

# A HISTORY OF BALLET (Spring 2022)

## Week 2

Louis XIV

Major advance in ballet

Louis XIV (1638-1715), known as Louis the Great, or the Sun King (le Roi-Soleil), began his reign at the age of four.

Ballet as court entertainment and courtier spectacle flourished to its height.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NTJlFhg85Q>

The King Who Invented Ballet: Louis XIV and the Noble Art of Dance (BBC Documentary) 94' 58:20 end of doc.

Louis XIV as Apollo in Ballet de la Nuit



## THE REIGN OF LOUIS XIV (1638-1715, 1643)

1600s–1700s Scientific Revolution begins:  
Galileo, Newton, Harvey

1633 The Mughal emperor builds the Taj Mahal.

1652 Holland establishes colony in South Africa.

1689 English Parliament passes the Declaration  
of Rights.

1700s “Age of Enlightenment” in Europe



*Comédie-ballet* - A spoken play (comédie) with music/dance

*Opéra-ballet* - with more dramatic and thematic cohesion



Jean-Baptiste  
Lully and  
Philippe  
Quinault's opera  
*Alceste*  
being performed  
in the marble  
courtyard at the  
Palace of  
Versailles, 1674

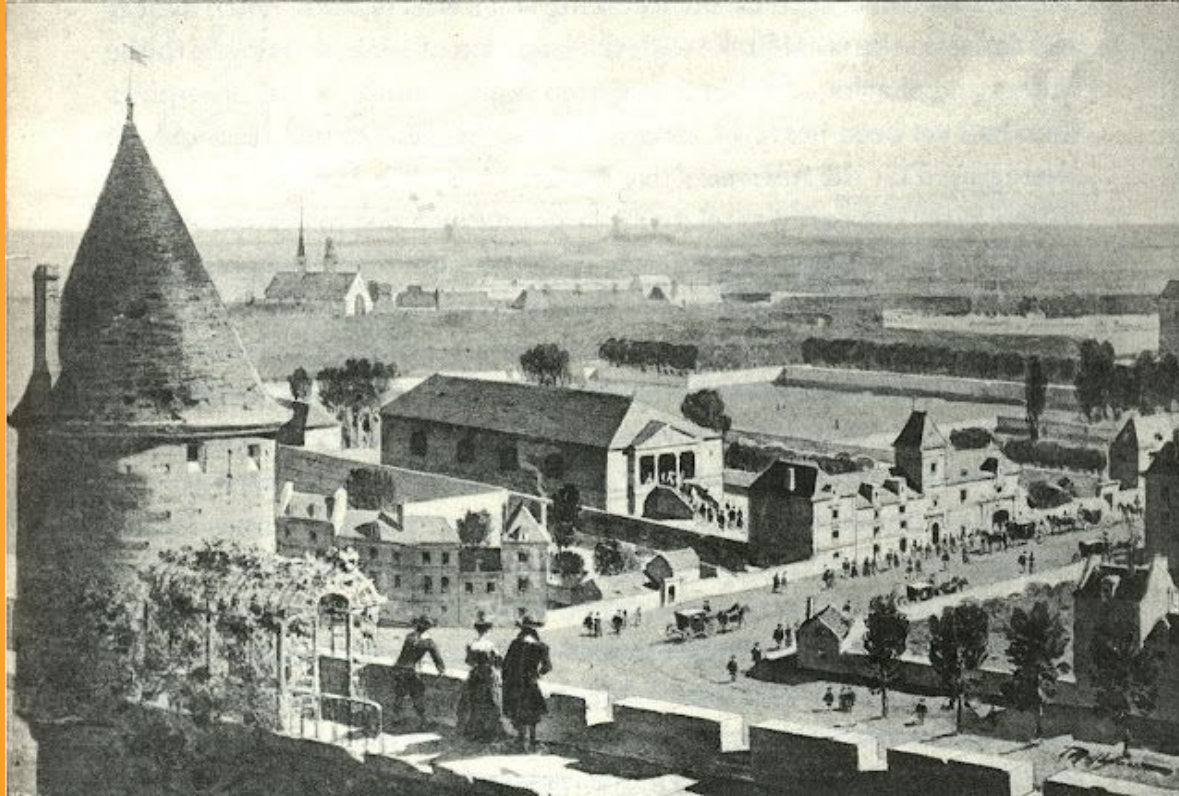


Engraving of the ballet La Princess d'Elide, Palace of Versailles, Paris, published in 'Les Plaisirs de L'Isle', 1673-4

1661 Académie Royal de Danse

1669 Académie d'Opéra

1669 Académie Royale de Musique (Paris Opera)



View of the  
early home  
of the  
Académie  
Royal de la  
Musique

1681 Professionals/ The first female professional dancers



Degas's painting is set in a rehearsal room in the old Paris Opéra.

Jean Baptiste Lully (1632  
- 1687) Composer,  
Dancer & Choreographer  
The chief master of the  
French Baroque style.  
Director of Académie  
Royal de Musique,  
including the Académie  
Royale de Danse.





**Peirre Beauchamps** (1631 - 1705) Dancer and Choreographer. Ballet's original master teacher. He Codifies the five positions of the feet and arms. Creator of Comedie Ballet genre.



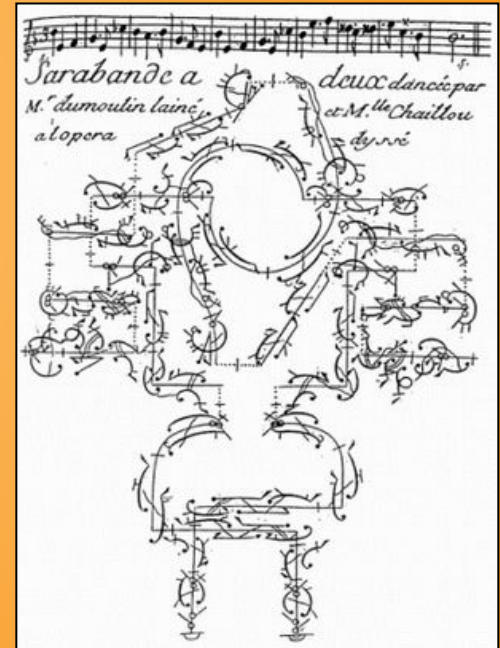
1641 **La Manière de composer et faire réussir les ballets** by M. De Saint-Hubert

(How to Compose a Successful Ballet)

1700 **Choregraphie, ou l'art de decrire la danse** by Raoul Auger Feuillet

1725 **The Dancing Master** by Pierre Rameau.

A social dance manual which formally documented the 5 positions codified by Beauchamps.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hy9M4mlaoMk> Jean-Baptiste Lully -Ballet de Xerxes LWV 12  
- Air pour les postures de Scaramouche



The End

