminster Abbey
- 1681 Female professionals appear for first time in Paris Opera
- 1682 Versailles becomes royal residence
- 1683 Turks, having helped Emeric Tökölyi to become king in Hungary (after rebellion against Hapsburgs), siege Vienna
- Newton explains gravitational attraction of sun, moon and earth
- 1685 Johann Sebastian Bach, Georg Friedrich Händel, Domenico Scarlatti born
- 1686 Roman Catholics readmitted to English army
- 1687 Venetians, in war against Turks, damage the Athens Acropolis. Turks already at war with Russia
- 1688 English lords invite William of Orange to be king. William and Mary crowned 1689. Declaration of Rights
- 1689 Dido & Aeneas (Purcell)
- 1690 John Locke: An Essay Concerning Human Understanding
- English population c. 5 mill (1600 was 2.5 mill)
 - Calcutta founded by colonial administrator Job Charnock
 - French engineer Denis Papin (1647-1714) devises pump with piston, raised by steam
 - 20 000 slaves in North America. cf. 1780, 1820, 1850
- 1691 Leibniz: 'Protagæa' on geology
- 1694 Bank of England founded
- 1695 State control of mus printing lapses (GB)
- Henry Purcell (b. 1659) dies
- 1696 Johann Kuhnau (1660-1722): Frische Clavier-Früchte, oder sieben Sonaten (the sonata as piece in several contrasting movements)
- 1697 Last remains of Maya civilisation destroyed by Spanish in Yucatán
- 1698 Savery's Water Pump (see 1690)

1700

- 1701 Music publisher Henry Playford (1657-1709) establishes weekly concerts at Oxford
- 1703 Samuel Pepys (b. 1633) dies
- 1705 J S Bach walks 320 km to hear Buxtehude's Abendmusik in Lübeck
- 1706 Marlborough conquers Spanish Netherlands
- Henry Mill invents carriage springs (GB)
- 1707 Union between England and Scotland under name 'Great Britain'
- 1709 14,000 inhabitants of the Palatinate emigrate to N America (c. 100,000 Germans during C18, 5 mill during C19)
- 'Malbrouk s'en va-t-en guerre' becomes popular after battle of Malplaquet
 - First Copyright Act in Britain
 - Cristofori's gravicembalo piano e forte
- 1710 English South Sea Company founded
- 1st copyright law enacted in England
- 1711 Clarinet in opera orchestra for 1st time (J A Hasse's 'Cr<180>sus')
- English trumpeter John Shore (1662-1752) said to have invented the tuning fork
- 1712 Slave revolts in New York
- Arcangelo Corelli: 12 Concerti Grossi
 - Händel's first London opera ('Il pastor fido')
- 1715 Rising of Native Americans in S Carolina
- First Liverpool dock built
 - Vaudevilles appear in Paris as popular musical comedies
- 1716 Hapsburgs drive Turks out of Hungary (1716) and Croatia (1717)
- Couperin: L'art de toucher le clavecin
 - Marius' piano (France); Schröter's piano (Germany) (see 1709)
- 1717 School attendance made compulsory in Prussia
- Mother Grand Lodge of Freemasons established in London
 - J S Bach: Orgelbüchlein
 - Händel: Water Music
- 1718 Banknote introduced in England
- 1719 Ireland declared as inseparable from Britain
- Daniel Defoe (1661-1731): Robinson Crusoe
- 1720 South Sea Bubble
- 1721 Swiss immigrants introduce rifles into N America
- Bach: Brandenburg Concertos
 - Georg Philipp Telemann arrives in Hamburg as director of music
 - Public concerts held at Boston (MA) and Charleston (SC)
- 1722 Rameau: Traité de l'harmonie
- Bach: Das wohltempeierte Klavier, I
 - Johann Mattheson: Critica Musica
- 1723 Bach appointed Thomascantor after Telemann refuses job
- 1725 Alessandro Scarlatti (b. 1659) dies
- 1726 Jonathan Swift: Gulliver's Travels
- Voltaire flees to GB; stays until 1729
 - Lloyd's List published twice weekly
 - Händel becomes British subject
- 1728 John Gay: Beggar's Opera
- 1729 Bach: St Matthew Passion
- 1730 John and Charles Wesley form Methodist sect at Ox-

- ford
- 1732 Covent Garde Opera House opened
— J G Walther: Musik-Lexikon (first of its kind)
- 1733 Pergolesi's *La serva padrona*, opera buffa 1st performed (Naples)
- 1735 Hogarth draws 'The Rake's Progress'
- 1736 Hard rubber (caoutchouc) (India rubber) comes to England
— Musschenbrock's Magic Lantern
- 1737 Antonio Stradivari dies (b. 1644)
— John Wesley's 'Psalms and Hymns' published in Charleston
- 1738 Papal bull 'In eminenti' against freemasonry
— John Wesley's evangelical conversion
— Bach: B minor Mass
- 1739 Johann Mattheson: *Der vollkommene Kapellmeister*
- 1740 Frederick the Great introduces freedom of press and worship in Prussia
— Thomas Augustine Arne (1710-1778) writes masque 'Alfred' containing 'Rule Britannia'
- 1741 Linnæus founds botanical garden in Uppsala
— Antonio Vivaldi (b. 1675) dies
— Händel composes the Messiah in 10 days. 1st perf in Dublin 1742
— Johann Joachim Quantz becomes court composer to Frederick the Great
- 1742 Cotton factories established in Birmingham and Northampton
- 1743 East India yarns imported into Lancashire for manufacture
- 1744 *God Save the Queen* published in 'Thesaurus Musicus'. Magrival Society, London, founded
- 1745 'The Campbells are Coming' published
— Johann Stamitz (1717-1757) becomes court Kapellmeister in Mannheim
— Quadrille becomes popular dance in France
— Vauxhall Gardens in full swing
- 1746 Denis Diderot (1713-1784): *Pensées philosophiques*
— Joshua Reynolds paints 'The Eliot Family'
— Charles Edward Stuart defeated at Culloden. Wearing of tartans prohibited in Great Britain (-1782). Bagpipe ban results in 'mouth music'
- 1747 Bach: *Das musikalische Opfer* (1747); *Die Kunst der Fuge* (1749)
— Händel's 'Judas Maccabæus' at Covent Garden
- 1748 Isaac Watts (1674-1748), English hymn writer, dies
- 1749 Georgia becomes Crown Colony
— Händel: Royal Fireworks Music

1750

- 1750 Pergolesi's 'La serva padrona' 1st performed in London
— Johann Sebastian Bach (b. 1685) dies
- 1751 *La guerre des bouffons* between French and Italian music fans
— The minuet becomes Europe's fashionable dance
- 1752 Great Britain adopts Gregorian calendar on Sep 14 (Sep 3-13 omitted)
— French *Encyclopédie* starts to be published (ends 1772)
- 1753 Linnæus 'Species plantarum' after 'Philosophia botanica' (1751)
- 1754 1st iron rolling mill at Fareham (Hampshire)
- 1755 Dr Samuel Johnson starts his *Dictionary of the English Language* (ends 1773)
- 1756 Black hole of Calcutta
— Seven Year's War breaks out (Bohemia, Saxony, Prussia)
— Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart born
- 1757 Domenico Scarlatti (b. 1685) dies
- 1758 Sir Robert Clive governor of Bengal
— George Washington and John Forbes take Fort Duquesne, later renamed Pittsburgh
— Ribbing machine for manufacture of hose invented by Jedediah Strutt
— Liverpool - Leeds canal begun (finished 1761)
— First English manual on guitar playing published
- 1759 Battle of Québec: British conquer Canada
— Voltaire: *Candide*
— Georg Friedrich Händel (b. 1685) dies
- 1760 Laurence Sterne published first two volumes of *Tristram Shandy*
— Josiah Wedgwood founds pottery works at Etruria
- 1762 Jean-Jacques Rousseau: *Du contrat social, ou principes du droit politique*
— Benjamin Franklin improves the harmonica, making it into a playable musical instrument
— Diderot: 'Le neveu de Rameau'
- 1763 Voltaire: *Treatise on Tolerance*
— Louisiana becomes British
- 1764 Jean-Philippe Rameau (b. 1683) dies
- 1765 British colonies in N America start organised resistance against London in protest against Stamp Act and other taxes
— Horace Walpole: 'The Castle of Otranto' - the 1st Gothic novel?
- 1767 Rousseau: *Dictionnaire de musique*
— Georg Philipp Telemann (b. 1681) dies. Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach succeeds him as Kapellmeister in Hamburg
- 1768 Royal Academy founded under Joshua Reynolds
- 1769 Arkwright's Water Frame
— James Watt invents steam engine (perfected 1775)
- 1770 James Cook discovers Botany Bay
— Ludwig van Beethoven born
- 1771 Spain secedes Falklands to Britain
— 1st *Encyclopedia Britannica*
— Sir Richard Arkwright (1732-1792) produces first spinning mill
- 1772 Judge William Murray (1705-1793) sets precedent by ruling that a slave is free on landing in England
- 1773 Herder: 'Von deutscher Art und Kunst': manifesto of Sturm und Drang
— Boston Tea Party
— The waltz starts to become fashionable in Vienna
- 1775 American Revolution starts (ends 1783). Paul Revere's victory at Lexington. Britain hires 29,000 German mercenaries
— Justus Moser: *Patriotische Phantasien* - plea for one Germany
- 1776 US Declaration of Independence
— Charles Burney (1726-1814) completes his musical journeys having published *The Present State of Music in Germany, the Netherlands and the United Provinces* (1773)
- 1777 R B Sheridan: *The School for Scandal*
— Gainsborough paints 'The Watering Place'
— Cooperative workshop for tailors at Birmingham
- 1778 La Scala opened
- 1779 Crompton's Spinning Machine
- 1780 Serfdom abolished in Bohemia and Hungary
— 700 000 slaves in USA. cf. 1690, 1820, 1850
— Bolero said to be invented by Spanish dancer Sebastiano Carezo
- 1781 Warren Hastings deposes Rajah of Benares, plunders treasure of Nabob of Oudh
— Franciscan monks settle at Los Angeles
— Kant: *Critique of Pure Reason*
— Serfdom abolished in Austrian dominions
- 1782 Spain conquers Florida

- James Watt invents double-acting rotary steam engine
- Bank of North America established in Philadelphia
- Mozart: Die Entführung aus dem Serail
- Johann Christian ('London') Bach (b. 1735) dies
- 1783 Britain recognises independence of US
 - Montgolfier brothers ascend in fire balloon
 - John Broadwood (1732-1812) patents piano pedals
- 1784 Scottish millwright Andrew Meikle (1719-1811) invents threshing machine
 - Serfdom abolished in Denmark
- 1785 Steam engine with rotary motion installed at cotton-spinning mill in Papplewick (Notts)
- 1786 Robert Burns: Poems chiefly in the Scottish dialect start Burns vogue
 - Mozart: Marriage of Figaro (Vienna)
- 1787 British settlement for freed slaves in Sierra Leone
 - Mozart: Don Giovanni (Prague)
 - Christoph Willibald Gluck (b 1714) dies
- 1788 Bread riots in France
 - Mozart: Symphonies 39-41
 - Carl Philipp Emmanuel Bach dies (d)
- 1789 George Washington 1st US president
 - 1st steam-driven cotton mill in Manchester
 - French Revolution
- 1790 First steam-powered rolling mill built in England
 - Adam Smith, Scottish political economist (b 1723) dies (do the Tories know this?)
 - Mozart: Cos<141> fan tutte (Vienna)
- Guitar stringing & tuning fixed at E, A, D, G, B, E
- 1791 Wilberforce's motion for abolition of slave trade carried through Parliament
 - The waltz becomes fashionable in England
 - Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (b. 1756) dies soon after perf of Die Zauberflöte
- 1792 Denmark abolishes slave trade (1st to do so)
 - Mary Wollstonecraft: Vindication of the Rights of Women
 - Illuminating gas used for 1st time in Britain
 - C J Rouget de Lisle: La Marseillaise
- 1793 Compulsory school in France from 6 yrs
 - US law compels escaped slaves to return to their owners
- 1794 Commune de Paris abolished, Robespierre executed
 - First telegraph: Paris - Lille
 - Slavery abolished in French colonies. École Normale and École Polytechnique (world's first technical college) open
 - Auld Lang Syne (Burns, 1781) published
- 1795 Haydn's London Symphonies
 - Paris Conservatoire founded
- 1796 Over next 20 years (see 1815) Napoléon's army roam more or less constantly through Europe from Portugal to Moscow and Damascus, from Prussia to Italy
- 1797 Wackenroder & Tieck: Outpourings of a Monk - romantic religious essays
 - England starts exporting iron
 - Lithogr mus printing - Germany
- 1798 French capture Malta, most of Italy and the Rhineland
 - Wordsworth and Coleridge: Lyrical Ballads
 - Irish rebellion suppressed
- 1799 Haydn: Creation

