

Theatre Square

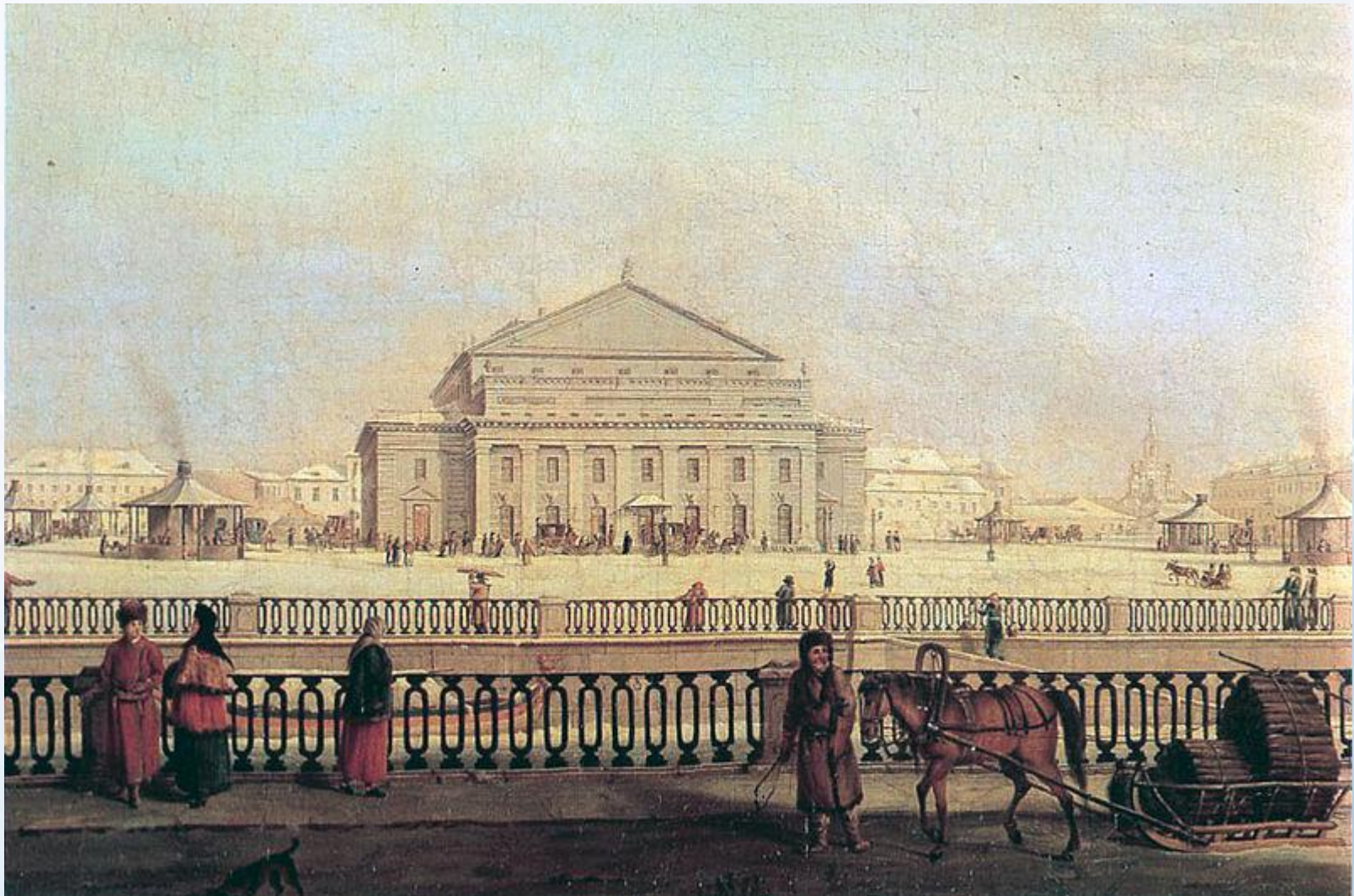


Theatre Square was shaped in the second part of the 18th century



One of the oldest squares of St. Petersburg, the modern Theater square was originally named Carousel square because of the round amphitheaters, built for equestrian shows. It was a square of a variety entertainments for the citizens – people could see there comedy performances, visit impressive show booths or try a number of carousels and swings.

