

NORMA
by Bellini

Synopsis

The action takes place during the Roman occupation of Gaul. The Roman proconsul Pollione, who had fathered two children to the Druid priestess Norma, abandoned her in favor of another priestess, Adalgisa. Norma protects him by advising the people against war and calls for peace. She then finds out that Adalgisa's lover is Pollione.

Norma sets out to kill her children, but is unable to do it. Adalgisa asks Pollione to return to Norma, but he refuses. The incensed Norma gathers the Gauls and asks for war on the Romans. Pollione is captured and sentenced to death. Norma, still in love with Pollione, tries to save him by offering herself as a replacement for him. She turns her children over to her father's care and mounts the pyre, where she is joined by Pollione.