1800

- 1800 London pop. 1m (1900: 4.5m)
 - Population USA 5.3 mill (cf 1840): 80% Brit, 10% Afr, 10% other
 - The Wounded Hussar (Hewitt, US)
- 1801 Populations - Paris: 550,000 (2.8 mill 1931); New York 60,000 (7.4 mill 1931)
 - Bank of France founded
 - Haydn: The Seasons
- 1802 J N Forkel (1749-1818): The Life of J S Bach
 - (c 1802) E T A Hoffmann (1776-1822) writes for Allgemeine musikalische Zeitung (Leipzig), esp about Mozart & Beethoven. 'Classical' and 'romantic' approx same thing. Influential on Schumann and Wagner
- 1803 Louisiana Purchase
 - Robert Fulton propels a boat by steam power
 - Henry Shrapnel (1761-1842) invents shell
- 1804 Napoléon crowned Emperor
 - Trevithick's steam locomotive
 - Immanuel Kant (b 1724) dies
 - Beethoven: Symphony N°3 (Eroica)
- 1805 Rockets are introduced as weapons in British army
 - Beethoven: Fidelio (Vienna)
- 1806 Napoleon's Berlin Decree closes European ports to British vessels
 - British cotton industry employs 90,000 factory workers and 184,000 handloom weavers
 - Population of Germany 27 mill (65 mill in 1930)
- 1807 Britain prohibits slave trade
 - Turner paints 'Sun Rising in a Mist'
- 1808 USA prohibits importation of slaves from Africa
 - Thomas Moore's 'Irish Melodies' 1st ed
 - Beethoven: Symphonies N° 5 and 6
- 1809 Ecuador gains independence from Spain
 - Franz Josef Haydn (b. 1732) dies
 - Broadwood grand pianos
- 1810 Napoléon at zenith: has Italy, Austria, Spain, confiscates British goods in Europe (Decree of Fontainebleau), sells seized US ships, annexes Hannover, Bremen, Hamburg, Lauenburg, Lübeck
 - Venezuela breaks away from Spain
 - Mme de Staël: De l'Allemagne
 - Durham coal miners' strike
 - US population 7.3 million
 - Breitkopf & Härtel Leipzig start publish
 - US industry production \$2m (\$2bn 1860)
- 1811 Prague Conservatoire opened
 - Luddites destroy machinery in N England
 - Krup starts production in Essen
- 1812 USA declares war on Britain
 - Duke of Wellington enters Madrid
 - Grimm's Fairy Tales published
 - Lord Byron: Childe Harold's Pilgrimage
 - Henry Bell runs steamship 'Comet' (25 tons) on Clyde
 - French army retreat from Moscow (20,000 of 55,000 survive Russian campaign)
 - Charles Dickens (b)
- 1813 Jane Austen: Pride & Prejudice
 - Mexico proclaims independence
 - London Philharmonic Society founded
- 1814 Parts of Westminster illuminated by gas
 - George Stephenson runs 1st practical steam locomotive at Killingworth Colliery (Newcastle)
 - Schubert's production of 700 Lieder begins (ends 1828)
 - T J Dibdin, prolific musician and dramatist (b. 1771) dies (UK)
- 1815 John Macadam makes roads of crushed stone
 - First steam warship: U.S.S. Fulton (38 tons)
 - Vienna Congress and Battle of Waterloo
 - Restauration of French Monarchy
- 1816 Postwar economic crisis in Britain causes mass emigration to US and Canada
 - Argentina independent of Spain
 - Samuel Taylor Coleridge's 'Kubla Khan' published

- (written 1797)
- The Elgin Marbles bought for The British Museum
- Viscount Fitzwilliam (b. 1745) bequeaths Virginal Book to Cambridge University (see 1619)
- Rossini: *Barbiere di Siviglia* (Rome)
- 1817 John Constable (1776-1837) paints 'Flatford Mill'
- Riots in Derbyshire against low wages
- 1818 Chile declares itself independent
- Internal customs in Prussia abolished
- Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley: *Frankenstein*
- 1819 British East India Company settlement in Singapore
- The Peterloo Massacre (Manchester)
- USA purchase Florida from Spain; Alabama joins the Union
- Simon Bolivar becomes President of independent Colombia
- Maximum 12-hr day for juveniles in England
- Beethoven goes deaf
- 1820 Sir Walter Scott: *Ivanhoe*
- Pushkin: *Ruslan & Ludmilla*
- 1.5 mill slaves in USA (cf. 1690, 1780, 1850)
- German immigration increase until 1850 in USA
- (Georg Wilhelm) Friedrich Hegel (1770-1831) doing lots of philosophy, e.g. 'Vorlesungen über Ästhetik'
- 1821 Venezuela definitively independent. Peru, Guatemala, Panama proclaimed independent
- Constable paints 'The Hay Wain'
- Sir Charles Wheatstone (1802-1875) demonstrates sound reproduction
- London Cooperative Society founded
- Populations (mill): France 30.4; Britain 20.8; Italy 18; Austria 12; Germany 26; USA 9.6
- Ch M von Weber (1786-1826): 'Der Freischütz' (Berlin)
- Factory production of harmonicas by Buschmann (Germany)
- 1822 Brazil totally independent of Portugal
- E T A Hoffmann, German romanticist (b. 1776) dies
- Royal Academy of Music founded in London
- 1st accordion Buschmann (Germany)
- 1823 Monroe Doctrine (closes American continent to settlement by European powers)
- Claude-Henri de Saint-Simon (d. 1825): 'Catéchisme des industriels'
- Charles Macintosh invents waterproof fabric
- Henry Bishop writes 'Home Sweet Home'
- 1824 National Gallery founded in London
- Beethoven: *Symphony N°9* (Vienna 1824, London 1825)
- 1825 Pushkin: *Boris Godunov*; Esaias Tegnér: *Frithjofs Saga*
- Faraday isolates benzene
- Stockton-Darlington railway (1st to carry passengers)
- Rossini: *Barber of Seville* 1st perf USA
- The Minstrel's Return'd (USA)
- Babcock cast iron piano frames (USA)
- 1826 James Fenimore Cooper: 'The Last of the Mohicans'
- Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy: *Overture to 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'*
- 1st railway tunnel, on Liverpool-Manchester line
- 1827 Ohm's Law (electrical current potential and resistance)
- Schubert: *Die Winterreise* (lyrics by Wilhelm Müller)
- Ludwig van Beethoven (b. 1770) dies
- 1828 Thomas Arnold (1795-1842) headmaster of Rugby
- Working Men's Party founded in New York
- Maria Marten broadside sells 1 mill copies in GB
- Adolf Bernhard Marx (1795-1866): 'Über Malerei und Tonkunst'
- Franz Schubert (b. 1797) dies
- 1829 Bach's *Matthew Passion* revived by Mendelssohn at Berlin Singakademie, 100 yrs after 1st perf in Leipzig, Good Friday 1729
- John Henry (US physicist) constructs an electromagnetic motor
- George Stephenson's (1781-1848) engine 'The Rocket'
- Rossini: 'William Tell' (Paris Opera)
- Daguerre's Daguerreotypes
- 1830 France captures Algeria
- Stendahl: 'Le rouge et le noir'
- Mendelssohn: 'Songs Without Words' and 'Hebrides'
- Stroboscopes (magic discs)
- 1831 Charles Darwin starts expedition
- Cholera pandemic starts India 1826, spreads via Russia and Europe to Scotland in 1832
- German emigration to US c 15,000 (in 1841 c. 43,000)
- Population: GB 13.9 mill; US 12.8 mill
- Bellini: 'La Sonnambula' and 'Norma' (Milan)
- 1832 Mass demonstrations at Hambach in favour of liberal and national cause
- Goethe's 'Faust' part II published posthumously
- Manufacture of friction matches well established in Europe
- Blaina works brass band (Wales)
- Hector Berlioz (1803-1869): 'Symphonie Fantastique' (revised version)
- 1833 Abolition of slavery in British Empire
- All German states join the Customs Union (Zollverein)
- 1834 Spanish Inquisition (begun C13) finally suppressed
- Victor Hugo's 'Hunchback of Notre Dame' is a best-seller
- Cyrus Hall invents reaping machine (USA)
- Schubert & Weber 1st publ in USA
- 1835 Expression 'L'art pour l'art', coined by Fr philosopher Victor Cousin (1792-1867) in general use
- *Sonnambula* 1st perf USA
- Donizetti: 'Lucia di Lammermoor' (Naples)
- 1836 Texas wins independence from Mexico
- The People's Charter initiates 1st working-class mvt in GB; Chartism demands universal suffrage and vote by ballot
- John Ericsson (1803-1889) patents screw propeller
- Boers start The Great Trek away from Brit rule in Cape to found Natal, Transvaal, Orange Free State
- Colt's pistol (for praries!)
- 1837 Woodman Spare That Tree
- 1838 Queen Victoria crowned
- Charles Dickens: 'Oliver Twist' and 'Nicholas Nickleby' are bestsellers
- 1000-ton steamers start plying Atlantic GB-USA
- Holman Hunt, Millais and D G Rossetti found Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood
- Jenny Lind's début in Stockholm in Weber's *Freischütz*
- Prussian army band reorganised
- Morse's telegraph patent. Covers also digital recording
- 1839 Kirkpatrick Macmillan invents bicycle
- US inventor Charles Goodyear (1800-1860) invents vulcanisation, enabling commercial use of rubber
- Cunard Line starts
- 1840 Nelson's Column erected, commemorating Trafalgar (1805)
- Transport of criminals from England to Australia (Van Diemen's Land / Botany Bay / New South Wales) ends
- 4500 km railway in USA, 2130 in GB
- More than 50% of US immigrants until 1890 are from British Isles (cf 1800)
- Nicolo Paganini (b. 1782) dies
- Swabian Max Schneckenburger writes 'Wacht am Rhein'

- 1841 British sovereignty proclaimed over Hong Kong
 — New Zealand becomes British colony
 — Edgar Allan Poe's 'Murders in the Rue Morgue', his 1st detective story published as serial
 — Populations in mill: GB 18.5; US 17; Ireland 8
- 1842 Riots and strikes in industrial N England
 — Orange Free State set up by Boers
 — Child labour in mines prohibited (GB)
 — Glinka: 'Russlan & Ludmilla' (St Petersburg)
 — New York Philharmonic Society founded
 — The polka (Czech origin) becomes fashionable
- 1843 Tennyson: Morte d'Arthur
 — Virginia Minstrels under Dan Decatur Emmett (1815-1904) produce 1st minstrel show
 — M W Balfe: 'The Bohemian Girl' (London, Drury Lane)
 — Wagner: Der fliegend Holländer' (Dresden)
- 1844 1st public bath and wash houses opened in Liverpool
 — Rochdale Society of Equitable Pioneers founded (beginning of modern cooperative mvt)
- 1845 Texas and Florida join the USA
 — Friedrich Engels: 'The Condition of the Working Class in England'
 — Magdeburg Gessner accordions
- 1846 Potato famine in Ireland
 — US defeats Mexicans at Paolo Alto, enter Santa Fé and annexe New Mexico territories. Spanish-Mexican War starts (end 1848)
 — Berlioz: 'Damnation de Faust'
 — Electric arc lighting at the Opéra in Paris
 — Mendelssohn: 'Elijah' (Birmingham)
 — Adolphe Sax patents saxophone (invented 1841)
- 1847 Factory Act (UK) - 10 hrs/day women and children
 — USA capture Mexico City
 — Siemens electrical firm founded
 — Froment invents electric motor
 — Christy Minstrels
 — Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901): 'Macbeth' (Florence)
 — Felix Mendelssohn-Batholdy (b. 1809) dies
- 1848 Charlotte Brontë: 'Jane Eyre'; Emily Brontë: 'Wuthering Heights'
 — Serfdom abolished in Austria
 — First Californian gold rush
 — Communist Manifesto
 — Revolutions (1848-9) in Vienna, Prague, Berlin, Dresden, Paris. Wagner (in Dresden) has to flee to Zürich
 — Second Republic in France
 — "Austrians Out Of Italy!" but Radetzky beats Victor Emanuel
 — Aldeutsch Reichstag
 — Johann Strauss, Snr. (1804-1849): 'Radetsky March'
- 1849 Britain annexes the Punjab
 — Dickens: 'David Copperfield'
 — Broadside about the execution of James Bloomfield
 — Rush reportedly sold 2.5 million copies in the UK
 — Frédéric Chopin (b. 1810) dies

