

Josef Tal

ASHMEDAI - Electronic Overture of the Opera (1968)

Duration: 9'

The piece is based on parts of the Electronic Music to the opera ASHMEDAI. The American choreographer Manuel Alum premiered it in February 1973 with the Bat Dor Dance Company, Tel-Aviv in his dance-composition "Juana". Besides the purely electronic sounds, human voices and hand-clapping are used for the theatrical content of the music.

Overture Electronique to Ashmedai, Opera in Two Acts

by Josef Tal

The opera starts with a choreographic scene, in which the building up of the scenery is performed on an open stage. The utopian content of the story, which, at the same time is most realistic and acute, demands a music which on the one hand acoustically serves the intensive development of structures visible to the audience. On the other hand, it uses symbols of musical language, different from the traditional accepted ones. Time relations between the sounds are the main factor of coherence. Pitch is used only for the better appreciation of time-textures.

The criterion for the composition should be its ability to stand for itself and be independent of the visual happenings.

The composition has been realized with the Moog Synthesizer at the Electronic Music Studio, Hebrew University, Jerusalem.