

Romualdo Marenco:
Excelsior and Sport

Romualdo Marengo:
Excelsior and Sport

EXCELSIOR

Azione coreografica, storica, allegorica, fantastica di
Luigi Manzotti

Musica di
Romualdo Marengo

SPORT

Ballo in 8 quadri di
Luigi Manzotti

Musica di
Romualdo Marengo

Compiled and Introduced by

Robert Ignatius Letellier

CAMBRIDGE
SCHOLARS

P U B L I S H I N G

Romualdo Marengo: *Excelsior* and *Sport*
Compiled and Introduced by Robert Ignatius Letellier

This book first published 2012

Cambridge Scholars Publishing

12 Back Chapman Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE6 2XX, UK

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data
A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

Copyright © 2012 by Robert Ignatius Letellier

All rights for this book reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of the copyright owner.

ISBN (10): 1-4438-4089-0, ISBN (13): 978-1-4438-4089-7



Romualdo Marengo

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	ix
EXCELSIOR	
Preludio	1
Parte I	
Quadro I—L'Oscurantismo	4
Quadro II—La Luce	7
La Fama. Danza.....	8
Entrata della Civiltà. Polketta.....	10
Il Risorgimento. Gran Valzer e Galop.....	12
Parte II	
Quadro III—Il primo battello a vapore.....	29
Il vincitore della regata. Polka	33
Sulle rive del Weser. Mazurka	36
Quadro IV—Prodigi della invenzione	46
Parte III	
Quadro V—Il genio dell'elettricismo.....	48
Quadro VI—Effetti della electtricità. I fattorini del telegrafo. Galop	54
Parte IV	
Quadro VII—Il Simun.....	58
Quadro VIII—Il Canale di Suez.....	67
Danze della Cosmopolita.....	69
L'Indiana. Danza caratteristica.....	72
Adagio d'azione e passo a due	76
Omaggio a Lesseps. Danza caratteristica	79
Parte V	
Quadro IX—L'ultima mina. Il traforo del Cenisio.....	92
Quadro X—Oscurantismo, Luce e Gloria	103
Parte VI	
Quadro XI—Apo-teosi. Civiltà; Progresso; Concordia: Grande Scena Finale	106
La Concordia. Quadriglia-Marcia delle Nazioni	107
Appendice	
Quadro VI I fattorini del telegrafo. Nuovo Galop	121

SPORT

Preludio	129
----------------	-----

Parte I

Quadro I—Un Ascensione alpina	131
-------------------------------------	-----

Parte II

Quadro II—Il Pattinaggio	146
Valzer dei pattinatori	147
Quadro III—America	154
Intermezzo (Movimento di quadriglia).....	154
Danza dei negri americani	157
Entrata della danzatrice spagnuola	161
Peteneras.....	162
Olè ja!	164
Uscita della danzatrice spagnuola.....	166
L'incognita	167
Lady Waldek e La Bernier	170
Le incognite (Movimento di mazurka).....	173
Gran Ballabile dei fiocchi di neve e dei ghiacci	176
Andante.....	178
Movimento di valzer.....	179
Entrata	183
Valzer	192
Sfida	194
Vivacissimo	196
Quadro IV—Il Duello.....	199

Parte III

Quadro V—Le Regate.....	209
Polketta dei signori e delle signorine.....	209
I due provinciali.....	211
Il fantino	213
Il tradimento svelato.....	218
Marinaresca inglese dei piccoli mozzi.....	222
L'attrazione—Passo d'azione.....	227
La Regata.....	231
Gran Ballabile veneziano (La Chioggiotta).....	235
La gondoliera.....	237
Gli artigiani di Murano.....	240
Finale: Omaggio al vincitore.....	245

Parte IV

Quadro VI—La Caccia.....	248
Il minuetto	271
Quadro VII—Il tiro a segno	278
Gran Marcia dello Sport	282
Quadro VIII—L'Apoteosi dello Sport.....	296
Gran Valzer dello Sport.....	296
Allegro.....	301
Il Trionfo della Bernier.....	302
Apoteosi dello Sport.....	304

INTRODUCTION

Romualdo Marengo, Luigi Manzotti and the *ballo grande/azione coreografica*

Romualdo Marengo was born on 1 March 1841 at Novi Ligure. He was involved with music from an early age, and began his professional life as violinist and second bassoonist at the Teatro Andrea Doria in Genoa. His career as a composer was also launched at this theatre with the music for the ballet *Lo sbarco di Garibaldi a Marsala*, and in addition he wrote two symphonies at this time. He remained dissatisfied with these compositions, and briefly resumed his studies in counterpoint and composition with Emilio Taddei, but soon decided to study alone, using the methods of Fenaroli and Stanislao Mattei. For a while he became principal violinist in various orchestras before being appointed deputy concert leader and director of ballet music at La Scala Milan, a position he held for seven seasons. Marengo worked with dance masters like Ferdinando and Giovanni Pratesi (*Tentazione* for the 1874 Carnival), and also wrote a few operas: *Lorenzino de' Medici* (3 acts, librettist G. Perosio; Lodi, Teatro Piontelli, 1 December 1874) and *I Moncada* (2 acts, F. Fulgonio; Milan, Teatro Dal Verme, 16 October 1880).