1850

- 1850 California becomes US state
 — Cuba declares its independence
 — 7 mill slaves and 0.3 mill slave owners in USA (cf. 1820)
 — Ferenc (Franz) Liszt: 'Mazeppa'
 — Bachgesellschaft founded
 — Jenny Lind tours USA
 — Wagner: 'Lohengrin' (Weimar)
 — Chappell starts music publishing (GB)
 — Francis Day & Hunter mus publish (GB)
- 1851 Isaac Singer invents the continuous stitch sewing machine
 — Populations in mill: China 430; Germany 34; France 33; GB 20.8; USA 23
 — Stephen Collins Foster (1826-1864) publishes 'Old Folks At Home'. Sells 20 mill copies by end of 1855
 — SACEM starts (France)
 — Verdi: 'Rigoletto' (Venice)
- 1852 David Livingstone explores Zambesi (-1856)
 — Second Empire in France
 — Stroboscopes with photos
- 1853 Crimean War starts (ends 1856)
 — Verdi: 'Il trovatore' (Rome) and 'La traviata' (Venice)
 — Wagner completes text of 'Der Ring'
 — Japanese still have no word for 'music' - adopt 'on-gaku'
- 1855 London sewers modernised after outbreak of cholera. Florence Nightingale (1820-1910) introduces hygienic standards into military hospitals
- 1856 Gastave Flaubert: 'Madame Bovary'
 — Wagner: 'Die Walküre'
 — Robert Schumann (b. 1810) dies
- 1857 Hallé Orchestra founded
 — The Indian Mutiny
 — Hohner mass produce harmonicas
 — Leon Scott develops phonoautograph (France)
- 1858 Jacques Offenbach (1819-1880): 'Orphée aux enfers' (Paris)
- 1859 Charles Darwin: 'On the Origin of the Species by Natural Selection'
 — Dan Emmett: 'Dixie's Land'
 — Wagner: 'Tristan & Isolde'
- 1860 Since 1850 424,000 British and 914,000 Irish emigrants to USA
 — Industrial production. USA \$2 bill (\$2 mill 1810); GB \$3 bill
 — 45,000 km rail in USA (cf 1880, 1930)
 — Franz von Suppé: 'Das Pensionat', 1st Viennese operetta
- 1861 Charles Dickens: 'Great Expectations'; George Eliot: 'Silas Marner'
 — Krupp starts arms production at Essen
 — Populations (mill): Russia 76; USA 32; GB 23; Italy 25
 — Civil War starts (USA) (ends 1865)
 — Garibaldi's troops win war of Italian Unification ('Victor Emmanuele Ré D'Italia' = 'VERDI')
- 1862 Victor Hugo: 'Les misérables'
 — Electric generators in production
 — Ludwig Köchel's catalogue of Mozart's works
 — Czermak photographs vocal chords (Austria)
- 1863 French capture Mexico City and proclaim Archduke Maximilian of Austria emperor
- 1864 Massacre of Cheyenne and Arapaho Indians at Sand Creek (Colorado)
 — Syllabus Errorum issued by Pius IX, condemning liberalism, socialism and rationalism
 — Pasteur invents pasteurisation (for wine)
 — First Internationale founded by Karl Marx (London & New York)
- 1865 Lewis Carroll (C L Dodgson, 1832-1898): 'Alice in Wonderland'
 — Nottingham pawnbroker William Booth (1829-1912) moves to London to organise the Christian Revival Association, renamed (1878) The Salvation Army
 — Civil War (USA) ends (started 1861). Lincoln assassinated. 13th ammendment abolishes slavery
 — Droit moral: composer as author in Fr law

- 1866 First transatlantic cable
- Wars between Prussia, Austria and Italy. Prussia invades and/or annexes Saxony, Hannover, Hessen, Nassau, Frankfurt and Schleswig-Holstein. Venice joins Italy
 - Dostoevsky: 'Crime and Punishment'
 - Alfred Nobel invents dynamite
 - 'Black Friday' on London Stock Exchange
 - Offenbach: 'La vie parisienne'
 - Bedrich Smetana (1824-1884): 'Prodaná Nevestá' (=Bartered Bride)
- 1867 South African diamond field discovered
- Neue Zollverein (Prussia and North German Confederation)
 - Johann Strauss, Jr: 'Blue Danube Waltz'
 - Moussorgsky (1839-1881) finishes 'Night on a Bare Mountain'
- 1868 Johannes Brahms (1833-1897): 'Ein deutsches Requiem'
- Wagner: 'Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg'
 - Edvard Grieg (1843-1907): Piano Concerto N°1 in A min, Op.16
 - Gioacchino Rossini (b. 1792) dies
- 1869 Suez Canal completed
- Tolstoi completes 'War and Peace' (started 1864)
 - Suez Canal
 - Modest Moussorgsky (1839-1881) completes 'Boris Godunov'
 - Hector Berlioz (b. 1803) dies
 - Claribel (Charlotte Allington Barnard, b. 1830) dies
- 1870 Franco-Prussian War started by France (see 1871)
- Jules Verne: '20,000 Leagues Under the Sea'
 - First Vatican Council promulgates dogma of papal infallibility
 - John D Rockefeller (1839-1937) founds Standard Oil Company
 - Hoecht start massproduction
 - Suffragettes organised (cf. 1928)
 - Bismarck's 'Ems' telegram
 - Charles Dickens (d)
 - Tchaikovsky: 'Romeo and Juliet' overture
- 1871 German unity after victory in Franco-Prussian war. Wilhelm I proclaimed German Emperor at Versailles, Paris capitulates, France cedes Alsace-Lorraine. Paris Commune lasts 2 months
- Stanley, having butchered hundreds of thousands of Africans on his way up the Congo, says 'Dr Livingstone, I presume' at Ujiji and is later knighted by Queen Victoria. The British Empire later becomes a model of racial supremacy for Hitler in 'Mein Kampf'
 - Simon Ingersoll invents pneumatic rock drill (US)
 - Charles Darwin: 'The Descent of Man'
 - Berlin population 300,000 (1914 2 mill)
 - Verdi: Aida (Cairo)
 - Pottier and Pierre Degeyter, two workers, compose 'L'Internationale'
- 1872 Claude Monet doing impressionism
- 1874 Britain annexes Fiji
- Moussorgsky's 'Boris Godunov' completed (begun 1868)
 - Johann Strauss, Jr: 'Die Fledermaus'

1875

- 1875 Bosnia, Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Bulgaria fight to repel Turks (-1878)
- Mark Twain: 'The Adventures of Tom Sawyer'
 - London's main sewerage system completed
 - Size of European armies: Russia 3,360,000; Germany 2,800,000; France 412,000; BG 113,000
 - Georges Bizet (1838-1875): 'Carmen', dies
 - Smetana: Vltava / Má Vlast
 - Gilbert & Sullivan: 'Trial by Jury'
 - Tchaikovsky: Piano Concerto N°1 (Boston)
- 1876 Alexander Graham Bell invents telephone
- Internal combustion engine
 - Pianola first demonstrated at the Philadelphia Exhibition, USA
 - Thomas P Westendorf: 'I'll Take You Home Kathleen'
 - Bayreuth Festspielhaus opens with first complete performance of Wagner's 'Ring des Niebelungen'
- 1877 Queen Victoria proclaimed Empress of India
- First public telephones (USA)
 - Edison invents phonograph. Cylinder wrapped in tin foil, operated by a hand crank
 - Charles Cros designs talking machine (France)
- 1878 Turks pushed back to Adrianople (Edirne). Berlin Treaty checks Russian advances
- Karl Benz builds motorised tricycle
 - Electric street lighting introduced in London
 - Paris World Exhibition
 - Christian Revival Association (see 1865) renamed The Salvation Army
 - Edison invents light bulb
 - Booth starts Salvation Army
 - Edison takes out patent on phonograph
- 1879 Ibsen: 'A Doll's House'
- Henrik Ibsen: 'Ett Dukkehjem' (=A Doll's House)
 - Albert Einstein (b)
 - Jules Levy, on cornet, made first-known musical recording (of 'Yankee Doodle')
 - Bell laboratories - magnetic tape (USA). Experiments for a short time
 - My maternal grandmother born (so is Joseph Stalin, cf. 1953)
- 1880 France annexes Tahiti
- Rodin: 'Le penseur'
 - 135,000 km rail in USA (1860 45,000)
 - Maxim invents machine gun (GB)
 - Alexander Porfiriyovich Borodin (1833-1887) 'On the Steppes of Central Asia'
 - Jacques Offenbach (b. 1819) dies. (His 'Périchole' 1st performed same yr)
 - A G Bell sketches stereo (cf 1931, 1955)
- 1881 University College Liverpool founded
- Populations (mill): London 3.3; New York 1.2; Berlin 1.1; Vienna 1.0; Tokyo 0.8; St Petersburg 0.6
 - UK Music Publishers' Association founded
 - Béla Bartók born (d. 1945)
 - Modest Moussorgsky (b. 1839) dies
- 1882 British occupy Cairo
- Robert Louis Stevenson: 'Treasure Island'
 - Wagner: 'Parsifal'
 - Italian music copyright organisation founded
 - Igor Stravinsky born
- 1883 Royal College of Music founded (London)
- Metropolitan Opera House opened (New York)
 - Richard Wagner (b. 1813) dies
- 1884 Germans occupy South-West Africa
- Mark Twain: 'Huckleberry Finn'
 - J.L. Molloy's 'Love's Old Sweet Song'
 - Sound put on to film by Bell (Photophone)
 - George Eastman's 1st Kodak camera
 - Bedrich Smetana (b. 1824) dies
- 1885 The Congo becomes personal possession of Belgian King Leopold II
- Germany annexes Tanganyika and Zanzibar
 - Karl Marx: 'Das Kapitel', vol 2 (posth.)
 - César Franck (1822-1890) 'Symphonic Variations'
 - George Eastman manufactures coated photographic paper

- 1886 Statue of Liberty dedicated
- R L Stevenson: Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde
 - Berne Convention (copyright)
 - Wax cylinder graphophone (USA). Chichester Bell and Charles Tainton
 - Ferenc (Franz) Liszt (b. 1811) dies
- 1887 Arthur Conan Doyle: 'A Study in Scarlet', 1st Sherlock Holmes story
- American Music Publishers' Association founded in USA
 - Rimsky-Korsakov: 'Capriccio Espagnol'
 - Verdi: 'Otello' (Milan)
 - Edison and Swan combine to produce Ediswan electrical lamps
 - American Graphophone Company founded. Bridgeport, Connecticut
 - Alexander Porfiriyovich Borodin (b. 1833) dies
- 1888 George Eastman perfects 'Kodak' box camera
- Vincent van Gogh (1853-1890): 'The Yellow Chair'
 - Gilbert & Sullivan: 'Yeomen of the Guard'
 - Emile Berliner's flat zinc disc grammophone
 - 1st recording by popular pianist. Josef Hoffman (aged 12) at Edison laboratories
 - Max Steiner born (d. 1971)
- 1889 Cecil Rhodes' British South Africa Company granted royal charter
- London Dock Strike
 - Edison's Cinematograph
 - Jessie Walter Fewkes records Zuni and Passamaquoddy 'Indians' in USA

