

## Chronology, 1855–1950

Sources include the *Zeittafel* in Bernard Grun, *Kulturgeschichte der Operette* (Munich: Langen Müller Verlag, 1961), 552–63; the chronology in Ewen, *European Light Opera*, 263–7; Bernard Grun, *The Timetables of History: A Horizontal Linkage of People and Events* (New York: Simon and Schuster, new edition 1979); Hywell Williams, *Cassell's Chronology of World History: Dates, Events and Ideas that Made History* (London: Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 2005), and Music and History <http://musicandhistory.com/>.

- 1855 Alexander II becomes Tsar of Russia. *Leaves of Grass*, Walt Whitman. *Les deux aveugles* and *Ba-ta-clan*, Offenbach.
- 1856 Crimean War ends. Sigmund Freud born. *Les Contemplations*, Hugo. *Le financier et le savetier*, Offenbach. Schumann dies.
- 1857 Siege of Delhi. *Madame Bovary*, Flaubert. *Le mariage aux lanternes*, Offenbach.
- 1858 Arthur Sullivan studies in Leipzig. Covent Garden opera house is built. *Orphée aux enfers*, Offenbach.
- 1859 Victor Herbert born. *On the Origin of Species*, Darwin. *A Tale of Two Cities*, Dickens. *Faust*, Gounod. *Geneviève de Brabant*, Offenbach.
- 1860 End of Second Opium War (China); Victor Emmanuel proclaimed king of Italy. *Das Pensionat*, Suppé (first Viennese operetta).
- 1861 Abraham Lincoln is President of the USA; outbreak of US Civil War. The emancipation of Russian serfs is completed. *Great Expectations*, Dickens. *La Chanson de Fortunio*, Offenbach.
- 1862 Bismarck becomes prime minister of Prussia. Austrian botanist Ludwig Ritter von Köchel catalogues Mozart's compositions. Anton Rubinstein founds St Petersburg Conservatoire. The first Monte Carlo gambling casino opens in Monaco. *Fathers and Sons*, Turgenev. *La forza del destino*, Verdi. *Bavard et bavarde*, Offenbach.
- 1863 Emancipation Proclamation issued by Lincoln. World's first underground railway opens in London (The London Underground). The Football Association is established in London and draws up the rules for the game. First instalment of *War and Peace* by Leo Tolstoy published. *Lischen et Frizchen*, Offenbach.
- 1864 Marx founds First International Workingmen's Association. *Notes from the Underground*, Dostoyevsky; *Voyage au centre de la terre*, Jules Verne. Millöcker is Kapellmeister in Graz. Ku Klux Klan

- (KKK) is formed in Pulaski, Tennessee. *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, Lewis Carroll. *La belle Hélène*, Offenbach.
- 1865 End of American Civil War. *Tristan und Isolde*, Richard Wagner. *Die schöne Galathée*, Franz von Suppé.
- 1866 Austro-Prussian War. Cretan Revolt. Paul Lincke born. Travel agent Thomas Cook offers its first organized tours to the USA. Moscow Conservatoire is founded by Nicholas Rubinstein. *Crime and Punishment* and *The Gambler*, Dostoyevsky. *Barbe-bleue* and *La vie parisienne*, Offenbach; *Les chevaliers de la table ronde*, Hervé; *Leichte Kavallerie*, Suppé.
- 1867 Paris World Exposition. The USA buys Alaska from Russia for \$7,200,200. *Peer Gynt*, Ibsen; *Thérèse Raquin*, Zola. *La Grande-Duchesse de Gérolstein*, Offenbach. Granados born.
- 1868 Shogunate abolished in Japan. Spanish Revolution. The game of badminton invented in Gloucester. *Die Meistersinger*, Wagner. *La Périchole*, Offenbach.
- 1869 Opening of the Suez Canal. The National Woman Suffrage Association is established in the USA. The first college for women is founded at Cambridge University (Girton College). Rickshaw invented in Japan. *The Idiot*, Dostoyevsky. The first performance of Wagner's *Das Rheingold* in Munich. *Les brigands*, Offenbach; *Le petit Faust*, Hervé. Berlioz dies.
- 1870 Franco-Prussian War. Franz Lehár and Oscar Straus born. *Vingt mille lieues sous les mers*, Jules Verne. Dickens dies.
- 1871 Paris Commune. The Royal Albert Hall opens in London. The German Second Reich. Stanley finds Livingstone in East Africa. Johann Strauss Jr visits the USA. *Aida*, Giuseppe Verdi, premiered at the newly built Cairo Opera House. *Indigo und die 40 Räuber*, Strauss.
- 1872 World Peace Jubilee, Boston. Japan's first railway opens, built by British engineers. James Abbott McNeill Whistler paints *Arrangement in Grey and Black No 1: Portrait of the Painter's Mother*. *La fille de Madame Angot*, Charles Lecocq.
- 1873 Crash of the Vienna Stock Exchange in May. Leo Fall born. *Une Saison en enfer*, Arthur Rimbaud; *Le tour du monde en quatre-vingts jours*, Jules Verne. *La veuve du Malabar*, Hervé.
- 1874 The first Remington typewriter is sold. First impressionist exhibition, Paris. *Boris Godunov*, Mussorgsky; *Die Fledermaus*, Johann Strauss. *Giroflé-Girofla*, Lecocq; *El barberillo*, Barbieri.
- 1875 Uprising against Ottoman rule in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Paris Opera House, designed by Charles Garnier, is completed,