But most significantly it was during this period that Marengo met the famous choreographer Luigi Manzotti. It was a meeting of true minds, and the composer began a musical collaboration with Manzotti that was to bring them both great fame. Manzotti was the master of the *ballo grande* which used historical and allegorical subjects treated with great seriousness for their deeper significance, and employing huge casts and elaborate *mise en scène* to create an overwhelming spectacle. Their collaboration was firstly on a Nordic theme *Sieba, ossia La spada di Wodan* (Turin, 1878), and continued in the famous trilogy: *Excelsior* (Milan 1881), *Amor* (Milan 1886) and *Sport* (Milan 1897). In these works Manzotti celebrated the positive achievements of the times, a yearning for social progress and the spread of humanitarian ideals. These works generated enthusiasm at La Scala and throughout Europe. The most famous of them, *Excelsior*, depicted the apotheosis of human civilization and proposed the brotherhood of all humanity. It was produced with a cast of 508, and given 103 times in its first year. In 1889 it was performed by the Scala company in Paris at the newly created Eden-Théâtre. Marengo's music was spread all over the world by this success: it was always carefully moulded to the choreographic action, and was well written, with melodic verve, formal invention, and an overwhelming sense of rhythmic dynamism. The music is fast-moving and vivacious, rarely sentimental, and often induces a torrential sense of lyrical exhilaration.

During the period of his great fame Marengo had also responded to the growing popularity of operetta, and produced two works: the French *Le Diable au corps* (librettists: E. Blum and R. Toché; Paris, Bouffes-Parisiens, 19 December 1884) and the Italian *Strategia d'amore* (Milan, Teatro Eden, 20 July 1896). His last ballet was *Luce* (choreographer: G. Pratesi; Milan, La Scala, 25 February 1905). The composer died in Milan on 9 October 1907. His opera *Federico Struensee* (4 acts, with libretto by the composer) was produced in his home town of Novi Ligure as a posthumous tribute (7 October 1908).

Luigi Manzotti

On 15 March 1905 one of the most popular choreographers of the late 19th century died. This is how 'Doctor Verita' characterized Manzotti in the *Conversazione della Domenica* of 1886:

"...were one to meet him on the road one would mistake him for a sacristan. There was nothing artistic about him, neither in his face, his bearing, nor his personality. He appeared to be a good citizen who could have been anything, a grocer, a broker, an accountant, anything but a choreographer. He had a wan face, with light beard and hair, the aspect of a lymphatic man. He spoke in a low voice, entwining one hand with another, with the timid and embarrassed air of a priest dressed in lay clothes, afraid of being surprised by his bishop in his secular guise. What appeared to be cold and inconclusive was in fact the snow beneath which a volcano was rumbling, preparing for its eruption..."

Luigi Manzotti was born in Milan in 1835. His father was a greengrocer for whom he kept the accounts, but in 1857, in love with a Signorina Rachele, and helped by the mime Bocci, he abandoned his father's occupation to take lessons in mime and dance. In every way, anecdotes apart, Manzotti already at this stage loved the art of mime, as Ugo Peaci reported: "he already demonstrated an instinctive love for the art of gesture, standing with open mouth to watch, rather than to hear, Salvini and Ernesto Rossi at the Teatro Re". After a few months he was in the position to start as a mime at the Canobbiana in Alessandro Borsi's *L'Incarnazione di Corinna*, to great applause. Passing on then to the Pergola in Florence and to the Alibert in Rome, he dedicated himself entirely to choreography. "...he no longer saw any friends. What was happening with him? If one forced an entry into his house one found him closed in his room in front of a huge table, which served as a stage and on which were arranged in various and fantastical ways little pellets of bread in which were fixed tiny flags in paper of various colours—blue, green, red. 'What are you doing?' his friends demanded in unison. Manzotti, serious and dry, replied: 'See for yourselves: I am composing a ballet...'"



Luigi Manzotti



Marengo, Manzotti and Edel

His first work, in which he also played the protagonist, was *La morte di Masaniello* (1858), which was very successful and marked the beginning of his famed career in danced theatre. The 14 years he lived in Rome provided him with the knowledge of all the arts and disciplines pertinent to the dance, and during that time he completed the preparations for his *ballo grande* with *Il Moro Antille* (1865) and then *Michelangelo e Rolla* (1869).