1890

- 189+ US invade Central America
- US occupy Puerto Rico, Hawaii &c
- 1890 Sherman Act (Esso, Carnegie)
- More than 50% of US immigrants Slavonic, Mediterranean (cf. 1800, 1840)
 - German anti-trust laws
 - Britain exchanges Heligoland with Germany from Zanzibar and Pemba
 - Ibsen: 'Hedda Gabler'
 - First moving picture shows appear in New York
 - Edvard Grieg (1843-1907): 'Per Gynt'
 - Borodin's 'Prince Igor' performed (posth.)
 - 1st coin-in-the-slot photographs in use
- 1891 The Phonogram starts monthly publication (New York)
- Edison's Kinetoscope
- 1892 Coca Cola stops marketing itself as a medicine and is advertised as a soft drink
- Munch: 'The Scream'
 - Charles K Harris's 'After The Ball' sells 1 mill units in a year. Earns \$25,000 a week as sheet music
 - 'Daisy Bell' ('Bicycle made for 2') by Harry Dacre v pop as sung by Katie Lawrence
 - Music hall star Lottie Collins sings 'Ta-ra-ra Boom-de-ay' (no authors credited on sheet music)
- 1893 Karl Benz and Henry Ford each build (independently) a 4-wheel car
- Engelbert Humperdinck: 'Hänsel und Gretel' (Weimar)
 - Pyotr Ilich Tchaikovsky (b. 1840) dies
- 1894 US industry \$10 mill; GB \$4.3 mill
- Dreyfus affair
 - Uganda made British protectorate
 - Jean Sibelius (1865-1957): Finlandia
 - Billboard 1st published
 - Emil Berliner's grammophone in USA
 - 1st gramm records in USA. Hard rubber plates
 - Dimitri Tiomkin born (d. 1979)
- 1895 Japan invades Korea, Manchuria, &c
- Auguste and Louis Lumière invent a motion picture camera
 - Röntgen discovers X-rays
 - Sigmund Freud: 'Studien über Hysterie'
 - Music Publishers' Association of the United States founded
 - Kalevala (Sibelius)
 - 1st complete ballet performance of Tchaikovsky's 'Swan Lake' (St Petersburg)
 - Richard Strauss: 'Till Eulenspiegel's Merry Pranks' (Cologne)
 - Lumière: 1° cinema film on screen (Paris)
- 1896 'Kentucky Babe' (music by Adam Geibel) is hit as sung by Isadore Rush
- Richard Strauss (1864-1949): 'Also sprach Zarathustra'
 - Giacomo Puccini (1858-1924): 'La Bohème' (Torino)
 - Marconi invents radio
 - Clockwork-driven grammophone invented
 - Béla Vikár records 'folk' music in Hungary
- 1897 March and Schottische 'A Hot Time In The Old Town' by Theo A Metz
- Austrian music copyright organisation
 - Voltey pianola Aeolian Co USA
 - 1° patent electr-mech sync film-record (F)
 - Eugeniya Lineva records polyphonic 'folk' music in European Russia
 - Johannes Brahms (b. 1833) dies
 - Gustav Mahler becomes conductor of Vienna Opera
- 1898 Spanish-American War
- Émile Zola: 'J'accuse' (see Dreyfus case, 1894)
 - First coin-operated piano successfully marketed by the Wurlitzer Company of Cincinnati, Ohio, USA
 - Johann Strauss Jr (1825-1899): 'Wienerblut'
 - Shellac used in mass prod of 78s (USA)
 - HMV & DGG start mass production
 - Valdemar Poulsen's wire 'tape' recorder (DK)
 - Elridge Johnson patents long-horn amplifier. USA
- 1899 Boer War (ends 1900)
- Deutsche Grammophon A.G. founded in Berlin. Later with sub-branches in Russia and Austria
 - Compagnie française du gramophone founded. Paris, later subsidiary in Spain
 - The 'Aeriola' (self-playing piano) marketed by William Tremaine's Aeolian Organ Company, USA
 - Alfvén: Symphony n°2 in D
 - Edward Elgar (1857-1934): 'Enigma Variations'
 - 1st record-pressing factory (Hannover, D). Gaisberg and Sanders
 - Johann Strauss, Jr. (b. 1825) dies

1900

- 1900 London population 4.5 mill (1800: 1 mill, 1960 8 mill)
- Friedrich Nietzsche dies
 - Freud: 'The Interpretation of Dreams'
 - Strindberg: 'The Dance of Death', 'To Damascus' (1900); 'A Dream Play' (1901)
 - Bloomingdale's Gramophone Department (NYC).
 - 1st record section in a department store
 - Harry von Tilzer: 'A Bird in a Gilded Cage'
 - 20 mill exx mus sold in UK: 40,000 new titles
 - Henry Russell (b. 1812) dies
 - Puccini: 'Tosca' (Rome)
 - Carbon microphones for telephone
 - 2 mill pianos in GB

- Paris Exhibition Phono - Cinéma - Théâtre
- Poulsen patents magnetic recorder in USA
- Arthur S Sullivan (b. 1842) dies
- 1901 Queen Victoria dies
- Oil drilling begins in Persia
- Victor Talking Machine Company founded (US). Johnson and Berliner
- Enrico Caruso records in Milano. UK owned Gramophone Company
- Ragtime becoming popular
- First black artist to go on to have a successful career, Bert Williams, contracted to the Victor Talking Machine Company, USA
- Giuseppe Verdi (b. 1813) dies
- 1902 USA acquires perpetual control over Panama Canal
- Russian Imperial Opera available on record (Victor's Red Seal label)
- African 'folk' music first recorded?
- Elgar composes first 'Pomp and Circumstance' marches
- Meester's Biophon elec-mech (Germany)
- Léon Gaumont - le portrait parlant
- 1903 British complete conquest of Nigeria
- Henry Ford with a capital of \$100,000 founds the Ford Motor Company
- Universities of Liverpool and Manchester founded
- 1,000,000 pirate music copies found in GB
- GEMA founded
- US film 'The Great Train Robbery': 12 mins, longest to date
- Sweet Adeline
- Caruso recording sells 1m copies. 'Vesti la giubba' (=On with the motley) for Victor Records in USA
- 1st electromechanical recorder patented
- 1st 'unbreakable' discs produced. Shellac-covered cardboard
- 1904 1 million cylinder- and recorded disc players in USA
- Wireless Telegraphy Act (UK). Puts radio under state control
- Puccini: 'Madame Butterfly' (Milan)
- 1st experim. with electro-chemical recording
- Antonín Dvořák (b.) dies
- 1905 Norway separates from Sweden
- First regular cinema established in Pittsburgh
- Franz Léhar: 'The Merry Widow' (Vienna)
- 1906 US troops occupy Cuba
- Populations (in mill): London 4.5; New York 4; Paris 2.7; Berlin 2; Tokyo 1.9; Vienna 1.3
- Percy Grainger first to record English 'folk' singers on phonograph in Lincolnshire
- Gabel's Automatic Entertainer (Juke Box)
- Victor Victrola cabinet gramophone. Cost \$200 and had enclosed horn
- 1907 Slow motion effect invented by August Musger (film 'Skating')
- First 'Ziegfeld Follies' staged in New York
- Lauste patents Photographic Phonograph
- Busoni: 'Sketch for a new aesthetic of music' (essay)
- Edvard Hagerup Grieg (b. 1843) dies
- 1908 L H Bakeland (USA) invents Bakelite
- 'L'Assassinat du Duc de Guise' (mus: Saint-Saëns)
- Automatic phonograph, using discs and coin-in-the-slot, introduced in USA
- Bartók: 1st string quartet
- Double sided discs become the norm
- Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov (b.) dies
- 1909 F T Marinetti produces 1st futurist manifesto
- US copyright law extended to include music
- 27.5 million cylinders and discs produced in USA
- Anton von Webern (1883-1945): 'Fünf Sätze für Streichquartett' Op.5
- Schönberg: 'Erwartung' op 17

1910

- 1910 First dance marathoin organised by Sid Graumann of Graumann's Chinese Theatre, Hollywood
- 'Laughing Song' sells 1m copies. Written by black artist George Washington Johnson, recorded by English comedian Burt Shephard
- The tango gains immense popularity in Europe & USA
- 1911 Irving Berlin: 'Alexander's Ragtime Band'
- Scott Joplin (1868-1917): 'Treemonisha'
- Mahler: 'Lied von der Erde'
- R Strauss: 'Der Rosenkavalier'
- Stravinsky: 'Pétrouchka'
- Gustav Mahler (b.) dies
- 1912 British coal strike, London dock strike, transport workers' strike
- Sinking of the Titanic
- 'After the Ball' (see 1892) reaches 10 mill sales. Sheet music lyrics translated into many languages
- London has 400 cinemas. In USA c. 5 mill people visit cinemas daily
- Schönberg: 'Pierrot Lunaire' op 21
- Edison's diamond disc phonograph in USA
- Cylinder recordings virtually obsolete
- 1913 Henry Ford pioneers new assembly line techniques in car factory
- Stravinsky: 'Rite of Spring'
- Eduardo Arolas: 'El Choclo' recorded in Argentina
- Dance craze sweeps USA (I & V Castle)
- My father (d. 1988) born
- 1914 First World War starts
- Almost 10.5 mill immigrants entered USA from southern and eastern Europe in period 1905-1914
- US Marines invade Mexico
- Performing Rights Society founded
- ASCAP founded
- My mother (d. 1989) born
- 1915 Einstein's Theory of Relativity
- Henry Ford develops a farm tractor
- 'Carry Me Back To Old Virginny' 1 mill rec sales. Written by black artist James A Bland, sung by Alma Gluck (soprano) with male chorus and orchestra. Is this the 1st million-seller by a female singer?
- 1st US full-length feature film: 'Birth of a Nation' (D W Griffiths, Breil)
- 1916 Dada mvt founded in Zürich
- Ottorino Respighi (1879-1936): 'I pini di Roma'
- George O'Connor, a white Washington attorney, allegedly records first-known blues record
- 1917 USA joins First World War
- October revolution
- C G Jung 'Psychology of the Unconscious'
- Chaplin's yearly salary \$1 mill
- Music Publishers' Protective Association formed in USA
- Bartók: String Quartet NŸ2
- 1st jazz recordings in NYC. 'Indiana' b/w 'The Dark Town Strutters Ball' by the ODJB. Not the first 'jazz' record to be released
- New Orleans' Storyville closed down
- 1918 First World War ends. Military casualties: 8.5 mill killed, 21 mill wounded, 7.5 prisoners and missing. Forces mobilised 63 mill. Daily war expenditure (all belligerents) \$164.5. US pays \$179 mill in war pension to 646,000 pensioners. In 1919 Belgian war damage estimated @ \$7,600,000,000
- Women over 30 get vote in Britain

- US Post Office burns installments of James Joyce's 'Ulysses' publ in 'Little Review'
- Music Industries' Chamber of Commerce formed in USA
- Original Dixieland Jazz Band: Tiger Rag
- Kern: 'Rock-a Bye Baby'
- Tri-Ergon's optical sound strip (Germany)
- Claude Debussy (b.) dies
- 1919 Spartacist revolt, Berlin. Karl Liebknecht murdered
- Hapsburg dynasty exiled from Austria
- Rutherford demonstrates that the atom is not the final building block of the universe
- Alcock & Whitten make first non-stop flight across the Atlantic (16½ hrs)
- Picasso paints 'Pierrot et Harlequin'
- Hammersmith Palais opened in London