- where Bizet's *Carmen* is premiered. Piano Concerto No. 1 in B flat minor, Tchaikovsky. *Trial by Jury*, Gilbert and Sullivan.
- 1876 Japan recognizes Korea's independence from China. Bayreuth Festival opens. *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, Mark Twain; *Daniel Deronda*, George Eliot. Offenbach in the USA. *Fatinitza*, Suppé. Manuel de Falla born.
- 1877 Russo-Turkish War. Queen Victoria proclaimed Empress of India. *Anna Karenina*, Leo Tolstoy. *Swan Lake*, Tchaikovsky. *Les cloches de Corneville*, Robert Planquette.
- 1878 Congress of Berlin. *H.M.S. Pinafore*, Gilbert and Sullivan; *Madame Favart*, Offenbach.
- 1879 Zulu War. Frank Winfield Woolworth opens the store where everything costs 5 cents. Albert Einstein born. *Eugene Onegin*, Tchaikovsky. Gilbert and Sullivan in the USA. *Boccaccio*, Suppé; *Gräfin Dubarry*, Millöcker; *The Pirates of Penzance*, Gilbert and Sullivan.
- 1880 Disraeli resigns and Gladstone becomes prime minister for a second time. The game of table tennis is invented. Robert Stolz born. Victor Herbert is a cellist in the Strauss Orchestra. *Nana*, Zola. *L'Arbre de Noël*, Lecocq. Flaubert and Offenbach die.
- 1881 Alexander II is assassinated and is succeeded by his son, Alexander III. Boston Symphony Orchestra is founded. Electric lighting in the Savoy Theatre, London. *Der lustige Krieg*, Strauss. *Patience, or Bunthorne's Bride*, Gilbert and Sullivan. Mussorgsky and Nicholas Rubinstein die.
- 1882 Robert Koch discovers that tuberculosis is a communicable disease. *Parsifal*, Wagner. Emmerich Kálmán born. *Der Bettelstudent*, Millöcker; *Iolanthe*, Gilbert and Sullivan.
- 1883 Metropolitan Opera House opens. Brooklyn Bridge opens. *Eine Nacht in Venedig*, Strauss; *Mam'zelle Nitouche*, Hervé. Wagner dies.
- 1884 Paul Nipkow's invention of rotating scanning devices anticipates development of television technology. Ralph Benatzky born. *Princess Ida*, Gilbert and Sullivan; *Gasparone*, Millöcker.
- 1885 Fingerprint identification system is invented. A bicycle with two wheels of the same size is developed in France. The Boston Pops Orchestra is formed and gives the first concert of light classical music. Eduard Künneke, Jerome Kern and Alban Berg born. *Germinal*, Zola. *Der Zigeunerbaron*, Strauss; *The Mikado*, Gilbert and Sullivan.
- 1886 Gladstone introduces Irish Home Rule Bill. Coca Cola is invented as a headache and hangover cure. Liszt dies. *Le Baiser* (sculpture), Auguste Rodin. *La Gran Via*, Chueca.