His Roman career culminated in the production of the *ballo storico-spettacoloso* (historical-spectacular ballet) *Pietro Micca* (1871) which in those years, with the memories of the Risorgimento still vivid, succeeded in generating profound feeling. It dealt with the heroic undertaking of the miner Pietro Micca, who sacrificed his life in defending Turin from the besieging French in 1706. The ballet took up the current celebration of the Savoy dynasty, and as Paolo Taglioni had already done in *Flik und Flok*, equally shared the danced parts with mimed elements, especially those expressing patriotic sentiments. Manzotti, who was the principal interpreter, at various moments aroused the rapture of the crowds, as in, for example, the farewell of the hero and his wife in the seventh scene. When the encores of the scene which the public demanded could no longer be conceded, it provoked such disorder that the police had to intervene.

In 1873 at the Teatro Apollo in Rome, Manzotti brought out *Galileo Galilei*, with music by Leopoldo Angeli. This work, which anticipated the themes of light and science, is fundamental to *Excelsior*.

In 1872 Manzotti was called to La Scala as first mime in Pratesi's *Bianca di Nevers*, but his great triumph as a choreographer came only three years later in the revivals of *Pietro Micca* and *Michelangelo e Rolla* (presented at La Scala in 1876 under the title *Rolla*). In the same year he composed *Sieba* with music by Romualdo Marengo and costumes by Alfredo Edel, so initiating a collaboration which was to last for a long time and bring great success to all three. The *colossale* was already evident in this work with the introduction on stage of ships, temples, Valhalla, and great massings of figurants. It was produced again the following year at La Scala, in 1880 at the San Carlo in Naples and at La Fenice in Venice, and in 1882 at the Teatro Costanzi in Rome. Thanks to its enormous success, the spectacle did the rounds of many theatres in various cities, among them Lyons.

King Harold (Araldo) of Thule is threatened by the conspiracy of his minister Kafur and his ally, the piratical mercenary Holerut. The god Wotan sends the young king a miraculous sword, brought to him by the valkyrie Sieba. The spiteful Surtur, a wicked god and enemy of Wotan, causes Sieba to fall in love with Harold, and be loved by him in return, against the laws of the valkyries. On the battlefield the pirates capture the King as planned by Kafur, who steals the magic sword and takes command of the army. Meanwhile Sieba is condemned to the horrors of the underworld, to which the triumphant Surtur drives her. At last Wotan allows her to return to the light, and assigns her to life among the mortals. Sieba, with the help of the boy Cadmo, a slave of the pirates, sets her beloved Harold free, thanks to the intervention of Wotan, who blows up a tempest that drowns the pirates and preserves the young slave and the two lovers. Thus King Harold is restored to his people, and marries Sieba.

The use of a subject drawn from Germanic myth in a ballet (following in the wake of *The Goddess of Valhalla* by Pasquale Borri a few years earlier at La Scala), can certainly be attributed to the effects of Wagner's operas on the musical theatre of the late 19th century. *Sieba* marked the beginning of the successful collaboration between Manzotti and the composer Romualdo Marengo, as well as the first appearance of the fantastic transformation scenes so typical of Manzotti's *ballo grande*. Most memorable among the later productions supervised by the choreographer was the ballet's first revival at La Scala Milan on 11 January 1879, with scenery by Carl Ferrario, and danced by Rosita Mauri, Bice Vergani (Araldo), Carlo Coppi (Cadmo), Giuseppe Grezzi (Wotan), and Francesco Baratti (Kafur). It was revived again at La Scala on 14 January 1933, danced by Attila Radice, Placida Battaggi, Gennaro Corbo and Tony Corcione.

At this point Manzotti conceived the idea of the ballet *Excelsior* to celebrate the triumphs of industry, civilization and thought. Returning to Milan he prepared this *ballo grande* which was produced at La Scala on 11 February 1881, with the protagonists Rosina Viale, Carlo Coppi and Cesare Coppini. Some 500 people participated in this spectacle celebrating the apotheosis of the 19th century. *Excelsior* became a rite celebrating the victory of Light over Obscurantism through the conquests of science, art and industry in the achievement of a universal peace. It was produced in theatres across the world. It was said that in Paris a special theatre, the Eden, was built expressly to produce the work (actually the story is legendary, since the theatre already existed, but it is nevertheless symptomatic of the importance attached to the ballet in this era). Into the early 20th century, it was still preferred in Italian theatres to the equally imposing Russian ballet. It was even arranged for the marionettes of Prodrecca's Teatro dei Piccoli.

This extraordinarily spectacular ballet shows the rise of human civilization and the stormy progress of technical development as an embittered struggle between the Spirits of Darkness and Light. Following the invention of the steam ship, the iron bridge, electricity, telegraphy, and the building of the Suez Canal and the Mont Cenis Tunnel, the Spirit of Darkness admits defeat, and a Grand Festival of the Nations is celebrated with an apotheosis of light and peace.

