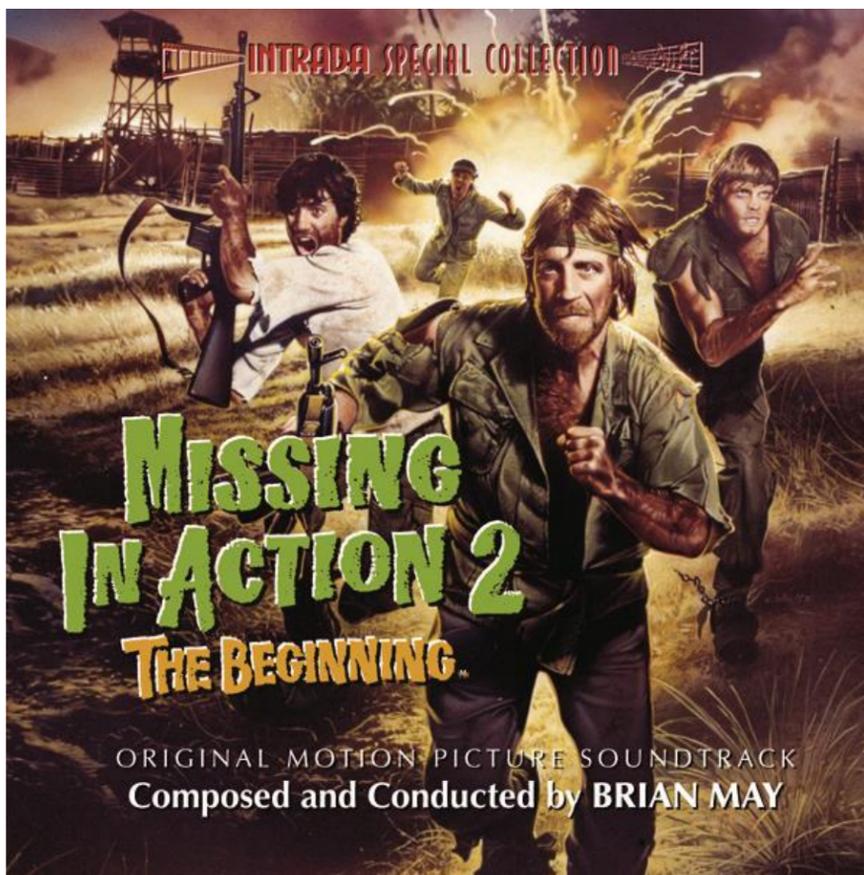




Announces:



MISSING IN ACTION 2: THE BEGINNING
Composed and Conducted by **BRIAN MAY**
Intrada Special Collection Volume ISC 76

In 1985, the Cannon Group presented *Missing in Action 2: The Beginning*, starring Chuck Norris as Colonel James Braddock, member of a covert operations team in Vietnam. Shot down and captured during wartime, Braddock and his fellow POWs are not released after hostilities cease. Instead they remain prisoners for a decade under the cruel camp commandant Colonel Yin (Soon-Teck Oh), who employs the soldiers as slave laborers on an opium plantation. Braddock must escape to free his comrades and clear them of Yin's false charges of war crimes.

Missing in Action 2 was a prequel to the previous year's release, *Missing in Action*, yet since it was originally intended to be part one, the producers wanted to kick the series off with a big score. Composer Brian May was brought on to score and give the whole film a larger than life, epic feel. Brian May (best known for his scores to *Mad Max* and *The Road Warrior*) composed a score that was bold and striking. Beginning with a nine-note theme for Braddock, set in a major key, this heroic theme first emerges, harmonized in trombones, early in the "Airstrip" cue. In balance, May presents a somber, descending minor-key idea to represent the plight of the POWs. Mostly eschewing ethnic instrumentation and local color, May launches a direct aural assault on the enemy, recalling those *Mad Max* scores but with a military edge. He deploys a digital piano throughout, using a left hand (bass note) staccato rhythm to propel the action sequences. All three musical concepts are fully developed in the "End Titles," making this album one of Brian May's strongest efforts.

Originally released as a truncated suite on an Edel compilation, this release features the complete score remixed from the original multi-track elements with vastly superior sound in dynamic stereo. With this release, another great action score from the 80s is no longer MIA.

This release is limited to 1500 copies.

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