- 1887 Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee. Esperanto is invented. *Otello*, Verdi. *Ruddigore*, Gilbert and Sullivan; *Ali-Baba*, Lecocq.
- 1888 Dunlop invents the pneumatic tyre. Irving Berlin born. *The Sunflowers*, Vincent Van Gogh. *The Yeomen of the Guard*, Gilbert and Sullivan.
- 1889 Eiffel Tower opens as entrance to the World Exposition in Paris where *Ode triomphale en l'honneur du centenaire de 1789* by Augusta Holmès is premiered by 1,200 performers. *Three Men in a Boat*, Jerome K. Jerome. *Les Bourgeois de Calais*, Rodin. *The Gondoliers*, Gilbert and Sullivan.
- 1890 First Japanese general election. Electric chair is introduced in New York state as a 'humane alternative' to hanging. Paul Whiteman born. *Frühlings Erwachen* (*Spring Awakening*), Frank Wedekind. *Sleeping Beauty* and *Queen of Spades*, Tchaikovsky; *Cavalleria rusticana*, Pietro Mascagni. *L'Égyptienne*, Lecocq.
- 1891 Formation of the Young Turk Movement. The first advertising agency is founded in New York. A telephone link is established between London and Paris. Carnegie Hall opens in New York. The first electric oven for domestic use is sold in the USA. *Hedda Gabler*, Ibsen; *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, Oscar Wilde. *Der Vogelhändler*, Zeller.
- 1892 Pan-Slav Conference, Kraków. Paul Abraham born. *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle; *The Diary of a Nobody*, George and Weedon Grossmith. *The Nutcracker*, Tchaikovsky; *Werther*, Massenet.
- 1893 World Exposition, Chicago. Wall Street market crash is followed by a four-year depression. The first cultured pearl is produced in Japan. Ivor Novello and Cole Porter born. *The Scream*, Edvard Munch. *Hänsel und Gretel*, Engelbert Humperdinck; Symphony No. 6 in E minor (*Pathétique*), Tchaikovsky.
- 1894 Tsar Alexander III dies and is succeeded by his son Nicholas II. First motorcycle (Hilldebrand & Wolfmüller, Munich). *Arms and the Man*, Shaw; *The Jungle Book*, Rudyard Kipling. *Der Obersteiger*, Zeller. *La verbena de la Paloma*, Bretón.
- 1895 Gillette invents the safety razor. The first American pizzeria opens in New York. Oscar Wilde is sentenced to two years' hard labour for 'gross indecency' (homosexual behaviour). Brothers Lumière stage the first public screening of a motion picture in Paris. The first commercial screening of a four-minute film of a boxing match in New York. Henry Wood conducts the first of the annual Promenade Concerts ('Proms') in London. *Waldmeister*, Strauss; *The Wizard of the Nile*, Herbert. Suppé dies.

- 1896 Marconi invents the wireless telegraph. *Daily Mail* is founded. The Tate Gallery opens in London. *The Seagull*, Chekhov. *The Geisha*, Sidney Jones. Bruckner dies.
- 1897 Famine in India. Discovery of the electron. *La Bohème*, Giacomo Puccini. *The Stars and Stripes Forever*, Sousa. *The Belle of New York*, Gustave Kerker. Brahms dies. *La revoltosa*, Chapi.
- 1898 Construction of Paris métro begins. Stanislavsky founds Moscow Arts Theatre. George Gershwin and Vincent Youmans born. *Véronique*, André Messager; *Der Opernball*, Heuberger; *The Fortune Teller*, Herbert. Spanish–American War.
- 1899 Boer War. Global cholera pandemic starts. Aspirin is developed. *Uncle Vanya*, Chekhov; *Resurrection*, Leo Tolstoy. *Frau Luna*, Lincke; *Die Landstreicher*, Ziehrer. Johann Strauss and Suppé die.
- 1900 Paris métro opens. First Mercedes car. Kurt Weill born. Isaak Dunayevsky born. *Tosca*, Puccini. Arthur Sullivan dies.
- 1901 The Commonwealth of Australia established. Queen Victoria dies. Marconi transmits the first transatlantic wireless signals. First Nobel prizes are awarded. *Buddenbrooks*, Thomas Mann. *The Toreador*, Caryl. Verdi dies.
- 1902 Caruso's first acoustic recordings. Richard Rodgers born. *Imperialism*, J. A. Hobson. *Merrie England*, Edward German; *The Duchess of Dantzic*, Caryl.
- 1903 The Russian Social Democratic Labour Party splits into Menshevik and Bolshevik factions. Severe anti-Jewish pogroms begin in Russia. Emmeline Pankhurst founds the Women's Social and Political Union. First successful aeroplane flight by the Wright brothers. *The Cherry Orchard*, Chekhov. *Bruder Straubinger*, Eysler; *Babes in Toyland*, Herbert. Planquette and Whistler die.
- 1904 Japanese–Russian War. The Trans-Siberian Railway opens. First radio transmission of music in Graz, Austria. Picasso's 'pink period' begins with his arrival in Paris. *Madama Butterfly*, Puccini. *Die lustigen Nibelungen*, Straus. Chekhov dies.
- 1905 'Bloody Sunday' in Russia provokes a series of revolutionary outbursts. A treaty of separation between Sweden and Norway is signed. Einstein's theory of relativity. *Salome*, Richard Strauss. *Die lustige Witwe*, Lehár.
- 1906 Opening of Simplon rail tunnel between Switzerland and Italy. *Tausend und eine Nacht*, Strauss, arr. Reiterer. Cézanne dies.
- 1907 First mass march by suffragettes in London. Women are given the right to vote in Norway. Florenz Ziegfeld's revue *Follies of 1907* starts a new vogue for the slim figure as a model for female fashion.