The ballet enjoyed immense popularity and was constantly revived all over Europe. After its Vienna premiere in 1885, it remained in the repertory for 29 years, receiving 329 performances. There have been more recent stagings by Ugo dell'Ara for the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino in 1967 and at La Scala di Milano in 1974.

After *Excelsior*, which procured fame and a comfortable existence for him, and after abandoning the project of staging *La Divina Commedia*, Manzotti choreographed the ballet *Amor*. This realized the Dantean idea of "the Love that moves the sun and the stars", the idea of universal love. This work appeared at La Scala on 17 February 1886, after months of rehearsals, and after the enlargement of the stage to contain the 640 performers, as well as 12 horses, 2 oxen and an elephant. The interpreters were Antonietta Belbi (*prima ballerina*), Ernestina Operti (*prima mima*), Enrico Cecchetti (*primo ballerino*), and Carlo Coppi (*primo mimo*). The success equalled that of *Excelsior*, but because of the huge nature of the production, it was revived only once, in 1902.

Starting with Chaos and finishing with the Temple of Love, Manzotti presented a display of spectacular scenes, among them Parnassus, the Pantheon of the Arts in Greece, the Triumph of Caesar, the Destruction of Rome, Barbarossa and the Battle of Legnano. Together with hundreds of dancers, mimes, children, and extras, a live elephant and several horses and oxen also appeared on stage.

Manzotti's next ballet *Sport* (La Scala, 10 February 1897), which glorified all kinds of sporting activities, was on the scale of his previous productions. It was also very popular, and was revived by E. Coppini with success in 1905 and 1906. *L'Illustrazione Italiana* observed:

"*Sport!...Sport!...Sport!* Everyone is talking about it! Manzotti's ballet which saw the light of day at La Scala this week is the great event of the season... We follow this trend and dedicate several pages to the event. *Sport* unfolds before the eyes of the spectators; it provokes the emotions of a real racetrack, a real regatta, of Alpine climbing in all its stress; we attend ice-skating in Canada, and find ourselves transported to the racecourse of Longchamps, and to the enchanting banks of a lagoon."

Manzotti's last composition *Rosa d'amore* (La Scala, 1899), with music by Bayer, was greatly inferior to its predecessors.

According to Gino Tani, Manzotti's choreography now appears elephantine and Baroque, but we must appreciate the originality that pulled together the traditions of the 19th century and served as the inspiration for certain aspects of the work of choreographers like Marius Petipa and George Balanchine. In the 20th century, the figure of Manzotti has often been belittled, frequently to underline that basically, he, the son of a *verzeratt* (greengrocer), was lacking culture. But, analyzing his works and the success they enjoyed in a period when ballet was generally in decline, one is not able to deny them a well-informed mastery and a stageworthiness, however banal, as well as a capacity for grand communication that validates the title 'Cavaliere della Repubblica' proposed for him by the minister Guido Baccelli (Minister of Education and Agriculture of the Kingdom of Italy from 1874 to 1903).

Excelsior

A historical, allegorical, spectacular ballet in six parts and eleven scenes

Choreography and scenario by Luigi Manzotti

Music by Romualdo Marengo

Sets and costumes by Alfredo Edel

First performance: Milan, La Scala, 11 January 1881

Principal dancers: Bice Vergani, Carlo Montanara, Rosina Viale, Carlo Coppi, Angelo Cuccoli

Synopsis

Part I:

Obscurantism: in Spain of the Inquisition the Spirit of Darkness holds enchained a beautiful woman, Light, Progress, Civilization. But the links of the chain break, Light triumphs, the personification of human genius appears, and Obscurantism retires defeated, cursing at so much radiance.

Light: surrounded by riches and brilliance, the grandeurs of antiquity can be seen. Then the discoveries of the new era, the fruits of science, make their appearance: Steam Power, Telegraphy, the Suez Canal, the Mont Cenis tunnel. A new age enters in triumph and a happy future illuminates the path of humanity.

Part II:

The First Steamboat: a village on the River Weser. In the village inn the success of young Valentino, winner of the boat race, is being celebrated. He is challenged by his defeated rival. Obscurantism warns the contestants of the arrival of a steamboat, piloted by its inventor, Papin. "It is a work of the devil," he tells them. The boatmen destroy the vessel. Papin dies in the struggle, but Light proclaims his glory to the crowd.

New York: over a stormy sea ploughs a great steamship. It is the development of Papin's invention. Obscurantism falls, overpowered.

Part III:

Electricity: we are in Alessandro Volta's laboratory in Como. He stands deep in thought beside his 'pile'. Though threatened by the Spirit of Darkness, Light protects him. At last a spark flashes out. It is victory.

Washington: Obscurantism finds himself in Telegraph Square, dazzled by the light. A crowd of telegraph boys come out, guided by Civilization. The malevolent being steals away, cursing.

