

Fanes – The Musical Poem of the Dolomites

Premiere in the year of the declaration of the Dolomites UNESCO world natural heritage (2009)

The poem is by the Ladin author Roland Verra and the original music by the Ladin musician Susy Rottonara. The author's voice tells of the mythic happenings of the legend of Fanes written in 32 lyrics with an emphasized dramatic approach underlined with archaic melodies sung by the choir –in the role of the commenting choir in the greek tragedy– and by the soprano voice of the female protagonist princess Dolasila, who is obliged by the King of Fanes to give up her love to the enemy prince Ey de Net.

The premiere of the Musical Poem Fanes was set in the fascinating scenery of the Lake of Sompunt under the wild rocks of the Gardenazza Dolomite mountains in Alta Badia on the 11th of August 2009, with the participation of many local actors.

The fall of peacefully people of Fanes is caused by the longing for increasing power of the last king of Fanes, who forces his daughter, princess Dolasila, to fight against the neighbour people with bewitched weapons. Dolasila wears a precious gem called Rajëta, that is the symbol of power. Wicked supernatural figures like the sorcerer Spina de Mul make enchantments in the dark, opposing the harmony with the nature represented by the Queen of Fanes. The battles of the Fanes against the enemies are emphasized with special lightening effects, whereas the witch Zicuta and the "salvans" (gnomes) guardians of the Aurona treasure appear in front of a rock in the wood near the lake. Dolasila dies to save her people and her twin sister Lujanta leads the Queen and the survived Fanes in the underground reign of the marmots. The prophecy of the promised time by the Queen, in which the Fanes will be living in peace and prosperity, vanishes as the "Ganes" (nymphs) appear in the silence of the final scene and make everything seem a memory lost in a dream. The experimental and complex work is characterized by a strong evocative power and symbolic elements in a dynamic sequence of the scenes with special lightening effects on the lake in harmony with the magic atmosphere of the "genius loci", the unique nature of the Dolomites' mountains.

Pictures of the premiere: see under "Cultural Association Fanes"