

ON THIS DATE
9/14/2009

The 257th day of 2009. There are 108 days left in the year.

Highlight in History:

1814: Francis Scott Key was inspired to write a poem after witnessing how Fort McHenry in Maryland had endured a night of British bombardment during the War of 1812; that poem, originally called "Defence of Fort McHenry," later became the lyrics to "The Star-Spangled Banner," the American national anthem.

On this date:

1812: The Russians set fire to Moscow in the face of an invasion by Napoleon Bonaparte's troops.

1901: President William McKinley died in Buffalo, N.Y., of gunshot wounds inflicted by an assassin. Vice President Theodore Roosevelt succeeded him.

1964: Pope Paul VI opened the third session of the Second Ecumenical Council of the Vatican, also known as "Vatican II." (The session closed two months later.)

1982: Princess Grace (left) of Monaco, formerly actress Grace Kelly, died at age 52 of injuries from a car crash.

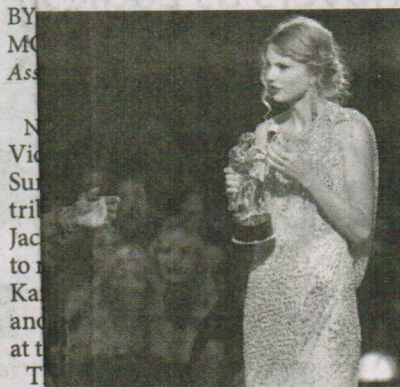


FIVE YEARS AGO: President George W. Bush told veterans in Las Vegas he was proud of his time in the Texas Air National Guard as he sought to deflect questions about his Vietnam-era service.

ONE YEAR AGO: Losing its devastating punch as a major hurricane, Ike nevertheless drubbed the Midwest with powerful winds and floodwaters.

Today's Birthdays
 Feminist author **Kate Millet** is 75. Actor **Sam Neill** is 72. Country singer-songwriter **John Nielsen Chapman** is 53. Temporary Christian singer

h Swift's VMA parade



JASON DECROW/AP

BY MICHAEL...
 As...
 N...
 V...
 S...
 T...
 J...
 K...
 a...
 at...
 T...
 ed...
 V...
 by...
 t...
 W...
 t...
 t...
 f...
 out...

the microphone from singer Beyonce, nominated for best female video for "Single Ladies," was bested by Swift, the best-selling artist of the year

outside of Jackson. West ruined Swift's moment when he jumped on stage at Radio City Music Hall.

"Taylor, I'm really happy for you, and I'm gonna let you finish, but Beyonce had one of the best videos of all time," he said.

A crestfallen Swift didn't finish her speech, but the crowd applauded her anyway.

Swift later got her chance, courtesy of Beyonce, who won video of the year for "Single Ladies (Put a Ring on It)." She recalled that she won her first VMA as a 17-year-old.

"I remember how excited I was," she said. "I'd like Taylor to come out and have her moment."

The celebrity crowd was unforgiving of West. When Diddy

read his name later in the show while introducing the nominees for best male video, the crowd booted, and Diddy said in mock surprise, "What happened?" The crowd responded by chanting Swift's name (T.I. ended up winning the award).

West's antics were in sharp contrast to the show's start, which was reverential. Madonna gave a moving speech about her relationship with Michael Jackson.

The musical tribute began afterward, as dancers dressed in his signature outfits recreated his famous dance moves.

Then, as "Scream," his duet with Janet, appeared on a large screen, his sister came out to recreate the moves from their only video together as the crowd cheered her on.

REVIEW

Mozart in the South fest ends on high note

BY GEORGE HUBBARD
Post and Courier Reviewer

The inaugural Mozart in the South Festival closed Sunday afternoon with a splendid concert in Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church.

Three works for chamber orchestra conducted by Yuriy Bekker, demonstrated the group's facility with Mozart, and also with Tchaikovsky and Gustav Holst.

The always popular St. Paul's Suite by Holst opened the show, with lively playing throughout. Particularly charming was the solo playing of concertmaster Adda Kridler in the Intermezzo: andante con moto movement.

The final movement, titled

"The Dargason" brought forth a gutsy playing entirely appropriate to its folk song roots.

Mozart's Symphony No. 29, K.201 flew along elegantly, although with a few bumpy transitions. The opening allegro moderato promised great things to come, and the succeeding andante was charming. It was not quite lively enough for a sunny Sunday afternoon, and I found myself fighting off a nap somewhere in the third movement. The closing allegro con spirito, however, brought the work to a triumphant conclusion.

After intermission came a musical treasure not often enough heard: Tchaikovsky's "Souvenir de Florence." The word "souvenir" in the title

might lead one to think of this as a sort of tossed-off trifle. Not so. This work is of symphonic stature and length. The opening allegro con spirito is particularly lengthy, but Bekker kept things moving appropriately into a great finish.

The following adagio cantabile e con moto and allegro moderato dashed and flickered about like the sparkling waters of the arno, and the concluding allegro vivace used a tarantella-like theme which recurred throughout, building in excitement until the glorious ending.

Quite an appropriate finish for this newest of music festivals on the Charleston scene — one hopes it is a taste of things to come.

Opr...
 (cen...
 epis...
 TEL...
 O...
 d...
 BY D...
 Assoc...
 NE...
 frey...
 24th...
 On...