Part IV:

The Simoon: a caravan is crossing the desert when it is overtaken by the simoon, a terrible sandstorm. The unfortunate travellers are robbed by desert marauders and prepare to die in the darkness. The Spirit of Evil rejoices, but Light points to the horizon where a new route has opened, *The Suez Canal*. In place of the desert is a wide canal and the town of Ismailia where all European civilization is foregathered, brought together by Science. There are ships, tents, and people of every race dancing with joy.

Part V:

The Ultimate Mining Operation: the great work of the Mont Cenis tunnel is almost completed, and Evil lurks, seeking revenge. The engineers install the last charge, which will demolish the remaining rock dividing Italy from France. The detonation is awaited in an atmosphere of suspense. Then at last the barrier falls and workers and engineers of the two nations embrace one another. Now Obscurantism is truly defeated and Light condemns him to see the peoples united in universal happiness. The ground then opens up and the dark spirit is swallowed into its depths.

Part VI:

The Apotheosis of Human Genius: all the nations gather together and dance joyfully to the glory of the present and the greater glory to come, in the guise of Science.

Excelsior, performed 103 times during the year 1881, was one of the greatest successes of Italian ballet. It was a stupendous affair, crowded, colourful, full of ideas that would please and stimulate the general public. With its unlimited faith in scientific progress, it interpreted the optimism of the new classes who saw industry and fresh discoveries as the way to save humanity from its age-old ills. It had, moreover, a positive feeling of world brotherhood and internationalism, and, in its confrontation of light and darkness, pointed towards a new morality nourished with hope. Not at all a romantic ballet, but practical and secular, *Excelsior* was the perfect product of the great reformist illusion, and a monument to human intelligence finally successful in bending the forces of nature to its will. In those years scientific discoveries still seemed miracles destined to change the course of events. Manzotti and Marengo, well aware of these tendencies, gave free rein to their imaginations in a grand display of stage effects and spectacle. Thus *Excelsior* is an entertainment closely related to its epoch, and though it may be accused of naiveté, it would be unjust not to consider it as an important document of late 19th-century Italian culture. It was admittedly the expression of an unsophisticated taste, the reflection of a certain decadence in regard to choreography; but its impact on the public was and remains extraordinary, as can be seen from the recent revivals after so many years of oblivion. Marengo's music is simple and suitable for dancing, sometimes inspired by folk dances such as the famous mazurka of the Weser, grown famous as the accompaniment to '*Bella se vuoi venire sull'omnibus*'. *Excelsior* is a little masterpiece of fusion between various kinds of entertainment; choreographically Manzotti combined 19th-century tradition with the most lively elements of modernism. Perhaps the ballet could best be described as an agile elephant, highly decorated and very cinematographic (even though the cinema was not yet in existence).

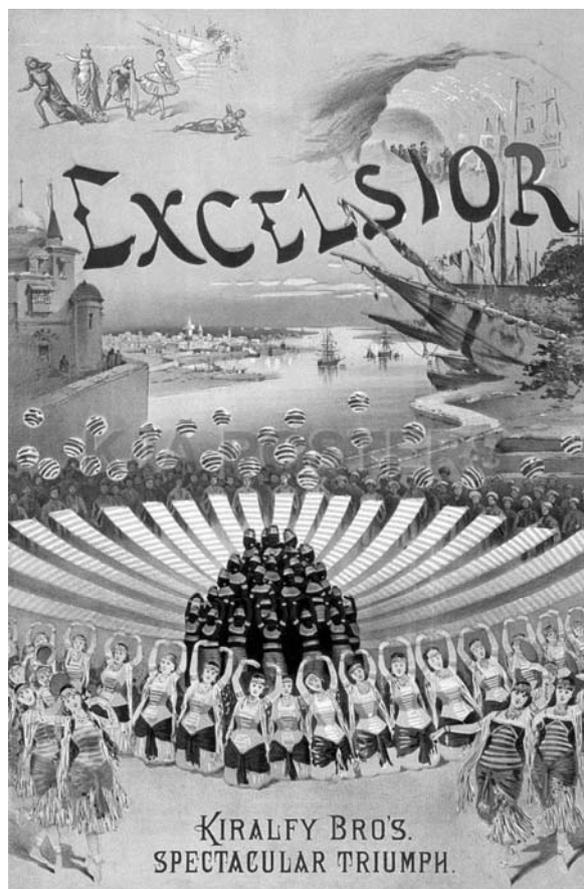
Excelsior was revived at La Scala in 1883, 1888, 1894, 1909 (always with the same choreography), and in 1916 in a new version by Renato Simoni. On 22 May 1885, Carlo Ceppi staged it at Her Majesty's Theatre in London. Between 1895 and 1956 it could be seen adapted for the marionettes of the Teatro dei Piccoli, with a revival at the Piccola Scala in 1969. In 1931 a 'reproduction' by Giovanni Pratesi was first put on at the Teatro San Carlo in Naples in an atmosphere heavy with Fascism, with updatings, such as Marconi in place of Volta, and S.O.S. (Morse Code) instead of Suez.