Between 1765 and 1800 the theatre was built there.



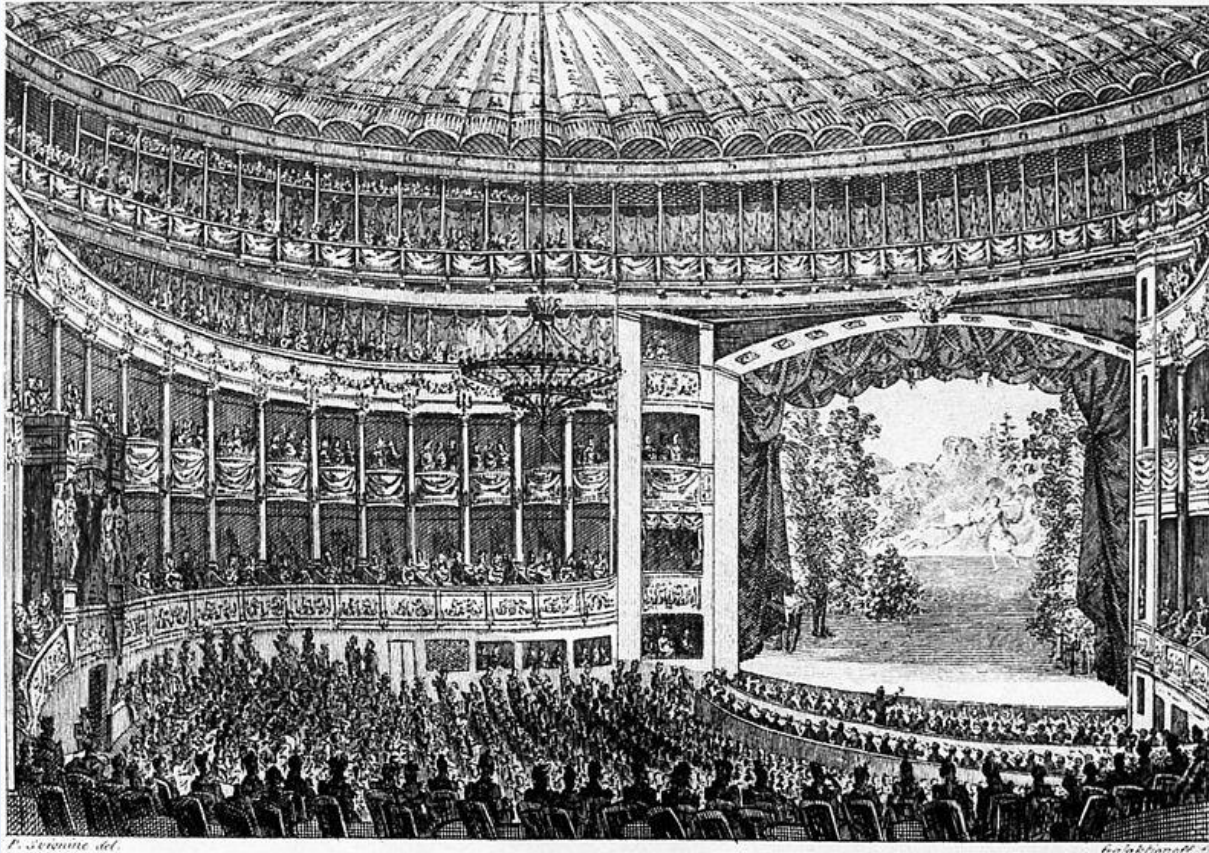
Antonio Rinaldi (1710 – 1794)



was an Italian architect, trained by Luigi Vanvitelli, who worked mainly in Russia.

In the 1770s, Rinaldi served as the main architect of Count Orlov, who was Catherine's prime favourite and the most powerful man in the country. During this period he built two grandiose Neoclassical residences, namely the Marble Palace on the Palace Embankment in St Petersburg and the roomy Gatchina Castle, which was acquired for Emperor Paul and partly remodeled.