1920

- 1920 Government of Ireland Act (UK): N & S Ireland each to have own Parliament
- Hitler announces his 25-point programme at the Hofbräuhaus in Munich
- Gandhi (1869-1948) emerges as India's leader in its struggle for independence
- Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti unjustly arrested and indicted for murder; both executed 1921
- Prohibition starts in USA (ends 1933)
- 1st commercial radio broadcast. USA, Europe
- First US anti-trust action involving music publishers
- Columbia starts issuing blues recordings
- Gustav Holst: 'The Planets Suite'
- 1st electro-acoustic recording (London). Recording of Armistice Day burial service for Unknown Warrior at Westminster Abbey, by Guest and Merriman, using remote pickup with microphones and amplifiers developed for military purposes during WW1
- Ralph Peer starts recording black artists
- Thermionic tubes (valves)
- Marconi opens first public broadcasting station at Writtle (UK)
- Paul Whiteman tours Europe with his band
- 1921 Populations (in mill): USSR 136, US 107, Japan 78, Germany 60, GB 42.5
- Women get vote at 21 in UK
- US record sales reach \$106 mill. US production of records exceeds 100 mill units
- Berglund's Filmfotofon (Sweden)
- Moving coil microphones
- Schönberg announces principles of the 12-tone scale
- 1922 Mussolini and fascists march on Rome, seize power and form fascist government
- Irish Free State officially proclaimed
- Max Weber: 'Methodology of the Social Sciences'
- James Joyce: 'Ulysses' published in Paris
- T S Eliot: 'The Waste Land'
- BBC formed
- 200 commercial radio stations USA
- Columbia produce first 'silent' record surface in USA
- Films: 'Dr Mabuse' (Fritz Lang); Nosferatu (F W Murnau)
- Alban Berg (1885-1935): 'Wozzeck' (written 1914-1921) 1st performed (Berlin)
- 2 mill radio licenses in GB
- 1st combi radio-phonographs marketed in USA
- 3 mill radio sets in USA
- 1923 Germany declares policy of passive resistance; French army occupies Darmstadt, Karlsruhe, Mannheim to force war reparation
- Okeh start separate 'race' catalogue in USA
- Anti-ASCAP licensing hearings in USA because of case brought about by National Association of Broadcasters (ends 1926)
- STIM (Swedish PRS) founded
- Bessie Smith: 'Down Hearted Blues'. +1st million-selling recording by black woman?
- Gershwin: 'Rhapsody in Blue'
- Honegger: 'Pacific 231'
- US pop songs: 'Yes We Have No Bananas'; 'Tea For Two'; 'I Want To Be Happy'
- Armstrong invents FM radio (cf. 1935, 1948, 1953)
- Bix Beiderbecke organises jazz band in Chicago
- Joseph 'King' Oliver and 'Jelly Roll' Morton record New Orleans-style jazz
- 1924 J Edgar Hoover (1875-1972) appointed director of FBI
- Relâche (Satie)
- Ernő Rapée: 'Motion Picture Moods for Pianists and Organists'
- Films: 'The 10 Commandments' (Cecil B De Mille); 'The Thief of Bagdad' (Douglas Fairbanks); 'Entr'acte' (René Clair, Erik Satie); 'Le ballet mécanique' (Fernand Léger, Georges Antheil)
- Western Electric patent electromagn. rec.
- Warner buy Vitaphone rights from Bell
- Tri-Ergon contract Universal-Film-AG
- 1925 Cyprus becomes British colony
- Norway annexes Spitsbergen
- John Logie Baird, Scottish inventor, (1888-1946) transmits recognisable human features by television
- Adorno & Horkheimer establish 'Frankfurt School'
- Walter Gropius moves Bauhaus from Dessau to Weimar
- Franz Kafka (1883-1924): 'The Trial' (posth.)
- Hitler: 'Mein Kampf' (vol. 1)
- E Scott Fitzgerald: 'The Great Gatsby'
- Victor Talking Machine Company failed to pay dividends for first time since 1901 (USA)
- Films: 'Battleship Potemkin' (Eisenstein); 'The Gold Rush' (Chaplin)
- Edgar Varèse (1883-1965): 'Intégrales' for 11 wind instr & perc.
- 'Show Me The Way To Go Home'
- Electromagnetic recording on to market in US. 1st record: two songs from University of Pennsylvania's 37th annual production of the Mask and Wig Club (Philadelphia)
- Warner/Western Electric Vitaphone contract
- 1st electronic recording using microphones
- 2 mill radio sets in UK
- 78 rpm record speed standardised
- 1926 BBC comes under state control: changes name from British Broadcasting Company to British Broadcasting Corporation
- General Strike (GB)
- I.C.I. founded
- 694 commercial radio stations in the USA
- A A Milne: 'Winnie the Pooh'
- Twice as many US homes own phonograms as own radios
- John Barrymore/Don Juan (music + 325 wrds)
- Fritz Lang's 'Metropolis' released
- 'Bye Bye Blackbird' popular
- RCA forms NBC
- Melody Maker founded in UK
- 1927 Inter-Allied military control of Germany ends; 'Black Friday' in Germany: economic system collapses; Gottfried Feder publishes the N.S.D.A.P. (Nazi) programme
- Herman Hesse: 'Steppenwolf'
- Selective phonogram machines, offering twenty se-

- lections, available in USA
- FCC (Federal Radio Commission, USA) founded
- Songwriters' Protection Society revived in USA
- The Jazz Singer. Al Jolson heard singing on one reel
- Stravinsky: 'Oedipus Rex' (Paris)
- Bert Brecht, Kurt Weill: 'Aufstieg und Fall der Stadt Mahagonny' (Baden-Baden)
- Jerome Kern & Oscar Hammerstein II: 'Show Boat' (New York)
- Popular songs: 'Ol' Man River' (fr 'Showboat'); 'My Blue Heaven'; 'Blue Skies' (fr 'The Jazz Singer')
- Victor: 1st automatic record-changer (USA). Takes 12 10-inch or 12-inch records
- 1st attempts at over-dubbing by 'montage'
- Record sales 100m in USA (cf 1932)
- Peer records J Rodgers & Carter Family
- First DJ on BBC. BBC Music Department established
- US record sales peak at 104 mill units
- 1928 Women's suffrage in GB reduced from 30 to 21
- Chiang Kai-shek elected President of China
- D H Lawrence: 'Lady Chatterley's Lover'
- First Mickey Mouse film (Disney)
- First broadcast of UK carol service, from King's College, Cambridge
- Gershwin: 'An American in Paris'
- Bartók: String Quartet NŸ4
- 'Makin' Whoopee' popular
- Ravel: 'Boléro'
- Kurt Weill, Bert Brecht: 'Die Dreigroschenoper' (Berlin)
- Fox buy Triergon rights - Movietone, optical
- \$650 mill radio receiver sales USA
- CBS founded. Overtakes RCA by 1934
- Dobro company formed (Dopyrea Bros, USA). Dobros: acoustic guitars with metal resonators
- Capacitor microphones (DC voltage)
- Ondes Martenot
- Fritz Pfeleumer invents magnetic tape (D)
- 1929 The Wall Street Crash or 'Black Friday' in New York (Oct 28). World economic crisis begins. US securities lose \$26 billion in value
- Trotsky expelled fr USSR
- Record Company of America (RCA) merges with Victor
- Säg det med toner (Fred Winter, Sweden)
- Edison finally stops producing cylinders
- 192s Bell laboratories develop digitalised recording

1930

- 193+ Record racks introduced in USA
- 1930 390000 km rail in USA (cf 1860, 1880)
- In the German elections, the Nazis gain 107 seats from the centre parties
- Nazis disrupt perf. of Weill/Brecht 'Mahagonny' in Frankfurt and enact ordinance against Negro Culture
- Schönberg: Begleitmusik Lichtspielszene
- 'Hillbilly' accounts for 25% of all US popular record sales in USA
- Popular songs: 'Georgia On My Mind' (Hoagy Carmichael); 'I Got Rhythm' (Gershwin); 'Body & Soul' (John Green)
- Xavier Cougat records 'Peanut Vendor' ('El manise-ro')
- 10-inch 78 rpm becomes standard
- Recording cartidges developed
- 1931 Hitler's storm troopers (SA) start terrorising political opponents. Start of German inflation
- German millionaire Hugenberg undertakes to support the 800,000-strong Nazi Party. Other capitalists follow suit
- Empire State Building completed
- Nazis order effacement of Bauhaus murals and remove Klee, Kandinsky etc. from Weimar museum. Brecht and Eisler flee Germany
- Hanns Eisler: mus for 'Kuhle Vampe'
- Essex Music International (EMI) opens its Abbey Road recording studio in London -- largest recording facility in the world
- RCA Victor fails to market successfully its vinyl plastic 33.3 rpm discs due to popularity of the 78 rpm alternative
- Electrical & Musical Industries EMI formed. Merger of HMV and English Columbia records (which had swalled the Carl Lindström chain in 1925 and Pathé Frères in 1928), leaving only Deutsche Grammophon-Polydor and a few small 'independents' as rivals in Europe
- BPI British Phonographic Industries Ltd. Formed to represent the UK record industry in early 1920s (date inexact)
- Society of European Stage Authors and Composers formed, to handle music licensing in USA
- 127 sound films made (only 8 in 1929)
- 'Minnie The Moocher' (Cab Calloway) popular in USA
- Blumlein 1Ÿ stereo record (GB cf1955 1880)
- Rickenbacker A model frying pan el gts. Beauchamp, Barth and Rickenbacker introduce first lap steel electric guitars in USA
- 1932 3 million unemployed in UK
- German presidential votes (mill): Hindenburg 18; Hitler 11; Communists 5
- Franklin D Roosevelt (Dem) wins landslide election with 'New Deal' policies
- BASF develop magnetic tape in Germany
- Aldous Huxley: 'Brave New World'
- Max Steiner (1888-1971): Music for 'King Kong' (George Cukor, RKO)
- Johnny Weissmuller appears in his first 'Tarzan' film
- 'Brother Can You Spare A Dime' ; 'I'm Getting Sentimental Over You' (George Bassman); 'Night And Day' (Cole Porter); 'April In Paris' (Gershwin) popular in USA
- Record sales \$6 mill USA (cf 1927)
- 1933 Prohibitions ends in USA (started 1920)
- Machtübernahme, Reichstagsbrand, Hitler granted dictatorial powers. First concentration camps (mostly communists and socialists at start; by 1945 10 million prisoners are interned of which at least half are killed). All books by non-Nazi and Jewish authors are burned in Germany. c. 60,000 authors, actors, painters and musicians emigrate from Germany between 1933 & 1939
- 'Sophisticated Lady' (Ellington); 'Smoke Gets In Your Eyes' (Kern); 'Stormy Weather' (Howard Arlen); 'Easter Parade'; 'Anything Goes' (C Porter) and 'Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Wolf?' all popular in USA
- Plastic tape developed by BASF. Not marketed until 1950
- Radio Luxemburg starts on long wave
- 1934 Rock-Ola, Seeburg and Wurlitzer introduce multiple-selection jukeboxes across the US, installing 275,000 in five years. Bing Crosby becomes the most popular juke box artist of the day
- Muzak Company formed (USA)
- Hindemith: 'Mathis der Mahler'
- 'Blue Moon' (Rogers & Hart); 'Stars Fell On Alabama' (Frank Perkins) popular in USA
- Price war USA records
- Film & sound as postmix (Riefenstahl)

- Hammond organ and electric piano patented
- Edward Elgar (b. 1857) dies
- Korngold from Vienna to Hollywood
- 1935 'Your Hit Parade', sponsored by Lucky Strike, first broadcast on NBC
- Coal Face (Britten)
- Films: 'Anna Karenina' (Garbo); 'David Copperfield' (David Selznick); 'The 39 Steps' (Hitchcock)
- Gershwin: 'Porgy & Bess'
- 'Beguin the Beguine' and 'Just One of Those Things' (Porter); 'I Got Plenty o' Nuthin'' and 'It Ain't Necessarily So' (Gershwin) popular in USA
- RCA refuse FM. Armstrong (cf 1923) tries to pedal wares elsewhere (cf 1948, 1953)
- 1st Gibson electro-acoustic guitar (USA)
- 70% of BBC time is music
- NCB founded
- Bob Durham C&W elgt rec w Vol-U-Tone amp
- Magnetophone developed in Germany. Magnetic tape dictating machine
- Hammond organ becomes popular in USA
- Alban Berg (b. 1885) dies
- Carlos Gardel (b.) dies
- 1936 Spanish Civil War begins (ends 1939)
- Germany occupies the Rhineland
- First BASF/AEG tape recording made of a live classical concert performance conducted by Sir Thomas Beecham
- 150,000 juke boxes in USA
- Night Mail (Britten)
- Modern Times (Chaplin)
- 'Pennies from Heaven' popular in USA
- Juke boxes important again in USA
- Ottorino Respighi (b.) dies
- 1937 Germany, Japan (warring in China) and Italy (having occupied Abyssinia) form Anti-Comintern pact to rid the world of communism (sound familiar?)
- Films: 'Snow White & the 7 Dwarves' (Disney); 'Life of +mile Zola' (starring Paul Muni)
- Carl Orff (living in Germany): 'Carmina Burana'
- 'Bei mir bist du Schön'; 'The Lady Is A Tramp' (fr 'Pal Joey', Richard Rodgers); 'A Foggy Day in London Town' (Gershwin); 'It's Nice Work If You Can Get It'; 'I've Got My Love to Keep Me Warm' (I Berlin) all popular in USA
- 29 of 43 records are (swing) band recordings (USA)
- Charlie Christian uses electric guitar in jazz
- George Gershwin (b. 1898) dies
- 1938 32,000 people die in US road accidents
- Honegger: Jeanne d'Arc au bûcher (Ondes M)
- Alexander Nevsky (Eisenstein/Prokofiev)
- Films: 'Le quai des brumes' (Jean Gabin); 'Alexander Nevski' (Eisenstein / Prokofiev); 'The Lady Vanishes' (Hitchcock)
- 1939 2nd world war starts (1 Sept)
- Sigmund Freud (b. 1856) dies
- Broadcast Music Inc formed to rival ASCAP
- One o'clock Jump (Basie)
- 'The Sea Hawk' (Curtiz, Flynn, Korngold); 'Gone With the Wind' (Selznick / Max Steiner); 'The Wizard of Oz' (starring Judy Garland)
- 'Lili Marlene' (sung by Lale Andersen) becomes popular with German soldiers
- 51 mill radio sets in USA
- 90% of UK homes have a radio set
- Philip Tagg's parents married on 15 August

