

## MADNESS OF LOVE or THE LEGEND OF THE PRINCESS ARIANNA AND OF THE BOY THAT CHANGED IN A MINOTAUR.

### BACKGROUND

A voice from outside. Dark.

In Assisi, there is a story as old as time itself.

Is it true? Is it fancy? But still today it is said and we, young people, are still afraid, just hearing about it.

When winter came and the cold and the dark entered the veins and made life cold, everyone abandoned the hope of a better future and prayed that winter would pass quickly and return the season of life and love, Spring, could return. But, alas! During these long and sad winters, it is said that some boys lose their hope of having a life full of love. Alas! Some of them became crazy for that long wait and their invocation turned into a scared scream.

Then, it is said that they were chained and taken to a mysterious place where they were lost forever. This place was called labyrinth, in the middle of which there was a frightening monster that tore them into pieces. To exorcise this mythological story, in Assisi, at the arrival of Spring, season of life and love, every year, at Calendimaggio, we celebrate love with songs and dances ...

*Introduction: a musical piece- Enter the characters*

1. NARRATOR (storyteller): Finally, after the cold winter that freezes all our hearts, the Spring is back: our lethargy has been long and painful, but our wait has been rewarded.
2. NARRATOR: with the awakening of nature, with the blossoming of flowers, love returns to bloom again.
3. NARRATOR: love makes every heart beat and allows lovers to confide one another sincerely.
4. Among the noblemen who come to the castle, there was Prince Asterion. He was hopelessly in love with Princess Arianna, the most beautiful of all the girls, but he has never dared to confess it. When he woke up, at the arrival of the spring, Asterion was even more eager to see her again.

YOUNG PRINCE: What I feel inside of me, in the deep of my soul, is unknown to me and, in front of her, I feel I lose myself.

I no longer know who I am and what I do. I would just like to be close to her and admire her. Only in this way, I can feel happy and in peace. All of you, who are around her, get away and at least, let me be moved and long for a glance from her.

NARRATOR: Alas! Unfortunately, the beautiful and happy Arianna has anything else in her mind and she does not even see that poor prince, surrounded, as she is, by a lot of happy and joyful boys.

YOUNG PRINCE: Arianna, my beloved Arianna! Why don't you see me? Why don't you notice me? I wish just a glance from you and a shy smile! I pray you, do not make me suffer... drive away all these young men and make me stay... Ah this poor heart of mine keeps on beating...but only to get a "yes" from you...

1. NARRATOR: Poor Prince, you are blinded by your love...you don't realise the beautiful princess Arianna doesn't know you are here... listen to what she is telling the boys around her....

ARIANNA: Listen to me! At the arrival of the spring and to start our lives with joy , after the cold winter, I invite you, girls or boys, not to be sad, but I wish that all of you, joyful friends, come to cheer me with a love dance.

I command everyone to come to my court and dance cheerfully and that boredom and sadness are banned from my kingdom!

*Playing of "A L'entradre del tens clar"*

YOUNG PRINCE: (screaming like a madman) Noooo! I only am worthy of Princess Arianna! They are all driven out and no one approaches my Arianna!

I am ready to kill everyone who get near her!

2. NARRATOR: What a big confusion in the palace!
3. The young prince, just out of himself, seems to become a fierce beast, like the legendary Minotaur!
4. It is captured with an enormous effort by the other young nobles and, despite his great physical force, really aggressive, he is locked up in the Labyrinth that the king had built near the castle.

KING: the Labyrinth will be your prison, it will be checked with great care because it is now clear that his illness is the lack of love.

*Buiding up of the Labyrinth on the song "Ad mortem festinamus"*

5. NARRATOR: Poor young prince! Look at him...horribly transformed because his young heart has not been loved with loving care!

1. NARRATOR :This is the madness of love from which everyone flees away!

2. NARRATOR: Listen to me: now only his scream is heard, his desperate cry out of the Labyrinth

3. NARRATOR: No! Do not listen to this desperate cry....it's a painful groan! What can you see? It also fades the newly bloomed flowers....

ARIANNA: Alas! I can no longer bear this torment! I can't feel guilty....because I have never offended his soul... but how can I live, innocent as I am, with the regret of having caused his madness of love? Who can I ask for help? I, only I, have caused so much cry! Stop: I will go...alone...into the Labyrinth and I will try to find that poor boy!

4. NARRATOR: and so Arianna, taking courage with a love song, went into the Labyrinth

5. NARRATOR: ..taking care to carry a ball of wool with her and to tie to the entrance of the Labyrinth the beginning of the thread, in order to unroll it as she continued on the dangerous path towards the scream of the Minotaur...

*Playing of "Maggio torna ai nostri cuori"*

1. NARRATOR: no one ever knew what happened in the Labyrinth...
2. NARRATOR: ...but everyone was sure that the madness of the young prince, already changed in an horrible beast, would have killed the beautiful Arianna...
3. NARRATOR: instead, after a time that seemed endless...here they are! Asterion and Arianna go out of the Labyrinth, holding hands!
4. NARRATOR: Arianna's thread has driven them out of the Labyrinth...
5. NARRATOR: ..and love has made the young prince come to his senses. He was happy and he has forgotten his violent madness. Love has brought him back to his original beauty!

ALL THE NARRATORS: Omnia vincit amor!

*Playing of "Tempus est iocundum", song and final dance.*