- Ein Walzertraum*, Straus; *Der fidele Bauer*, Fall; *Die Dollarprinzessin*, Fall.
- 1908 Model T Ford car. Two-sided phonograph record discs are invented. *Der tapfere Soldat*, Straus; *Die geschiedene Frau*, Fall. *The Kiss*, Gustav Klimt.
- 1909 Freud gives lectures in the USA on psychoanalysis. The Victoria and Albert Museum opens in London. *Elektra*, R. Strauss. *Ein Herbstmanöver*, Kálmán; *Der Graf von Luxemburg*, Lehár; *The Arcadians*, Talbot and Mockton.
- 1910 *Traité de radioactivité*, Marie Curie. *The Firebird*, Stravinsky. *Zigeunerliebe*, Lehár; *Die keusche Susanne*, Jean Gilbert; *Naughty Marietta*, Herbert. Leo Tolstoy dies.
- 1911 Famine causes mass starvation in Russia. Revolution in China. 'Alexander's Ragtime Band', Berlin; *Der Rosenkavalier*, R. Strauss. *Eva*, Lehár. Mahler dies.
- 1912 Sinking of the Titanic. *Pierrot Lunaire*, Schoenberg. *Der Zigeunerprimas*, Kálmán; *Der liebe Augustin*, Fall; *Der lila Domino*, Cu villier. *La generala*, Vives.
- 1913 Balkan War. Grand Central Station is completed in New York. *Man with a Guitar*, Picasso. *Le sacre du printemps*, Stravinsky. *Endlich allein*, Lehár; *Die Kino-Königin*, Gilbert; *Polenblut*, Nedbal; *Sweethearts*, Herbert; *La vida breve*, Falla.
- 1914 World War I commences. Concert of noise music in Milan given by Luigi Russolo. *Dubliners* and *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, James Joyce. *Rund um die Liebe*, Straus.
- 1915 Torpedo sinks the Lusitania. Absinthe is outlawed in France. In the USA, the millionth Ford car is produced. *Die Csárdásfürstin*, Kálmán; *Die Kaiserin*, Fall.
- 1916 Easter Rising, Dublin. *Die Rose von Stambul*, Fall; *Das Dreimäderlhaus*, Berté/Schubert; *Chu Chin Chow*, Asche and Norton.
- 1917 Russian Revolution. *Schwarzwaldmädel*, Leon Jessel; *The Maid of the Mountains*, Harold Fraser-Simson.
- 1918 End of World War I, but there is worldwide deadly influenza pandemic from January 1918 to December 1920. Leonard Bernstein born. Lecocq dies. *Wo die Lerche singt*, Lehár; *Phi-Phi*, Christiné.
- 1919 Spartacist Uprising, Germany. *Das Dorf ohne Glocke*, Kunneke; *Die Frau im Hermelin*, Gilbert; *Monsieur Beaucaire*, Messenger; *La La Lucille*, Gershwin.
- 1920 League of Nations established. *Das Hollandweibchen*, Kálmán; *Die blaue Mazur*, Lehár; *Der letzte Walzer*, Straus; *Sally*, Kern.