1940

- 1940 Leon Trotsky (b. 1879) assassinated in Mexico
- Of Mice and Men (Copland)
- Stereophonic recording demonstrated in Carnegie Hall, New York
- ASCAP ban material from airplay in US
- Hemingway: 'For Whom the Bell Tolls'
- The Philadelphia Story (Cukor, Waxman)
- Films: 'The Grapes of Wrath' (John Ford); 'The Great Dictator' (Chaplin); 'Fantasia' (Disney)
- 'You Are My Sunshine'; 'How High The Moon'; 'When You Wish Upon A Star'; 'South Of The Border'; 'Blueberry Hill' all popular in USA
- 350,000 jukeboxes in USA. Or: 225,000 juke boxes, using 13 mill records a year
- Central European composers moved to USA by 1940: Schönberg, Stravinsky, Bartók, Hindemith, Krenek, Milhaud, Martinu, Weill
- 1941 In December, Japanese attack Pearl Harbour. USA joins war
- Capitol Record start servicing US radio DJs with free releases
- 1st electric blues broadcast in USA. Sonny Boy Williamson on the KFFN 'King Biscuit Show', Chicago
- 'Citizen Kane' (O. Welles, B. Herrmann)
- 'Bewitched'; 'Deep In The Heart Of Texas'; 'Chattanooga Choo-Choo' popular in USA
- 1942 27 month AFM ban on radio performance. American Federation of Musicians. From 1942-44
- Hangmen Also Die (Eisler)
- Irving Berlin's 'White Christmas' sung by Bing Crosby
- Casablanca (Warner, Max Steiner)
- 'White Cliffs Of Dover' (Vera Lynn); 'Paper Doll'; 'That Old Black Magic' (Porter)
- 1st black musician in US radio band
- 1943 Over 600 'hillbilly' stations in USA
- Rodgers & Hammerstein: 'Oklahoma!' (New York, 2,248 performances), incl 'Oh What A Beautiful Morning!'
- US Army/Navy's Magnetic Wire Sound Recorder. Later adapted to use tape
- Sergei Rachmaninov dies
- 1944 Ivan the Terrible 1 (Eisenstein/Prokofiev)
- Double Indemnity (Wilder, Rózsa)
- Decca issue frrr (sort of HiFi 78 rpm) recording. Based on war technology
- Allies take Radio Luxembourg and its magnetophone
- My year of birth
- 1945 United Nations formed
- 2nd world war ends
- Landslide victory for Labour in UK. Clement Atlee, Welfare State (until 1951)
- Atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima & Nagasaki
- US record sales \$109m, highest since 1921
- George Orwell: 'Animal Farm'
- Herman Hesse: 'Das Glasperlenspiel'
- Spellbound (Hitchcock, Rózsa)
- The Lost Weekend (Wilder, Rózsa)
- Henry V (Walton)
- Television sales boom until 1957 (USA)
- Labour government under Clement Atlee until 1951
- Béla Bartók (b.1881) dies
- Anton von Webern (b. 1883) dies
- 1946 Philippines independent
- US record sales double in 1 yr to \$218 mill
- RCA press their billionth record. J-P Sousa's 'The Stars and Stripes Forever'
- Charlie Parker: Ornithology
- Ivan the Terrible 2 (Eisenstein/Prokofiev)
- Irving Berlin: 'Annie Get Your Gun' (New York)
- DGG use tape for recording
- BBC restructure: Home, Light, 3rd programme
- 1947 India proclaimed independent and partitioned into

- India & Pakistan
- Bell laboratoires scientists invent transistors
- Melody Maker publishes 1st charts in UK. Based on sheet music sales
- US record sales peak at 400m units
- AFM royalty coll rules from 1944 outlawed. By Taft-Hartley Act (USA)
- Dizzy Gillespie: Cubana be-Cubana bop
- Duel In The Sun (Tiomkin)
- Capitol use tape for recording
- Fender start producing amplifiers (USA)
- Bing Crosby records radio programs on tape. Transferred to 16-inch disc for transmission
- More liberal radio station licensing in USA. Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
- 1948 Gandhi (b. 1869) assassinated
- Marshall Plan: \$17 bill for Europe (another \$5.43 bill in 1949). The Berlin blockade and airlift
- Ceylon (Sri Lanka) and Burma independent from UK
- State of Israel established
- Atlantic Records formed in USA
- Hamlet (Walton)
- R Strauss: 'Vier letzte Lieder'
- Columbia introduce 33.3 rpm LP microgroove. 12-inch unbreakable discs made from vinylite
- 172,000 TV sets in USA
- Decline of national radio listeners USA
- 1st solid electric guitar (Fender, USA)
- Les Paul records Lover layer on layer mono (cf Leibler & Stoller 1954)
- ABC buys 24 Ampex tape machines. Also 2.5m feet of tape, all from US distributors, Bing Crosby Entertainments Inc.
- Armstrong, unable to sell VHF/FM radio ideas, throws himself out of a NYC skyscraper (cf 1923, 1935, 1953)
- Lazarsfeld & Merton's 'Mass communication, popular taste and organized social action'. Critical radio research on Hitler & Stalin that becomes guiding star for Madison Avenue. cf Top 40 format 1955
- Franz Léhar (b. 1870) dies
- 1949 Apartheid established in South Africa (ends 1994)
- Chiang Kai-shek defeated: Peoples Republic of China proclaimed by Mao Tse-tung
- After Berlin blockade (1948) and great postwar support for socialism, Bonn, with money from USA, declares West Germany a Federal Republic. Later that year, the DDR is formed
- Netherlands transfer sovereignty to Indonesia; France to Vietnam
- State of Israel admitted to U.N.
- Indonesia independent from Netherlands
- The Third Man (Carol Reed, Anton Karas)
- White Heat (Warner, Cagney, M. Steiner)
- Rodgers and Hammerstein: 'South Pacific' (New York)
- 'Bali Hai', 'Some Enchanted Evening', 'I'm In Love With A Wonderful Guy' (from 'South Pacific'); '(Ghost) Riders In The Sky'; 'Diamonds Are A Girl's Best Friend' and 'Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer'
- RCA introduce 45 rpm vinyl record in USA
- Most record companies now use tape for recording
- Billboard starts C&W chart
- Film sound all magnetic technology
- Receiving licenses compulsory in UK. Wireless and Telegraphy Act
- Richard Strauss (b. 1864) dies

1950

- 1950 Korean War starts (ends 1953)
- Anti-Communist witch hunt starts in USA under mentally instable senator Joseph R McCarthy, aided by FBI boss Hoover. US sends 'advisors' to Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia
- Populations (mill): London 8.3; New York 7.8; Tokyo 5.3; Moscow 4.1
- Margaret Mead: 'Social Anthropology'
- EBU (European Broadcasting Union) formed
- 'Hillbilly' accounts for one third of all US popular music sales
- 'Music! Music! Music!' (Teresa Brewer); 'Good Night Irene'; 'Mona Lisa'
- 500,000 juke boxes in USA
- Kurt Weill (b.1900) dies
- 1951 Gerald Barry and Hugh Casson: Festival of Britain on London's South Bank; Basil Spence designs new Coventry Cathedral
- Royal Festival Hall built
- RIAA founded (Recording Industry Association of America)
- A Streetcar Named Desire (A. North)
- 'A Streetcar Named Desire' (Brando, Leigh / Alex North)
- 'Hello Young Lovers' and 'Getting To Know You' (fr Rodgers & Hammerstein's 'The King and I'); 'Kisses Sweeter Than Wine' (Perry Como); 'Blue Tango' (Leroy Anderson)
- Conservatives win election under Macmillan
- 1st electric bass guitar (Fender, USA)
- High-speed multiple tape copiers. Bought by RCA and Capitol (USA). Year inexact (early 1950s)
- Reverse recording on to tape developed. Inexact date: early 1950s
- Magnetic disc drives invented (early 1950s)
- Arnold Schönberg (b. 1874) dies
- 1952 Israel and Germany agree on restitution for damages done to Jews by Nazis
- Anti-British riots in Egypt. King George VI dies: our teacher cries and we are all sent home. We also celebrated 'Empire Day' and enumerated up all the red bits (British) on the globe in our classroom. GB produces atomic bomb
- 14 Nov. 1st record chart in UK - Top Ten published by the New Musical Express
- RCA/Victor sell first pre-recorded reel-to-reel stereo tapes for \$12.95
- New Musical Express starts. 1st UK record charts: Top 14 (14 November)
- 'High Noon' (Zinnemann, Tiomkin; Gary Cooper, Grace Kelly); 'Limelight' (Chaplin)
- John Cage: '4'33'''
- 'I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus'; 'Jambalaya' (Hank Williams)
- 1st Gibson Les Paul solid electric guitar
- 1953 Korean War ends (started 1950)
- Joseph Stalin and my Gran (both born 1879) die
- Commercial TV established in UK
- US chain stores, supermarkets and major department stores start selling records, particularly children's records and LPs
- VHF FM broadcasting starts in USA. cf 1923, 1935
- 'Julius Caesar' (Wolf Mankiewicz / Brando / Rózsa); 'Dial M for Murder' (Hitchcock / Tiomkin)
- Karlheinz Stockhausen: 'Electronic Study I'
- 'How Much Is That Doggie In The Window?' (Patti Page); 'I Believe'; 'Stranger In Paradise' (Borodin); 'I Love Paris' (Gershwin/Sinatra); 'Ebb Tide' (Frank Chacksfield); Frankie Laine 14 weeks at UK n°1: 'I Believe' and 'Answer Me' (David Whitfield)
- Record Mirror founded in UK
- 1st black artist on 'Grand Ol Opry' show

- Paul Hindemith publishes 'A Composer's World'
- Sergei Prokofiev (b. 1891) dies
- 1954 French defeated by Vietnamese socialist army at Dien Bien Phu: colonial loss of N Vietnam
- Senator J McCarthy in nationally televised hearing 'proving' communist infiltration in US army; McCarthy censured by US Senate
- US Supreme Court rules that segregation by colour in public schools is a violation of the 14th Amendment to the Constitution
- 'The Man With The Golden Arm' (Sinatra / E. Bernstein); 'On The Waterfront' (Brando / L. Bernstein)
- J R R Tolkien: 'The Lord of the Rings'; William Golding: 'Lord of the Flies'; Dylan Thomas: 'Under Milk Wood' (posth.)
- 'Oh Mein Papa' 9 weeks #1 UK (Eddie Calvert); 'Hernando's Hideaway' (Archie Bleyer); 'Mister Sandman' (4 versions incl 1955: Chordettes, Dickie Valentine, Four Aces, Max Bygraves); 'Young At Heart', '3 Coins In A Fountain', 'Hey There, You With The Stars In Your Eyes' (Sinatra). However: 25 June Ken Colyer Skiffle Group, incl Alexis Korner, record for Decca. 13 July Chris Barber Band record skiffle for Decca incl 'Rock Island Line'. December: 'Shake Rattle and Roll' (Bill Haley & his Comets) reaches UK nY4
- Benjamin Britten: 'The Turn of the Screw' (Venice)
- Olsen's RCA Mk II synthesizer
- Fender twin reverb amplifier
- George Eashe invents tape cartridges (USA)
- 45s overtake 78s sales in USA
- Leiber & Stoller overdub on 2 mono machines? cf Les Paul 1948
- Stereo recordings on reel-to-reel tape in US?
- 1st transistor radio available on US market
- 1955 Most record companies use stereo (cf 1880, 1931, 1940)
- Since 1942 I Berlin earned \$1 mill on 'White Christmas'
- 65% of US homes have a TV
- Bill Haley: 'Rock Around The Clock UK' #1 UK 3 weeks Nov 55, 2 weeks Jan 56. Meanwhile Slim Whitman 11 weeks UK #1 with 'Rose Marie'. Also 'The Yellow Rose Of Texas', 'Love Is A Many Splendoured Thing' and 'Sixteen Tons'
- RCA introduce 'Electronic Music Synthesizer'
- Top 100 singles, Top 15 albums charts. Billboard (USA)
- RCA start price cutting on LPs in USA
- Sales value of LPs overtakes singles in UK & USA?
- Top 40 programming format introduced. 1st Storz chain of radio stations (New Orleans). cf Lazarsfeld & Merton 1948
- Arthur Honegger (b.) dies
- 1956 Hungarian uprising
- Suez Crisis (Nasser, Eden)
- Marocco and Tunisia independent from France
- BBC begins FM broadcasting
- 6 mill UK homes have a TV set
- 'The 7th Seal' (Bergman); 'Around the World in 80 Days'
- UK Musicians' Union ban on foreign bands ends
- Stockhausen: Zeitmasse
- James Brown: Please, Please, Please
- Alan Jay Lerner and Frederick Loewe: 'My Fair Lady' (New York)
- Ronnie Hilton 'No Other Love', Doris Day 'Que será será', Johnny Ray 'Just Walking In the Rain' biggest UK hits
- 1957 'The Six' sign Rome Treaty: start of Common Market
- Gold Coast becomes Ghana, independent of UK (Kwame Nkrumah)
- Malaysia independent from UK
- Jack Kerouac: 'On the Road'
- 'Bridge on the River Kwai' (David Lean)
- Muddy Waters plays electric guitar on UK tour
- 'Love Letters in the Sand' and 'Young Love' (Pat Boone). 'Diana' (Paul Anka). 'Peggy Sue' (Holly); 'Jailhouse Rock' (Presley)
- 39 mill TV sets in USA
- Jean Sibelius (b. 1865) dies
- 1958 Race riots in London and Nottingham
- School desegregation opposed in Little Rock (Arkansas)
- TV licences exceed value of radio licences in UK
- 45 sales overtake 78 sales in UK
- Melody Maker publishes 1st UK album chart
- Mass prod breakthrough for stereo (cf 1955)
- World standard agreed for stereo records established
- National Association of Record Dealers formed in USA
- US Songwriters' Protection Society becomes the American Guild of Authors and Composers
- Formation of US Country Music Association
- 1st RIAA gold record awards in USA. For Perry Como's 'Catch a Falling Star' b/w 'Magic Moments'
- Domenico Modugno: 'Volare'
- 78s for dance and 'race' music only
- 1st Shure Bros 4-track recorders in USA
- Stereophonic discs introduced in USA
- 1st pirate radio broadcasts in UK
- Ralph Vaughan Williams (b. 1873) dies
- 1959 Cuban revolution
- 'Orfeu negro'; 'La dolce vita' (Fellini); 'Ben Hur' (William Wyler / Charlton Heston / Miklós Rózsa)
- Motown Records founded by Berry Gordy in Detroit
- 500,000 juke boxes in USA use 47 million records
- Miles Davis: Milestones (So What?)
- 'Walk, Don't Run' (Ventures); 'Tom Dooley' (Kingston Trio); 'He's Got The Whole World In His Hands' (Laurie London); 'Mack The Knife' (Weill / Bobby Darin)
- Richard Rodgers: 'The Sound of Music'

