

## Week 4: A HISTORY OF BALLET (Spring 2022)

### Romantic Era

The era begins with the 1827 début in Paris of the ballerina Marie Taglioni in the ballet *La Sylphide*, and to have reached its zenith with the premiere of the divertissement *Pas de Quatre* staged by the Ballet Master Jules Perrot in London in 1845.

Ballerina as a central part of ballet.

A slow decline. Arthur Saint-Léon's 1870 ballet *Coppélia* in Paris is considered to be the last work of the Romantic Ballet.



## 1800s world event timeline

1780s-1840 The Industrial Revolution.

1789 The French Revolution

1814 Stevenson builds first steam locomotive

1824 Beethoven completes the Ninth Symphony

1826 The first photograph is taken.

1838 Atlantic steamboats crosses the Atlantic

1860 Abraham Lincoln is nominated President.

1870 The Franco-Prussian War

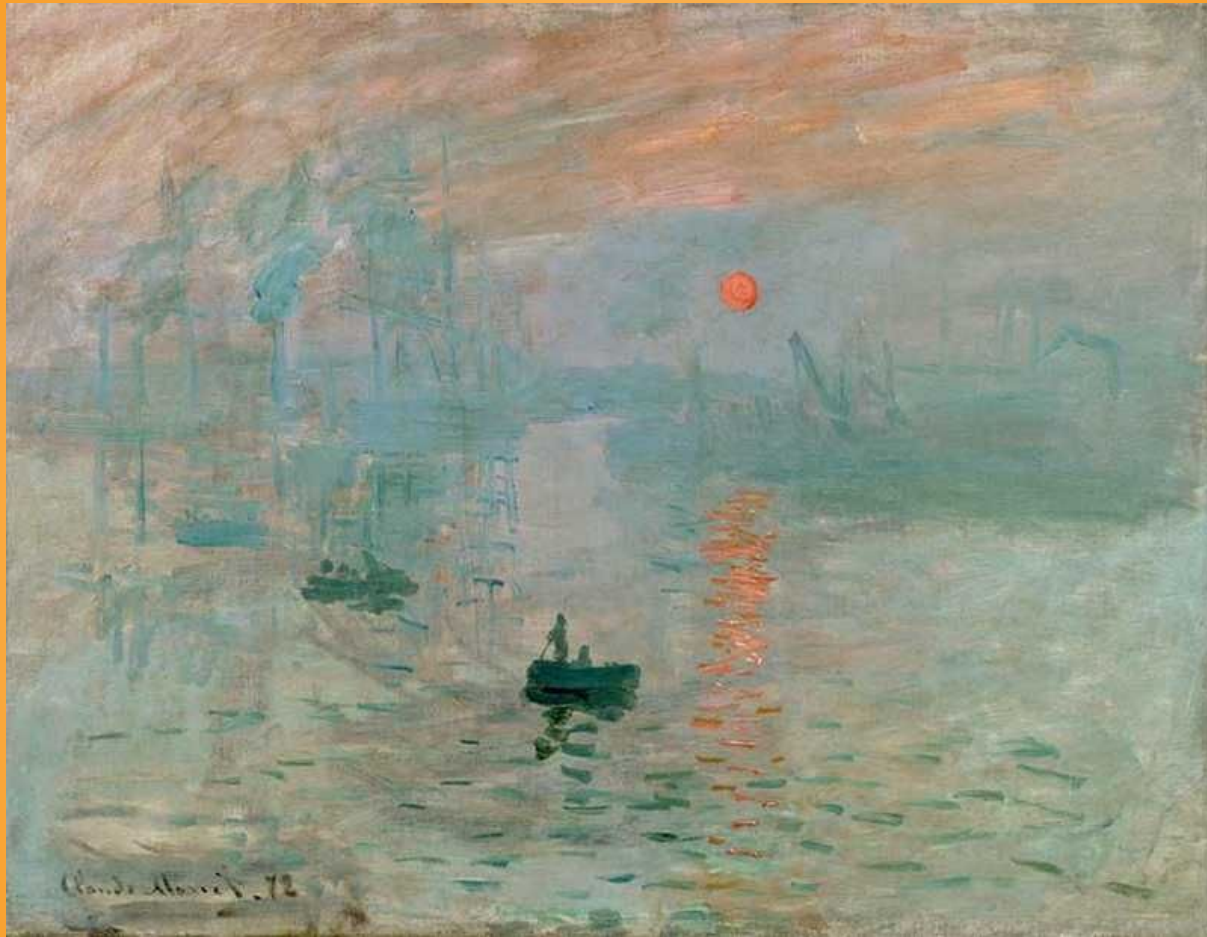
1874 First Impressionist Exhibition

1876 First Practical Telephone

1893 Moving Pictures



*1830 Liberty Leading the People  
Eugène Delacroix*



*1872 Claude Monet: Impression sunrise*

## What are the 7 characteristics of Romanticism?

- Picturesque. imagery describing an old object.
- Primitivism. nature is better than society.
- Sentimentalism. strong emotion.
- Supernatural. interest in unrealistic and mythical things.
- Nature. the love of nature.
- Nationalism. the arts were about heritage and customs.
- Melancholy.