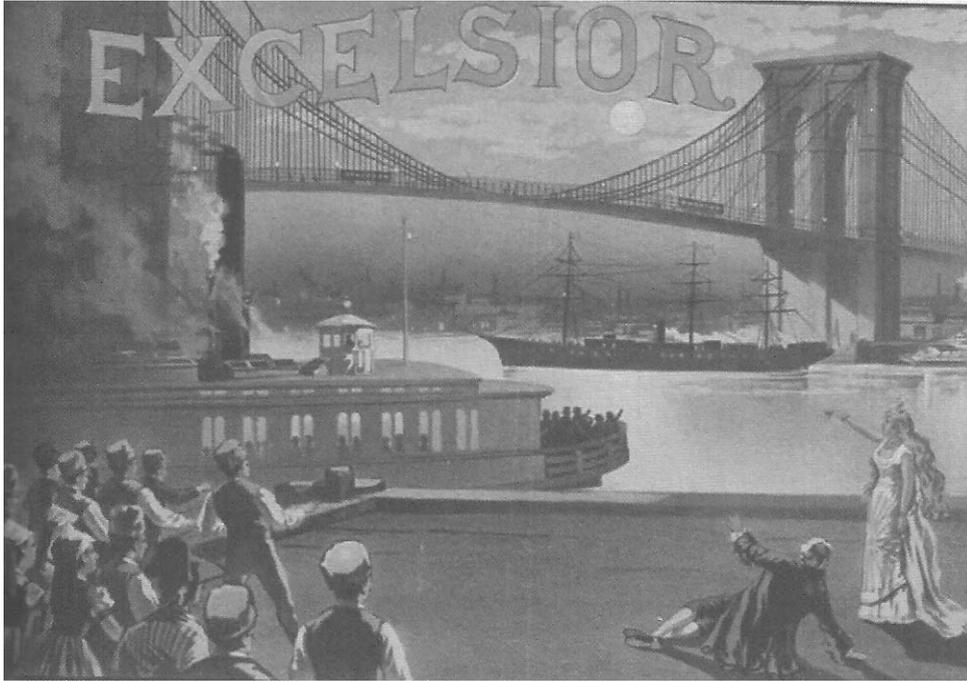
On 27 June 1967, *Excelsior* was revived at the Teatro Comunale in Florence for the Maggio Musicale, and enjoyed a successful run, including performances at La Scala and Rome. The choreography was by Ugo dell'Ara, and the music re-arranged by Fiorenzo Carpi. The sets and costumes were designed by Giulio Coltellacci. Manzotti's prologue

“To the Reader” was spoken by Alfredo Bianchini. The production was staged under the direction of Filippo Crivelli. There were some departures from the original, such as the character of the freed slave in the Suez Scene. Among the dancers were Ludmilla Tcherina, Ugo Dell’Ara, Carla Fracci, and Attilo Labis. The grand finale with flags and uniforms of the nations aroused immense enthusiasm, as did the sumptuous and ingenious staging.

The Festival of Two Worlds in Spoleto presented *Excelsior* in 1990. This was followed by a revival at the Teatro Degli Arcimboldi Milano in 2002, with the Obscurantism of Riccardo Massimi pitted against the Light of Marta Romagna. Other roles were undertaken by Civilisation (Isabel Seabra), the Slave (Roberto Bolle) (demonstrating liberation and upward social mobility), with long dance sequences for Thunderbolt (Raffaella Benaglia) and Indian (Elisabetta Armiato). The resultant DVD shows gorgeous stage settings, with sprightly orchestral playing and superb video quality.

Carlo Colla's famous company of marionettes includes *Excelsior* in its repertory. Despite the limitations of the medium, this version is more likely to be closer to the original than any other realization.





Sport

Ballet in 4 parts and 8 scenes

Scenario and choreography by Luigi Manzotti

Music by Romualdo Marengo

Sets by Magni, Rota, L. Sala, and Songa

Costumes by Alfredo Edel

First performance: Milan, La Scala. 10 February 1897

Principal dancers: Cecilia Cerri (Florence Bernier), Luisa Cristino (Lady Waldeck), Vittorio de Vincenti (the Jockey), Antonio Monti (the Marquis de Franckeville)

An elegant sportsman, the Marquis de Franckeville, has seduced the actress Florence Bernier and also Lady Waldeck, wife of an American millionaire. The two rivals follow their lover all over the world, from his mountain climbing in the Alps (Part I), to the skating championships in Canada (Part II), to the horse races at Longchamps, and the Venetian Regatta (Part III), always with mixed success. Hunting, fishing, target-practice and a futuristic invasion of cyclists are also included. Florence Bernier eventually wins in the competition of love, in time for the final celebration of the triumph of sport (Part IV).