1960

- 1960 Seventeen ex-colonies in Africa become independent
- John F Kennedy elected US president
- USA send military 'advisors' to Vietnam
- Nigeria independent of UK
- 20% of US domestic record sales are singles
- 'Psycho' (Hitchcock, B. Herrmann)
- 'Last Year at Marienbad' (Resnais); 'Saturday Night and Sunday Morning' (Karel Reisz); 'Rocco and his Brothers' (Visconti / Rota)
- Bing Crosby sells 200 millionth record, his version of 'White Christmas' (I Berlin) selling 20 million units since 1942
- 'Itsy Bitsy Teenie Weeni Yellow Polka Dot Bikini' (Brian Hyland); 'The Twist' (Chubby Checker); 'Never on a Sunday' (Manos Hadjidakis)
- Transistor radios widely available
- 1961 Berlin wall
- Bay of Pigs (USA tries to invade Cuba)
- Populations (mill): World 3,100; China 660; India 435; USSR 209; USA 179; Japan 95; Pakistan 94; Brazil 66; W Germany 54; GB 53. World adult population 1.6 bill (44% illiterate)
- J F Kennedy shot
- 6000 'independent' record companies in USA
- Gilbert Bécaud: Et maintenant

- 'Moon River' (Henry Mancini)
- 1962 Cuba Crisis: Khrushchev offers to withdraw Soviet bases if USA moves bases in Turkey; Kennedy refuses
- Algeria independent of France after bitter war of liberation
- 'The Maagnificent 7' (E. Bernstein)
- 'Dr. No' (Barry)
- 'Lawrence of Arabia' (David Lean / Maurice Jarre)
- Marilyn Monroe (b. 1926) dies
- Getz, C Byrd: 'Desafinado' (Gilberto)
- Beatles: 'Love Me Do'
- 'Blowin' in the Wind' (Peter, Paul & Mary)
- Wurlitzer EP 200 into production
- 1963 Profumo scandal; De Gaulle rejects GB from Common Market
- Racist police and white civilian attacks on civil rights demonstrators in Birmingham (Ala)
- Kennedy assassinated (Nov) in Dallas
- Andy Warhol & Co exhibit soup cans, comic strips, etc. at Guggenheim Museum in New York
- 'Dr. Who' starts on BBC TV (D. Darbyshire)
- 'The Silence' (Bergman); 'Tom Jones'; 'The Birds' (hitchcock / Herrmann); 'Dr Strangelove' (Kubrick / Sellers)
- Dutch-owned electronics firm Philips demonstrates its compact audio cassette tape
- Beatles: 'She Loves You' and 1st album. 1st album costs £400 to make in UK
- Album 'The Freewheelin' Bob Dylan'
- Stereo 8-track cartridge introduced
- Paul Hindemith (b. 1895) dies
- +dith Piaf (b.) dies
- 1964 Tonkin incident: a US destroyer allegedly attacked off N Vietnam; US aircraft attack Vietnamese territory; escalation
- Legrand: 'Parapluies de Cherbourg' (Bécaud)
- 'Un pugno di dollari' (Leone, Morricone)
- 'Zorba the Greek' (Theodorakis)
- 'A Hard Day's Night' (Lester, Beatles)
- The Watusi, Frug, Monkey, Funky Chicken and other Twist variants lure many to discothèques where go-go girls set the pace
- 'La fabbrica illuminata' (Nono)
- 'Fiddler on the Roof' (Jerry Bock at New York)
- 'Hello Dolly!' (L Armstrong); 'I Want To Hold Your Hand' (Beatles)
- 'Where Did Our Love Go?' (Supremes)
- Mellotron Mark I
- Beatles at Shea Stadium - 50 watt Vox PA
- Stereo FM broadcasting begins?
- Multitrack recording begins?
- Cole Porter (b.) dies
- 1965 Martin Luther King (w Nobel Peace Prize 1964) leads procession of 4,000 civil rights marchers from Selma (fired on by KKK) to Montgomery (Ala)
- Ian ('One Man One Vote Doesn't Mean Counting Sheep') Smith declares White-lead Rhodesia independent (UDI). Wilson's labour govt imposes oil embargo
- Dylan booed for going electric at Newport Jazz/Folk Festival
- 'Help!' (R Lester / Beatles); 'Dr Zhivago' (David Lean / Maurice Jarre)
- First network experiment in which two computers 'talk' to each other and the first time data packets are used to communicate between computers. This paves the way for the Arpanet in 1969, a physical network linking academics at 4 US universities. This in turn becomes the internet
- Yardbirds: 'Heart Full of Soul' (use of distortion - fuzz)
- Los Incas version of 'El condor pasa'
- Who: 'My Generation'
- Rolling Stones: 'Satisfaction'
- 'King of the Road' (Roger Miller); 'Downtown' (Petula Clark / Tony Hatch); 'A Hard Day's Night' (Beatles)
- Philips musicassettes at Berlin Radio Show
- Edgar Varèse (b.) dies
- 1966 'The Green Berets' (Staff Sgt Barry Sadler)
- Mao Tse-tung: 'Quotations of Chairman Mao'
- 'Fahrenheit 451' (Truffaut, B. Herrmann)
- US cars equipped with 8-track stereo cartridge players, developed by William (Learjet) Lear, Ampex and RCA/Victor
- US Music Publishers' Protection Association becomes the National Music Publishers' Association
- Beatles: 'Revolver'
- F Zappa & Mothers of Invention: Freak Out
- Frank Zappa produces the first commercially successful double album of popular music - 'Freak Out' by The Mothers of Invention
- Moog's voltage control synth into prod (GB)
- Fender Rhodes piano into mass production
- Jim Marshall's "stacks" (50 watt PAs)
- Tape cartridges launched in USA
- P Tagg completes studies and moves to Sweden
- 1967 6-Day War: Israel occupies West Bank (incl Jerusalem), Sinai and Gaza strip
- 50,000 demonstrate in Washington against US war in Vietnam
- African Americans riot in the ghettos of Cleveland, Newark and Detroit
- 'The Graduate' (Simon & Garfunkel)
- 'Blow-Up' (Antonioni, / H Hancock); 'Bonnie & Clyde'; 'In the Heat of the Night' (S Poitier, K Hepburn, S Tracy)
- Pirate radios outlawed
- Small Faces: 'Itchycoo Park' (use of phaser)
- Beatles: 'Sergeant Pepper'. Done on 4-track machine for £25000
- Hendrix: 'Are You Experienced?'
- 'Respect' (Aretha Franklin)
- Marshall amps
- WEM 1000 watt PA system
- 8-track recording becomes standard
- 1968 Student riots in Paris. De Gaulle given special powers
- Robert Kennedy assassinated in Los Angeles
- Soviet troops into Prague to oust (legally elected) Dubcek government
- Newly elected US president R Nixon promises to end Vietnam War
- US forces in Vietnam using napalm and Agent Orange - human and ecological disaster
- Martin Luther King assassinated (5 April)
- Jerry Goldsmith (b. 1929): mus for 'Planet of the Apes' (Schaffner)
- 'The Thomas Crown Affair' (Jewison / S McQueen / M Legrand); 'Funny Girl' (B Streisand); '2001' (Kubrick / R Strauss, Ligeti, J Strauss). Mickey Mouse 40 yrs old
- Woodstock festival with 300,000 present
- Walter Carlos: 'Switched On Bach'
- 'Congratulations' (Cliff Richard); 'Hey Jude' (Beatles); 'Mrs Robinson' (Simon & Garfunkel)
- 'I Say A Little Prayer For You' (Bacharach / Aretha Franklin)
- Quadrophony first developed
- More LPs than singles produced in the UK
- 1st home video system produced
- 1969 British troupes sent to Ulster
- UK singles sales bottom out at 46.8m
- Development begins in Holland on the compact disc (CD). See 1971, 1972, 1979, 1980

- Easy Rider
- Hair
- 'Tommy' (Who) 1st full-length rock opera
- Led Zeppelin: 'Whole Lotta Love'

- 'Aquarius' from 'Hair'
- 16-track recording standard
- Dolby noise reduction system adapted for pre-recorded tapes and cassettes

1970

- 1970 Unidad Popular elected to power in Chile under Allende
- Bing Crosby sells 300 millionth disc
 - A Man Called Horse (Rosenmann)
 - 'White Christmas' sells its 30 millionth
 - Commercial breakthrough for cassettes
 - 1st attempts for quadrophony at home
 - Jimi Hendrix dies
- 1971 USA extends bombing to Laos & Cambodia. Heavy bombing of Hanoi
- Lt W Calley found guilty of premeditated murder at Mylai (Song My), Vietnam
 - 'The Godfather' (Rota)
 - 'A Clockwork Orange' (Kubrick); 'Investigation of a Citizen' (Elio Petri / Morricone)
 - Intel produces large-scale integrated circuits which feature in digital audio processors and the Philips compact disc (see 1969, 1972, 1980)
 - Popular Music in Higher Educaion starts in Gothenburg (S-MUS) and in Boston (Berklee)
 - 'Shaft' (I. Hayes)
 - Igor Stravinsky (b.) dies
 - Max Steiner (b.) dies
- 1972 Bloody Sunday in Ulster
- Watergate. Nixon's landslide re-election
 - UK record sales value tops £100m
 - First CD prototype tested in Holland (see 1969, 1980)
 - US Copyright Act covers now sound recordings
 - Bowie: 'Rise & Fall of Ziggy Stardust'
 - Deep Purple: 'Smoke on the Water' (from 'Machine-head')
 - 'Jesus Christ Superstar' (Time Rice / Andrew Lloyd-Webber)
 - 24-track becoming standard (early 1970s)
- 1973 USA kicked out of Vietnam. c. 55,000 US deaths, 303,640 wounded. Vietnamese losses: 2 million deaths of which 1 million civilians
- Fascist military coup in Chile (3 September)
 - 'American Graffiti'
 - Pink Floyd: 'Dark Side of the Moon'
 - Genesis: 'Selling England by the Pound'
 - 'Independent Local Radio' starts in UK. LBC and