## Key themes of the Romantic Period

- Revolution, democracy, and republicanism.
- The Sublime and Transcendence.
- The power of the imagination, genius, and the source of inspiration.
- Proto-psychology & extreme mental states.
- Nature and the Natural.



## Salle Le Peletier (1821- 1873) Home of the Paris Opera.



Also known as: Théâtre  
de l'Académie Royale de  
Musique and Théâtre  
Impérial de l'Opéra  
Current location: Opéra  
Bastille and Palais  
Garnier

*Lithograph by Colleen Imerton of a performance of "Giselle" at the Salle Le Peletier, 1867.*

## Her Majesty's Theatre (1705 - Present)

*London.*

*It plays host to the heyday  
of the era of the romantic  
ballet.*

*It continues to host major  
performances, currently  
showing 'The Phantom of  
the Opera'.*





*Swan Lake (1895)*

Ballet may have been invented in Italy and France but it was refined and invigorated in Russia.

**Peter the Great (1672-1725)**, expanded Tsardom to a major European power. Led a cultural revolution with modern, scientific, westernised and based on Enlightenment.

Found St. Petersburg, capital till 1917.

Ballet not as to entertain, but to cultivate a new Russian people.

Imperial Ballet School in St. Petersburg  
(1738)



## Marius Petipa (1818-1910)

\_ The most influential ballet master and choreographer.

\_ Created over 50 ballets.

\_ *Premier Maître de Ballet* of the St. Petersburg Imperial Theatres from 1871 until 1903.

\_ *Premier danseur* at the Grand Théâtre in Bordeaux.

\_ *Premier danseur* at the King's Theatre in Madrid.

\_ *Premier danseur* at the Imperial Theatres of St. Petersburg.

\_ Served the Imperial Ballet for 56 years.



## En Pointe (merky origin)

Artistic expression -

A technical and a dramatic feat.

Satin slippers with soles of leather.

Sides and toes darned.

The toe area flattened to a box.

Padded toes.

Strong feet and ankles.

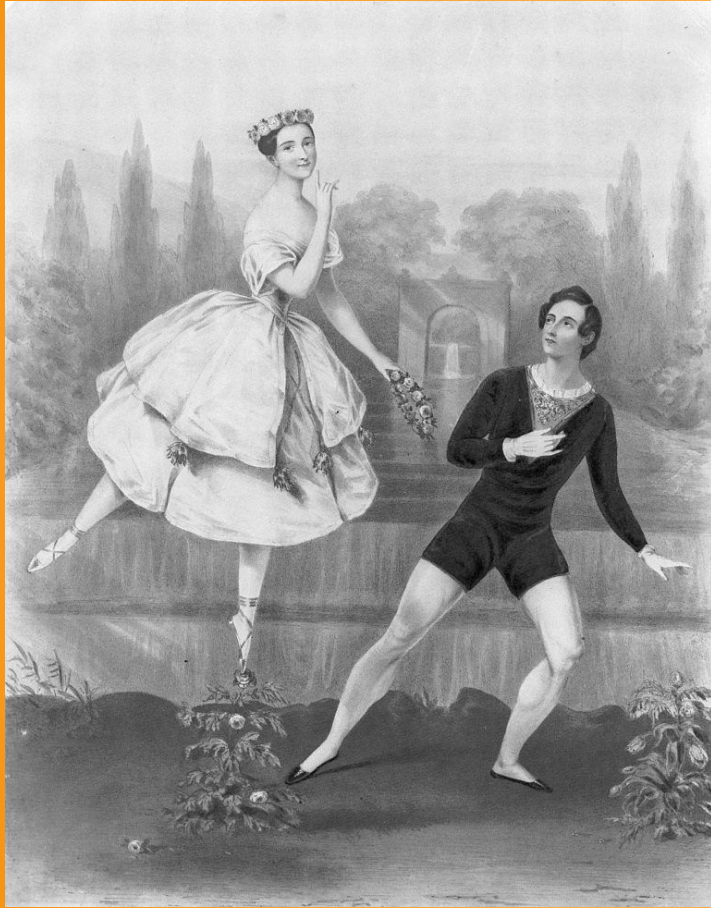


*Marie Taglioni 1832  
La Sylphide*



*Anna Pavlova in 1905*

*A rigid box made of densely packed layers of fabric, cardboard and/or paper hardened by glue.*



