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## URBAN SPECTACLE IN REPUBLICAN MILAN

*Pubbliche Feste at the Turn  
of the Nineteenth Century*

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## Urban Spectacle in Republican Milan

### *Pubbliche Feste* at the Turn of the Nineteenth Century

Elements in Music and the City

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**Abstract:** At the turn of the nineteenth century, Lombardy and its capital, Milan, lived through a season of intense social and political change, especially in the passage between Austrian monarchy and Napoleonic republics (1796–9 and 1800–2, respectively). While affecting cultural production on all levels, this passage occasioned a significant change in terms of public celebration, with republican festivals and other celebratory occasions hailing from revolutionary France being reframed to suit Milanese specificities. After establishing a solid historical and aesthetic background to Lombardy in this delicate period, to the revolutionary models and to the Milanese substrate, this Element aims to reconstruct and describe the main features of the French republican festivals in Milan, and their impact on the city's landscape, soundscape and self-representation. It will conclude by offering some reflections on these events' consequences on the following century's patriotism/nationalism and cultural production, reinstating them as an interesting, albeit forgotten, case study.

**Keywords:** public celebration, republican festivals, urban soundscape, urban landscape, Milan,

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