The auditorium of the Bolshoy (Stone) Theatre in 1820-s



For a long time the Bolshoy ranked with the best theatres of Europe and remained the largest theatre in Europe. The theatre was rebuilt many times, burnt down and rected again from the ashes. Operas, ballets and plays were staged at that theatre. Its auditorium had three tiers and accommodated about 2,000 spectators.

But it was rebuilt in the first decade of the 19th century by



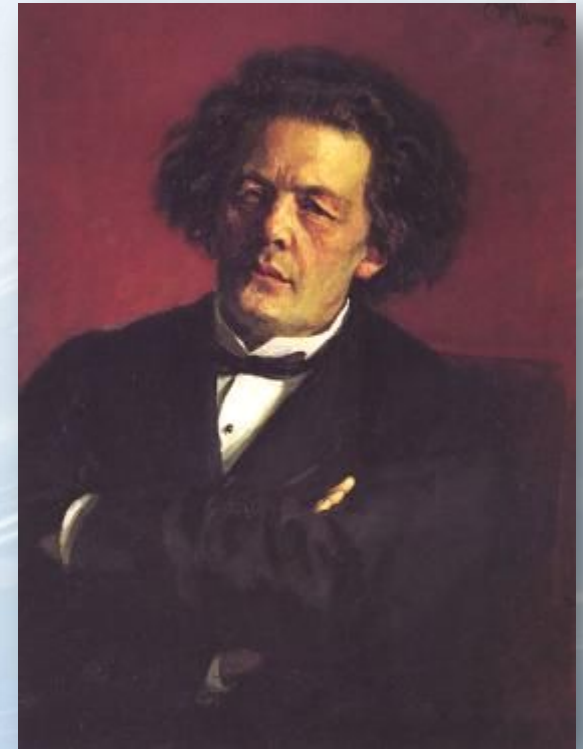
Jean-François Thomas de Thomon (1760 –1813)

was a French neoclassical architect who worked in Eastern Europe in 1791–1813. Thomas de Thomon was the author of Old Saint Petersburg Stock Exchange and Rostral Columns on the spit of Vasilievsky Island in Saint Petersburg. Thomas de Thomon, graduate of the French Academy in Rome, "imported" the high classicism practiced by this school in 1780s into Russia and thus contributed to the formation of Russian national variant of neoclassicism practiced during the reign of Alexander I.



Then the St Petersburg Conservatoire was housed in this building

The first institution of higher musical education in Russia was founded in 1862 on the initiative of the composer Anton Rubinshtein.



The famous graduates of the Conservatoire



Pyotr Tchaikovsky



Sergey Prokofyev



Dmitry Shostakovich

Nikolay Rimsky-Korsakov (1844 - 1908)



In 1944, the Conservatoire was named after the great Russian composer Nikolay Rimsky-Korsakov.

Next to the Conservatoire there are two monuments to two outstanding Russian composers



The monument to N. Rimsky-Korsakov was designed by sculptors Veniamin Bogolyubov and Victor Ingal and erected in 1952.



The monument to Mikhail Glinka is the creation of the sculptor Robert Bakh. It was mounted in 1906.

Opposite the Conservatoire stands the Mariinsky Theatre.



The architects of the Mariinsky Theatre



After the fire of 1859, the building was reconstructed according to the design of the architect Albert Kavos. The appearance of the building, its main facade is a result of the reconstruction undertaken between 1894 and 1895 under the supervision of the architect Victor Schroter.

Maria Alexandrovna



The new theatre was named the Mariinsky Theatre after Maria Alexandrovna, the wife of Alexander II.

The theatre was inaugurated on the 2nd of October, 1860 with the opera "Life for the Tsar" ("Ivan Susanin") by Mikhail Glinka.