**1832 La Sylphide** by Filippo Taglioni, two acts

Premiered at the Paris Opéra, March 12, 1832

Story of spirit tries to seduce humans. En pointe

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0DGp0qUcuuM>

Ballet Evolved - Marie Taglioni 1804-1884 (4')

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7A6x7AjBMSw>

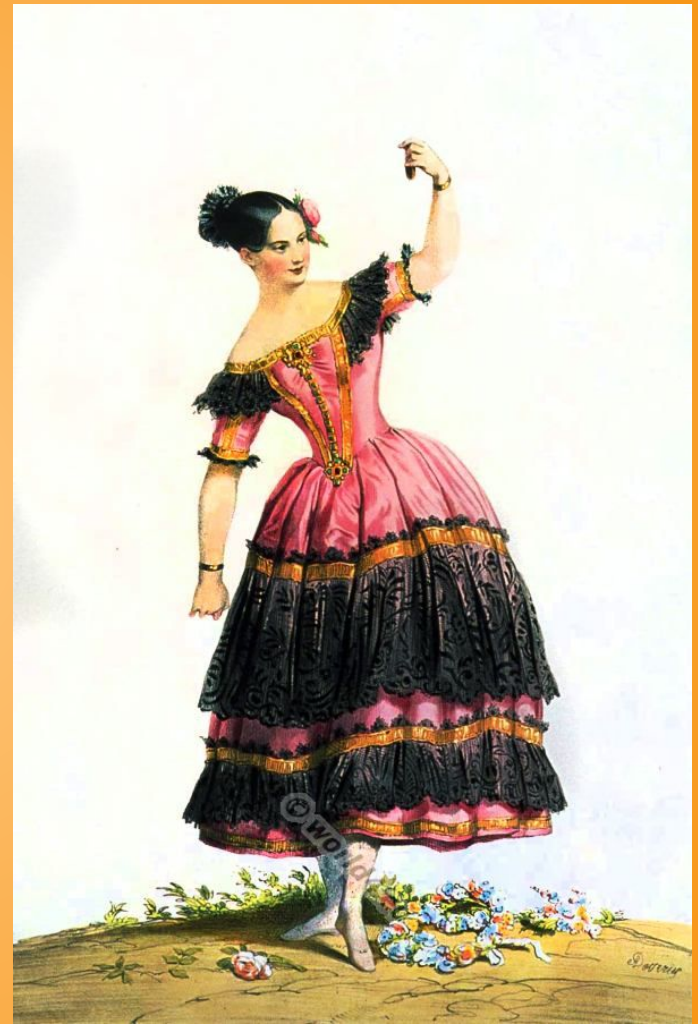
La Sylphide, Pierre Lacotte variations - Iryna Tsymbal

1836 *Le Diable Boiteux* by Jean Coralli.

Famous for the *cachucha*.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F89ijSRwTFg&t=15s>

Ballet Evolved - Fanny Elssler 1810-1884 (4')



## 1841 *Giselle, ou Les Wilis* by Jean Coralli and Jules Perrot, two acts



It is a romantic tale of innocent love and betrayal

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SiOW0nTZWeM>*Giselle* » - Jean Coralli / Jules Perrot

*Lithograph: Giselle is crowned as Queen of the Vintage (1845)*

**1844 La Esmeralda** by Jules Perrot.

Based on Hugo's novel 'Notre-Dame de Paris'

Four acts and five scenes. Libretto by Jules Perrot

Music by Cesare Pugni & Riccardo Drigo

World Première: 9th March 1844, Her Majesty's  
Theatre, London

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4-byrqZE7Sw>

Osipova Esmeralda Entrance

*Carlotta  
Grisi as  
Esmeralda  
and Jules  
Perrot as  
Pierre  
Gringoire  
(1844)*



1845 Pas de Quatre by Jules Perrot  
Music by Césaire Pugni

World Premiere: July 12, 1845. Her  
Majesty's Theatre, London

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R  
PAEI3wIi7I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RPAEI3wIi7I)

Paris Opera Ballet - Pas de Quatre  
0:36-2:20

*Marie Taglioni, Fanny Cerrito,  
Carlotta Grisi, Lucile Grahn in "Le  
pas de quatre". Print, lithograph,  
color, music cover, 1845*



**1869 Don Quixote** (Grand Ballet in five acts and eleven scenes, Music by Ludwig Minkus,  
Libretto by Marius Petipa)

World Première: 26th December 1869,

Imperial Bolshoi Theatre, Moscow

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5fKxzQ8ARTQ>

Don Quixote - Act I finale (Marianela Nuñez  
and Carlos Acosta, The Royal Ballet) 4:52