Sport was the last of Manzotti's grand trilogy which started, and found its apotheosis, in *Excelsior*. As modern and spectacular as the other two, *Sport* was intended as a celebration of every kind of athletic activity, especially in the enthusiastic aftermath of the first modern Olympic Games in Athens on 10 April 1896. Although the scenario concerned the eternal triangle, it was only an excuse for displays of skill by soloists and stupendous ensembles for the corps de ballet, whose costumes were very daring for that period. *Sport* has been seen as the ancestor of the precision manoeuvres of the Hoffmann Girls, and even as an influence on Fokine's geometric groupings and on the styles of Golejzovsky, Nijinska, Balanchine and Lifar. The popularity of the work was enormous (46 performances in the first season), and was equally successful when revived in 1905 and 1906 under the direction of Achille Copini.

It is not surprising that Manzotti dedicated a ballet to sporting activities in a period when 'the culture of the body' and physical formation were developing apace. This subject gave Manzotti the means of best exploiting the capacity of the corps de ballet, engaged in the gymnastic and athletic developments, and to provide space for the movement of groups, an area in which the choreographer succeeded particularly well. Among the principal dancers of *Sport* were Laura Cerri and Vittorio De Vincenti. The costumes by Edel, rather audacious for the period, are interesting documents of fashion at the end of the 19th century, particularly in the sector dedicated to sportswear and leisure fashions.

Illustrations:

The title page of the score

The German Liebig Cards celebrating the ballet:

1. Masked Ball on ice at Montreal (Canada): the big Snow Ballabile
2. The 'Grand Prix' in Longchamps: saluting the victor (Champagne Dance)
3. The Venetian Regatta: the Gondoliers' Ballabile
4. Hunting Party in Fontainebleau: the Hallali
5. The great Procession of the Sports
6. The Triumph of Sport: the closing Mass Tableau

SPORT

Ballo in
8 quadri

DI LUIGI MANZOTTI

Musica di
ROMUALDO MARENCO

STABILIMENTO 7° MILANO RICORDI E FRANCESCO LUCCA
G. RICORDI & C.
Via S. Pietro all'Orto 12
MILANO



Sport Grosses Ballet von G. Manzotti. Musik von R. Marenco. Kostüme von A. Edel. ③

Vom Eigentümer L. Manzotti autorisierte Reproduktion.

LIEBIG
Company's
Fleisch-
Extract
u.
Pepton.

Venetianische Regatta: Gondolier-Ballabile. Siehe Rückseite

Gesetzl. geschützt

Sport Grosses Ballet von G. Manzotti. Musik von R. Marenco. Kostüme von A. Edel. ④

Vom Eigentümer L. Manzotti autorisierte Reproduktion.

LIEBIG
Company's
Fleisch-
Extract
u.
Pepton.

Jağdfest in Fontainebleau: Das Hallali. Siehe Rückseite

Gesetzl. geschützt



EXCELSIOR

Azione coreografica, storica, allegorica fantastica

DI

LUIGI MANZOTTI

MUSICA DI

ROMUALDO MARENCO

PRELUDIO

MAESTOSO

The first system of musical notation consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and the lower in bass clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is common time (C). The music begins with a piano (*ppp*) dynamic, marked with a hairpin. It features a series of chords and moving lines in both hands. The system concludes with a forte (*ff*) dynamic, also marked with a hairpin.

The second system of musical notation continues the piece with two staves. It features a complex texture with many notes, including triplets and sixteenth-note patterns. The dynamics are mostly piano, with some accents. The system ends with a repeat sign.

The third system of musical notation continues the piece with two staves. It features a complex texture with many notes, including triplets and sixteenth-note patterns. The dynamics are mostly piano, with some accents. The system ends with a repeat sign.

First system of musical notation. Treble and bass staves. Treble staff features a melodic line with slurs and accents. Bass staff features a rhythmic accompaniment with chords and slurs. Dynamics include *p* and *s*. A fermata is present over the first measure of the bass staff.

Second system of musical notation. Treble and bass staves. Treble staff features a melodic line with slurs and accents. Bass staff features a rhythmic accompaniment with chords and slurs. Dynamics include *p* and *s*. A fermata is present over the first measure of the bass staff.

Third system of musical notation. Treble and bass staves. Treble staff features a melodic line with slurs and accents. Bass staff features a rhythmic accompaniment with chords and slurs. Dynamics include *cres.* and *s*. A fermata is present over the first measure of the bass staff.

Fourth system of musical notation. Treble and bass staves. Treble staff features a melodic line with slurs and accents. Bass staff features a rhythmic accompaniment with chords and slurs. Dynamics include *ff* and *s*. A fermata is present over the first measure of the bass staff.

Fifth system of musical notation. Treble and bass staves. Treble staff features a melodic line with slurs and accents. Bass staff features a rhythmic accompaniment with chords and slurs. Dynamics include *s*. A fermata is present over the first measure of the bass staff.