- Capital Radio in London
- 1974 'The Sting' (Paul Newman / Joplin: 'The Entertainer')
- The Rockford Files (M. Post)
 - ABBA win Eurovision contest: 'Waterloo'
 - 'Bitches Brew' (Miles Davis)
 - Chorus pedals (e.g. Boss, MXR, Ibanez) on market
 - UK cartridge prod peaks at 7.9 mill units
 - Duke (Edward Kennedy) Ellington (b. 1974) dies
 - My daughter is born
- 1975 Margaret Thatcher succeeds Edward Heath as Tory leader
- 'White Christmas' has now sold 135m units
 - Japanese record market overtakes UK's
 - Taxi Driver (Scorsese, B. Herrmann)
 - Bob Marley: 'No Woman No Cry'
 - Kraftwerk: 'Autobahn'
 - Promotional videos start
 - Bernard Herrmann (b. 1911) dies
- 1976 Military coup in Argentina
- West German record market overtakes UK's
 - RIAA: 1st platinum awards single/album (US)
 - '1900' (Bertolucci, Morricone)
 - US Copyright Act covers published & unpublished sound
 - Polyphonic synthesizers first available
- 1977 'Saturday Night Fever' (J Travolta / Bee Gees)
- 'Close Encounters' (Spielberg, J. Williams)
 - Vinyl sales peak at 344 mill units in USA
 - Sex Pistols: 'God Save The Queen'
 - Prophet 5 on market
 - Philips show CDs at Tokyo Audio Fair
 - 3M's 32-track digital recorder \$15,000 (USA)
 - Musician's Union organiser for rock artists. UK 1st time
- 1978 UK vinyl LP production peaks
- Formation of International Federation of Popular Music Publishers
- 1979 Worldwide decline starts in vinyl sales
- 'The Wall' (Parker, Pink Floyd)
 - Ry Cooder: 'Bop till you Drop' (digital recording)
 - Dimitri Tiomkin (b.) dies

1980

- 1980 Solidarnosc movement (Poland)
- Soviet army into Afghanistan
 - EEC retail music business sales overtake US temporarily. i.e. countries either in or later to join EEC
 - Philips/Sony CD standard finalised after 11 years of development (see 1969), 1 year after production of second CD prototype
 - US juke box count down to 300,000
 - Digitally recorded albums available in USA
 - Peter Gabriel III
 - Police: 'Zenyatta Mondatta'
 - commercial breakthrough for video
 - Simmons SDS V electronic drum kit
 - 12-inch single introduced to UK
 - Tape cartridges obsolete in UK
 - Sony Walkman sells 5 mill units in 1st yr (USA)
 - Tascam 4-track portastudio \$1,500 in USA
- 1981 Chariots of Fire (Vangelis)
- MTV starts in USA with \$20 mill capital
 - IASPM (International Association for the Study of

- Popular Music) formed
 - Journal 'Popular Music' started by Cambridge University Press
- 1982 War over Falklands/Malvinas
- Israel invade Lebanon
 - Grand Master Flash: 'The Message'
 - MIDI sequencers available
 - Philips introduce CDs on to market
- 1983 Cassette sales peak at 78.2m units in Japan
- World market bottoms out at \$9.35m
 - 'Flashdance' (Moroder)
 - 'Merry Christmas Mr. Lawrence' (Sakamoto)
 - 'Local Hero' (Knopfler)
 - CDs launched in USA and UK. World's then only pressing plant at Hannover (D)
- 1984 Worldwide cassette LP sales overtake vinyl LPs
- Sony introduce the first portable CD player, the D-S
 - UK record sales top \$500 mill
 - MTV (US) earning \$1 mill a week
 - Miami Vice starts (Jan Hammer)

- Michael Jackson: 'Thriller' (cf 1992)
- Madonna: 'Like A Virgin'
- 1985 Gorbachev party secretary (Soviet Union)
- 'Paris Texas' (Wim Wenders / Ry Cooder)
- Sony and Philips produce standard for CD-ROM which uses same laser technology as audio CD
- Dire Straits album "Brothers in Arms" helps boost popularity of the CD format
- Steve Case funds America Online as Quantum Computer Services, an online service for owners of Commodore computers. Subsequently introduced for other computers, AOL's stock is listed on the Nasdaq index in 1992
- Sales value of UK singles peaks at £82.1 mill
- Beatles disc & tape sales estim at 1 billion units
- 1st Home Taping Audio Bill defeated in USA
- commercial breakthrough for CDs
- Quantec introduce Room Simulator (c.)
- Fostex reel-to-reel 8-track costs \$1,600
- Still only 2 CD pressing plants in operation
- 1986 Challenger disaster (NASA)
- Olof Palme murdered (Stockholm, 28 Feb)
- Chernobyl disaster (26 April)
- Sales value of cassette LPs overtake vinyl LPs (UK)
- US Immigration Reform and Control Act tightens up granting of temporary work permits to overseas artists who do not qualify as 'pre-eminent'
- Concert Promoters' Association formed in UK
- Samplers readily available on market. Casio model costs \$100 in US
- 1987 'White Christmas' sales now over 170m units
- 'Beverly Hills Cop' (Eddy Murphy / Harold Faltermeyer)
- 1988 Personics Corp launches in-store custom taping system, attracting backers including Thorn-EMI. Despite being rolled out to retail stores, four years later it files for bankruptcy protection
- Sony and Philips produce the standard for the recordable compact disc
- More cassette LPs produced than vinyl in UK
- CD LP sales value overtake vinyl LPs in UK
- Sony buys CBS
- Worldwide CD sales overtake vinyl LPs
- EEC market overtakes US (retail sales value)
- Sales value of UK record business tops £1bn
- Cassette single introduced in UK
- CD single introduced in UK
- DAT recorders available (Casio and JVC)
- 8-track DAT recorder from Akai & Alesis
- Institute of Popular Music established at Liverpool University
- 1989 Fall of Berlin wall
- US cassette LP sales peak at 446.2m units
- No vinyl single sales in Greece, Singapore
- Sales value of UK albums tops £1bn
- More CD than vinyl LPs produced in UK
- 'Batman' (Prince)
- Recordable CDs available

1990

- 1990 Thatcher out after 16 years. Major PM
- Germany reunited
- Iraq invades Kuwait
- No identifiable singles sales in 19 nations. No identifiable vinyl LP sales in 9 countries, no CD sales in 5 countries
- Vinyl LPs obsolete in Japan
- Enigma: 'Sadness'
- 1991 War in the Gulf
- M Jackson: 15-yr contract w Sony for \$890 mill
- Philips market Digital Compact Cassette DCC
- Sony market recordable mini-CD, the MD
- Agreement on e.g. DAT standard formats in US
- Southworth Jam Box. Have your own jam session
- Kahler Human Clock (cloned drumming)
- 1992 Tories 4th term - 2 million officially unemployed
- Digital Audio Tape (DAT) and players launched
- America Online stock listed on Nasdaq index
- Sony Corporation makes first ever trading loss of 086m
- W.H Smith announce their intention of stopping selling vinyl LPs in UK
- DCC marketed by Philips. BASF close US tape-manufacturing plant. MD marketed by Sony
- Thorn-EMI buys Virgin Records for 0560m
- Sony begin selling MiniDiscs, Philips launches Digital Compact Cassette
- M Jackson's 'Thriller' 40 mill units in 10 yrs
- Madonna's 7-year \$700 mill contract. Signed between her Maverick Entertainment Group and Time-Warner
- Bob Geldof's company, Planet, wins 010m Channel 4 TV contract
- Sales of Michael Jackson's Thriller album reach 40m units after 10 years. World record sales estimated to be worth \$28.7bn. Mike Oldfields Tubular Bells sells 16m over 20 years - still selling 100,000 a year
- Madonna's Maverick Entertainment Group signs a contract with Time-Warner
- Madonna's Maverick Entertainment Group signs a contract with Time-Warner estimated to be worth \$700m over seven years
- John Cage (b.) dies
- 1994 BBC announce plans for digital audio broadcasting
- Viacom buy Paramount (including MTV) for almost \$10bn
- German inventor sues Sony over patent rights to Walkman
- CD-Interactive launched in UK
- Blockbuster and IBM unveil NewLeaf Entertainment, a joint venture developing a technology that will enable consumers to download and manufacture CDs and cassettes in store. The joint venture falls apart a year later due to lack of record label support
- Matsushita announce first portable DCC player
- 100m walkmans sold worldwide to date (10% in UK), valued at 03bn
- Pavarotti's audio and video sales top 50m units
- Philips makes 4,800 more workers redundant
- MTV opens in Russia
- Thorn-EMI sells defence business to Thomson-CSF of France. Thorn-EMI buys Intercord Tonggesellschaft for 053.2m
- Cerberus Sound and Vision strike deal with Mechanical Copyright Protection Society to market music on the Internet
- Three surviving Beatles refuse 02.5m for one concert appearance on the Isle of Wight
- Video Hits One (VH-1) launched by MTV Network Europe as 'adult MTV'
- Ageing US 'rock' stars sue for millions of dollars in unpaid back-royalties
- George Michael loses case against Sony for release from his contract, and pays 03m costs
- Paul McCartney estimated to be worth 0420m, Tom Jones 0252m
- Virgin open first national 'rock' radio station in UK
- Factory Records closes in Manchester, UK
- Philips announce plans to sack 15,000 more employees. Thorn-EMI lighting sold to Investcorp for 0162m
- Pink Floyd sell 2.2m tickets before tour begins

- Sales of Thriller reach 48m
- CDs outsell cassettes in UK
- Sony Music lends £452m to Sony Pictures
- W H Smith Our Price chain and Branson's Megastores plan joint venture. W H Smith sacks 600 managers
- Gaylord Entertainments (including Grand Ol' Opry) on the market for \$3bn
- Polygram buys Motown for \$300m.
- EMI pays £50 to manage Michael Jackson's Northern Songs for five years
- IBM opens CD-on-demand kiosk in Florida, USA
- Grateful Dead concert in Ohio grossed over \$1.242m
- 1995 Thorn-EMI close Rumbelows UK high street chain with loss of 2,900 jobs. W H Smith announces 1,000 job losses. Thorn EMI sells £100m stake in SGS-Thomson of France.
 - Country 1035, first UK 'country music' radio station, opened in London
 - Michael Jackson sells Beatles' song rights to Sony for £60m
- 1996 President Clinton threatens \$3bn sanctions (and a possible trade war) over China's alleged piracy of US-owned video and CD material
 - Janet Jackson signs \$80m contract with Virgin Records. REM sign £50m, five-year deal with Warner Brothers
 - EMI (worth £7.3bn) demerged from Thorn. W H Smiths make first loss in 204 years
 - Cliff Richard knighted by UK Tory government
 - George Martin knighted and Van Morrison awarded OBE by UK Tory government
- 1997 Blair's "New Labour" government comes to power in the UK
 - Philips launch affordable CD-recorder
 - MP3.com founded by Michael Robertson
 - Elton John's Candle in the wind becomes best-selling single of all time: 31.8 m copies. Pre-orders of 1.5m copies for Elton John's Candle in the wind single in UK, 8m in USA
- Be here now by Oasis sells between 800,000 and 1m copies in first four days
- Andrew Lloyd Webber made a lord and Paul McCartney knighted by UK Tory government
- Noel Gallacher's annual income estimated at over £25m. Richard Branson estimated to be worth £1.7bn
- Elvis Presley remains RCA's best-selling artist, with annual earnings estimated at \$40m
- 1998 "New Labour" government sets up the Department for Culture, Media and Sport in UK
 - California-based Diamond Multimedia launches its Rio digital download player, beating off a subsequent legal action by the Record Industry Association of America (RIAA)
 - Specifications for DVD-Audio agreed
 - Reginald Dwight (Elton John) knighted by UK Labour government
- 1999 US President Clinton survives impeachment; "oral sex" part of everyday vocabulary
 - The World Trade Organisation meets in Seattle. Delegates are met with lively demonstrations against the unchallenged global power and unethical arrogance of international corporations whose interests are represented by the WTO
 - Kosovo crisis
 - "New Labour" set up "New Deal" for musicians
 - CA*net3 fibre optic network in Canada becomes the world's fastest computer network, capable of transmitting all nine of Beethoven's symphonies in 0.065 seconds
 - Source Digital Music Initiative (SDMI) - designed to protect music downloaded via the internet - finally established. Major record companies join the rush to commercially release tracks via the internet

2000

- 2000 AOL announces purchase of Time Warner in the biggest deal in business history. AOL Time Warner's businesses will include: Warner Music Group, Warner Bros., CNN, Time Warner Cable, HBO, America Online, CompuServe, Netscape, AOL MovieFone, Winamp, Spinner