Famous performers of Mariinsky Theatre



Fyodor Shaliapin



Leonid Sobinov



Anna Pavlova



Tamara Karsavina

Famous performers of Mariinsky Theatre



Mathilda
Kshesinskaya



Vaslav Nizhinsky



Mikhail Fokin

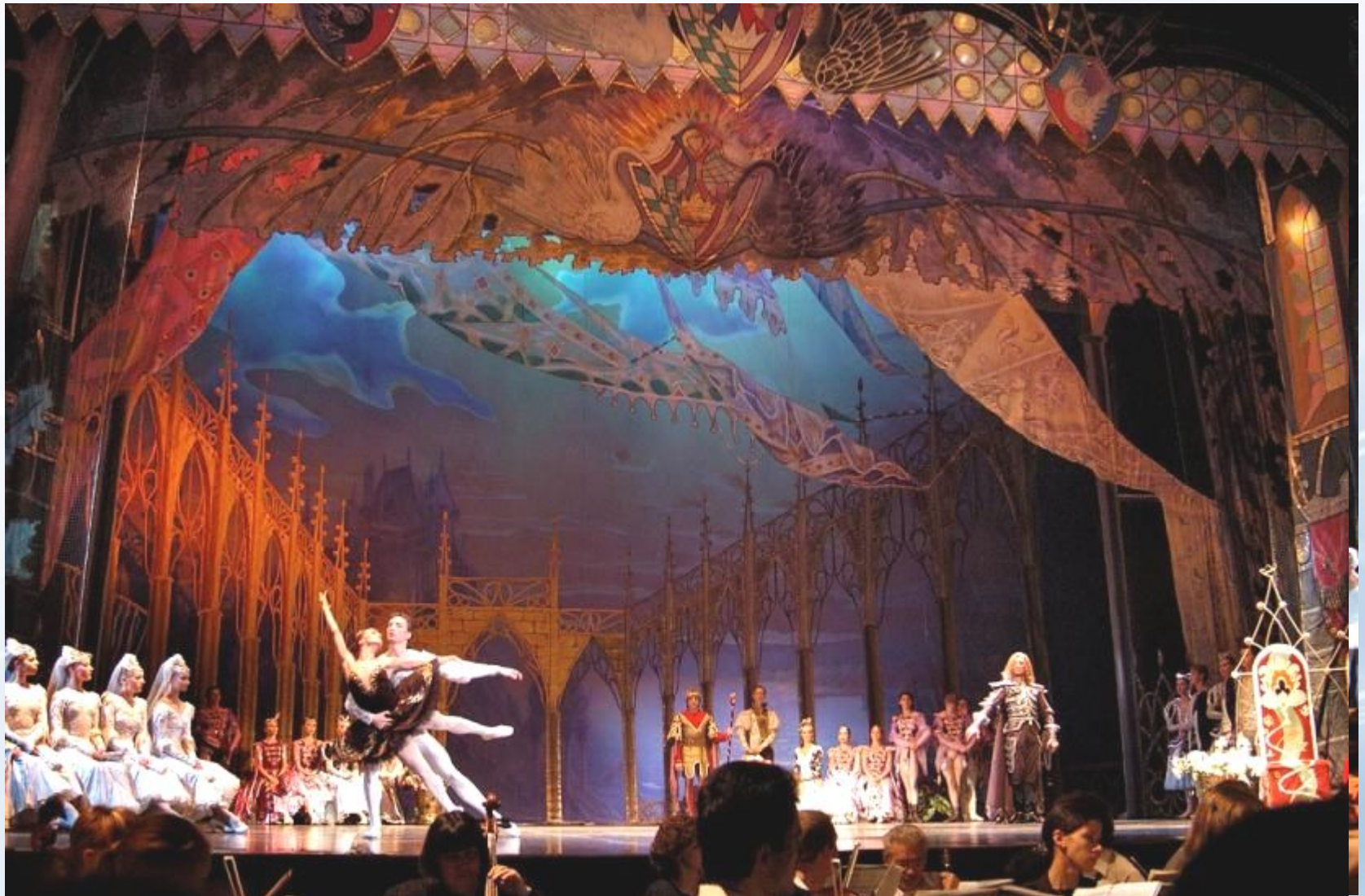


Galina Ulanova

For several years the ballet company was headed by Maurice Petipa.



The Mariinsky Theatre is famous all over the world by its preserved traditions of Russian classic ballet.



Thanks for your attention



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**View of the Square and the Grand Theatre,
St Petersburg**

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