8

Musical notation for the first system, measures 8-11. The system consists of two staves. The upper staff has a treble clef and a key signature of two flats. The lower staff has a bass clef and the same key signature. The music features a complex rhythmic pattern with many sixteenth notes and slurs. There are several accents (v) and dynamic markings (f) throughout the system.

8

Musical notation for the second system, measures 12-15. The system consists of two staves. The upper staff has a treble clef and a key signature of two flats. The lower staff has a bass clef and the same key signature. The music features a complex rhythmic pattern with many sixteenth notes and slurs. There are several accents (v) and dynamic markings (ff and pp). A fermata is present over the final note of the upper staff in measure 15. The text "(colpo di campana interno)" is written below the lower staff in measure 15.

Musical notation for the third system, measures 16-19. The system consists of two staves. The upper staff has a treble clef and a key signature of two flats. The lower staff has a bass clef and the same key signature. The music features a complex rhythmic pattern with many sixteenth notes and slurs. There are several accents (v) and dynamic markings (dim.). A fermata is present over the final note of the upper staff in measure 19. The text "(colpo di campana interno)" is written below the lower staff in measure 19.

ALLEGRO VIVO

Musical notation for the fourth system, measures 20-23. The system consists of two staves. The upper staff has a treble clef and a key signature of two flats. The lower staff has a bass clef and the same key signature. The music features a complex rhythmic pattern with many sixteenth notes and slurs. There are several accents (v) and dynamic markings (pp and cres.).

Musical notation for the fifth system, measures 24-27. The system consists of two staves. The upper staff has a treble clef and a key signature of two flats. The lower staff has a bass clef and the same key signature. The music features a complex rhythmic pattern with many sixteenth notes and slurs. There are several accents (v) and dynamic markings (ff). The text "(si alza la tela)" is written below the lower staff in measure 24.

PARTE I-QUADRO I

L'OSCURANTISMO

Una città di Spagna ai tempi dell'Inquisizione.
Notte sinistra e funebre. Il Genio delle tenebre tiene ai suoi piedi, avvinto da pesanti

ANDANTE
pppp



The first system of music consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and contains a melodic line with a series of eighth notes and some rests, marked with a *pppp* dynamic. The lower staff is in bass clef and features a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes, also marked with a *pppp* dynamic. The tempo is indicated as *ANDANTE*.

catene, il Progresso, e ne gioisce.



The second system continues the piano accompaniment from the first system, maintaining the same rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in the bass clef.



The third system continues the piano accompaniment, showing the progression of the melodic line in the treble clef.



The fourth system continues the piano accompaniment, featuring some dynamic markings above the treble clef staff.



The fifth system concludes the piano accompaniment, ending with a final cadence in both staves.

Il Progresso, raffigurato dalla

f *p* *pp* *p dolcissimo*

Luce, a poco a poco si rialza e infrange le sue catene, apostrofando l'Oscurantismo.

PIÙ MOSSO

m.s. *m.d.* *p* *cres.*

stentate *ff 1º Tempo*

ff

Lotta fra i due e vittoria della Luce.

ALLEGRO

The first system of musical notation consists of two staves, treble and bass clef. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The music features a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes with accents, and some chords in the bass line.

The second system continues the musical notation with similar rhythmic patterns and accents. The bass line shows some chordal textures.

The third system shows a continuation of the piece, with more complex rhythmic figures and chordal accompaniment in both staves.

The fourth system features a dense texture with many chords and rhythmic patterns, particularly in the bass line.

La città sprofonda.

The fifth system concludes the piece with a final chord and a *fff* (fortissimo) dynamic marking. The notation includes a fermata over the final notes.

QUADRO II

LA LUCE

Soggiorno del Genio e della Scienza.

ANDANTE GRANDIOSO

8

ff

8

8

8

ff INNO DEI GENI

8

8

POCO PIÙ MOSSO

Detailed description: This is a piano score for a piece titled 'QUADRO II LA LUCE'. The score is written for piano and consists of five systems of music. The first system is marked 'ANDANTE GRANDIOSO' and begins with a forte dynamic (*ff*). The second system continues the piece. The third system is marked 'INNO DEI GENI' and also begins with a forte dynamic (*ff*). The fourth system continues the 'INNO DEI GENI' section. The fifth and final system is marked 'POCO PIÙ MOSSO', indicating a slight increase in tempo. The score features complex piano textures with many chords and arpeggiated figures. There are several first endings marked with '8' and repeat signs. The piece concludes with a final cadence.

LA FAMA

DANZA

ALLEGRETTO



8

8

POCO PIÙ MOSSO

8

8

LA CIVILTÀ

POLKETTA

ANDANTE

p

ff *dim.*

ff *p*

ff *pp e rall.*

8