*Timofei Stukolkin as Don Quixote (1871)*







**1870 Coppelia** (Ballet comique in three acts Music by Léo Delibes, Libretto by Charles Nutter and Arthur Saint-Léon)

World Première: 25th May 1870

Théâtre Impérial l'Opéra, Paris

Choreography by Arthur Saint-Léon

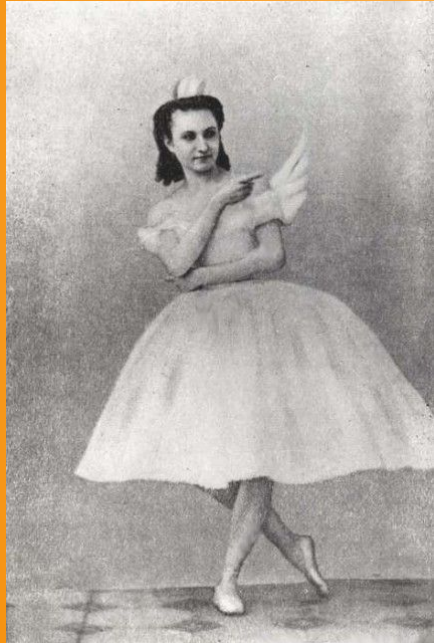
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Sb7gp98wAc>  
Bolshoi Ballet- Coppelia: Mazurka 4' (Polish)

*Giuseppina Bozzacchi as Swanhilda (1870)*

1877 **Swan Lake** (Ballet fantastique in three acts and four scenes,

Music by Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky, Choreography by Julius Reisinger.

World Première: 4th March 1877, Imperial Bolshoi Theatre, Moscow



*Anna Sobechshanskaya as Odette  
(1877)*



*Design by F. Gaanen for the décor of Act 2 (1877)*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xd2nTXsivHs>

Swan Lake,  
Tchaikovsky - Dance  
of the Little Swans  
(Ballet de Opera  
National de Paris)

# 1877 *La Bayadère* (Grand ballet in four acts and seven scenes with an apotheosis)

Music by Ludwig Minkus, Libretto by Marius Petipa and Sergei Khudekov,  
Chronography by Marius Petipa



*Ekaterina Vazem as Nikiya (1877)*



*Lev Ivanov as Solor (1877)*

World Première: 4th February  
1877. Imperial Bolshoi Kamenny  
Theatre, St. Petersburg

Set in the Royal India of the  
past, *La Bayadère* is a story of  
eternal love, mystery, fate,  
vengeance, and justice.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5W9zDhBRpGk> *La Bayadère*  
trailer (The Royal Ballet)

1877 La Bayadère



*The Destruction of the Temple (1877)*

**1890 Sleeping Beauty** (Ballet-féerie in three acts with a prologue and apotheosis)

Choreography by Marius Petipa Music by Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky.

Libretto by Ivan Vsevolozhsky

World Première: 15th January 1890. Imperial Mariinsky Theatre, Saint Petersburg



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W8K8H>

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Sleeping Beauty Bolshoi 2017 Blue Bir (8')

*The Prologue (1890)*

## Sleeping Beauty by Marius Petipa (1890)



*Carlotta Brianza as Princess Aurora and Pavel Gerdt as Prince Desire with two students as pages (1890)*

# 1890 Sleeping Beauty (The Apotheosis)



## 1890 Sleeping Beauty

*Precious Stones Pas de quatre – on the left: Claudia Kulichevskaya as the Gold Fairy, in the centre: Anna Johansson as the Diamond Fairy, on the right: Maria Tristova as the Sapphire Fairy and lying down: Elsa Krueger as the Silver Fairy (1890)*



*Carlotta Brianza as Princess Aurora (1890)*





*Olga Preobrazhenskaya as the Sugar Plum Fairy and Nikolai Legat as Prince Coqueluche (1900)*

**1892 The Nutcracker** (Ballet-féerie, two acts and three scenes)

Choreography Marius Petipa

Music by Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Libretto by Ivan Vsevolozhsky and Marius Petipa

World Première: 18th December 1892

Imperial Mariinsky Theatre, Saint Petersburg

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6rxCuyfYBkU>

Tchaikovsky: The Nutcracker, Waltz of the snowflakes -  
Mariinsky Ballet (2017)



*Stanislava Belinskaya as Clara and students of the Imperial Ballet School as mice.*

## **Romantic era ballet characteristics:**

Soft, rounded arms and a forward tilt in the upper body. This gave the woman a flowery, willowy look. Leg movements became more elaborate due to the new tutu length and rising standards of technical proficiency.

## **Common Elements of Romantic Ballet:**

Not about mythological gods and goddesses.

Show local or national color in costumes, settings, and dances such as mazurkas and waltzes.

A supernatural, fantastic, exotic, or spiritual element is usually prominent.

Ballet technique is a focus, especially pointe.



THE END