

Therion - Secret of the Runes (2001)

Written by bluesever

Tuesday, 18 March 2014 16:41 - Last Updated Friday, 15 February 2019 10:55

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1. *Ginnungagap (Prologue)* - 6:09 2. *Midgård* - 5:03 3. *Asgård* - 4:07 4. *Jotunheim* - 3:43
5. *Schwarzalbenheim* - 5:17 6. *Ljusalheim* - 3:54 7. *Muspelheim* - 2:14 8. *Nifelheim* - 4:35
9. *Vanaheim* - 4:03 10. *Helheim* - 3:18 11. *Secret of The Runes (Epilogue)* - 5:30 12. *Crying Days* - 4:31 13. *Summer Night City* - 4:54

The band Christofer Johnsson: Rhythm guitar, Keyboard, Percussion Kristian Niemann: Lead guitar, Rhythm guitar Johan Niemann: Bass guitar Sami Karppinen: Drums, Percussion Vocal and string solists: Marika Schonberg: Solo soprano Erika Andersson: Solo alto Carl Rahmqvist: Solo tenor-baritone Anna Rodell: Solo violin Asa Akerberg: Solo cello Thomas Karlsson: Whispering voice Piotr Wawrzeniuk: Lead vocals Choir Kristina Hansson: Coloratura soprano Anna-Maria Krawe: Soprano Anna Artursson: Alto Marika Schonberg: Alto Henrik Holmberg: Tenor Patrik Forsman: Tenor Carl Rahmqvist: Tenor-baritone Joakim Berg: Bass-baritone String ensemble Anna Rodell: Violin (1st) Josef Cabrales-Alin: Violin (1st) Malin Samuelsson: Violin (2nd) Johan Moren: Violin (2nd) Linda Svedrup: Viola Niklas Sjunesson: Viola Asa Akerberg: Cello Monica Jonsson: Cello Woodwinds (solo and ensemble) Fareidah Hildebrand: Flute, Alt flute, Piccolo Erik Rodell: Oboe, English Horn Henrik Blixt: Bassoon, Contrabassoon Brass ensemble Mikael Sorensen: Trumpet, Fluegelhorn Ayman Al Fakir: French horn, Wagner tuba Kristina Borg: French horn Rune Bodin: Trombone

The concept of this album is based on the ancient Nordic tradition. In this tradition exists a world tree called Yggdrasil. This tree consists of nine worlds on which the album is focused around. The songs describe each of the worlds. However, there are also a prologue and an epilogue. The prologue, "Ginnungagap", is the void of creation, where the world was once shaped. The giant Ymer was slayed and the land was created from his body and the seas of his blood. The epilogue is the title track, which is the quintessence of the whole concept: Odin's journey when he was hanging himself from Yggdrasil for nine days and nights. He then received the knowledge of the runes. The word "rune" (or "runa" as it is called in Swedish) means "secret" and therefore the meaning of the title is "The Secret of the Secrets". The secret hidden in the concept of runes is that they are more than just letters to write with; they are also magical signs and each has an esoteric meaning. Runes have existed in various forms and in different

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traditions. The Nordic tradition is based on the "Futhark" or more rarely the "Uthark". The Nordic tradition is the most known and today it is basically the only one used among serious occult groups and pagan believers that are using runes; it should not be mixed up with the other existing ones, even though a few of the rune letters in the different rune alphabets may be the same or look a bit similar. The themes Librettos of Richard Wagner were based on the myths and legends from the Nordic-Germanic tradition. Wotan is just another word for Odin. So as the musical influence from Wagner is huge, it is very suitable using related lyrical contents on this album. ---chris, megatherion.com

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