- 1921 BBC founded. First regular radio programmes begin in USA. *Der Tanz ins Glück*, Stolz; *Der Vetter aus Dingsda*, Künneke; *Die Bajadere*, Kálmán; *Blossom Time*, Romberg.
- 1922 Creation of Irish Free State. Mussolini becomes Italian Prime Minister. *Frasquita*, Lehár; *Madame Pompadour*, Fall.
- 1923 Value of German mark drops severely. *Die Perlen der Cleopatra*, Straus; *Mädi*, Stolz; *Katja, die Tänzerin*, Gilbert; *Ciboulette*, Hahn; *Doña Francisquita*, Vives.
- 1924 Herbert and Puccini die. *Gräfin Mariza*, Kálmán; *Rose-Marie*, Rudolf Friml; *The Student Prince*, Sigmund Romberg; *Lady Be Good*, Gershwin.
- 1925 Fall dies. *Der Orlow*, Granichstaedten; *Paganini*, Lehár; *No, No, Nanette*, Youmans.
- 1926 General Strike, UK. *Muskrat Ramble*, first of Armstrong's Hot Five recordings. *Die Zirkusprinzessin*, Kálmán; *The Desert Song*, Romberg; *Oh Kay!*, Gershwin.
- 1927 *Der Zarewitsch*, Lehár; *Die gold'ne Meisterin*, Eysler; *A Connecticut Yankee*, Rodgers; *Funny Face*, Gershwin; *Show Boat*, Kern.
- 1928 Fleming discovers penicillin. Gershwin in Vienna. *Friederike*, Lehár; *Die Herzogin von Chicago*, Kálmán; *Die Dreigroschenoper*, Weill; *The New Moon*, Romberg; *Casanova*, Benatzky/Strauss.
- 1929 Wall Street Crash. *Das Land des Lächelns*, Lehár; *Strike up the Band*, Gershwin; *Bitter Sweet*, Noël Coward.
- 1930 *Viktoria und ihr Husar*, Abraham; *Im weißen Rössl*, Benatzky; *Schön ist die Welt*, Lehár; *Walzer aus Wien*, Strauss/Korngold/Bittner; *Die Drei von der Tankstelle* (film operetta), Heymann.
- 1931 *Die Blume von Hawaii*, Abraham; *Of Thee I Sing*, Gershwin; *Die Dubarry*, Millöcker, arr. Mackeben; *Der Kongress tanzt* (film operetta), Heymann.
- 1932 Famine in USSR. *Ball im Savoy*, Abraham; *Glückliche Reise*, Künneke; *Wenn die kleinen Veilchen blühen*, Stolz; *Eine Frau, die weiss, was sie will*, Straus; *Gay Divorce*, Cole Porter.
- 1933 Hitler becomes Chancellor. *Clivia*, Dostal; *Zwei Herzen in Dreivierteltakt*, Stolz; *Let 'em Eat Cake*, Gershwin.
- 1934 Mosley holds Fascist mass meetings in UK. *Giuditta*, Lehár; *Anything Goes*, Porter; *Conversation Piece*, Coward.
- 1935 *Porgy and Bess*, Gershwin; *Drei Walzer*, Strauss/Straus; *Glamorous Night*, Novello; *Der Kuhhandel*, Weill.
- 1936 Spanish Civil War. BBC television service begins. *Careless Rapture*, Novello; *Johnny Johnson*, Weill; *On Your Toes*, Rodgers; *Kaiserin Josephine*, Kálmán; *La tabernera del puerto*, Sorozábal.

- 1937 Gershwin dies. *Polnische Hochzeit*, Beer; *Die Maske in Blau*, Raymond; *The Cradle Will Rock*, Marc Blitzstein; *Crest of the Wave*, Novello; *Babes in Arms*, Rodgers.
- 1938 Austrian Anschluss. *Saison in Salzburg*, Raymond; *The Boys from Syracuse*, Rodgers; *Operette*, Coward.
- 1939 World War II commences. *Die ungarische Hochzeit*, Dostal; *The Dancing Years*, Novello.
- 1940 Trotsky assassinated in Mexico. *Die Geigerin von Wien*, Steinbrecher; *Ein Liebestraum*, Lincke.
- 1941 Bombing of Pearl Harbor. *Quatuor pour le fin du temps*, Messiaen. *Traumland*, Künneke; *Lady in the Dark*, Weill.
- 1942 Mass extermination of Jews by Nazis using gas chambers. Symphony No. 7, 'Leningrad', Shostakovich. *Hochzeitsnacht im Paradies*, Schröder; *Black, el pavaso*, Sorozábal.
- 1943 Warsaw ghetto massacre. *Oklahoma!*, Rodgers and Hammerstein; *One Touch of Venus*, Weill.
- 1944 D-Day landings in Normandy. *On the Town*, Bernstein.
- 1945 Nuclear bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. World War II ends; Nuremberg trials begin; United Nations established. Kern and Youmans die. *Perchance to Dream*, Novello; *Carousel*, Rodgers.
- 1946 Peace conference attended by twenty-one nations in Paris. Lincke dies. *Annie Get Your Gun*, Berlin.
- 1947 Partition of India into two independent states. *Brigadoon*, Lerner and Loewe; *Street Scene*, Weill.
- 1948 Gandhi assassinated. Lehár dies. *Kiss Me, Kate*, Porter.
- 1949 Communist People's Republic proclaimed in China. *South Pacific*, Rodgers and Hammerstein; *King's Rhapsody*, Novello.
- 1950 Protests in Johannesburg against apartheid. Weill dies. *Call Me Madam*, Berlin; *Guys and Dolls*, Loesser; *Feuerwerk*, Burkhardt.