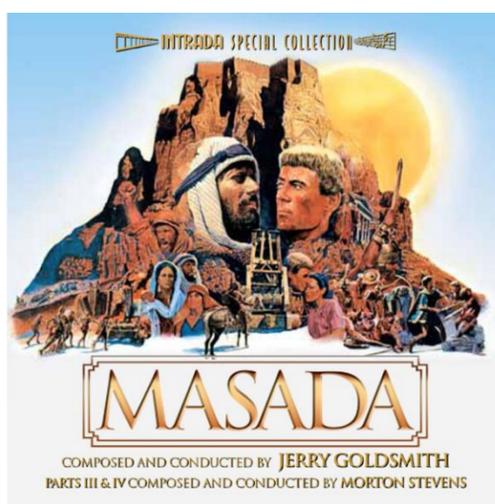




Announces:



MASADA

Composed and Conducted by **JERRY GOLDSMITH**
Intrada Special Collection Volume ISC 171

Composer Jerry Goldsmith rarely sought out specific assignments; usually directors or producers came to him. But *Masada* (1981) was an exception – this was a score he was passionate about writing. Universal was willing to invest heavily in the score, including sending Goldsmith to Israel on a 10-day trip to research ancient music for the project. Goldsmith initially signed on to score the entire four-night, eight-hour miniseries, but production fell behind schedule and other projects called, necessitating bringing in Morton Stevens, at Goldsmith's suggestion, to conclude the scoring of parts three and four.

Goldsmith wrote three major themes, two for the Jews and one for the Romans. The primary Jewish theme, which would become known as the *Masada* theme is a hora-style anthem for the indomitable spirit of the Jewish people, its dance-like rhythms reminiscent of happier times and the hope of more to come. A second theme reflects the darker side of the Jews of that First Century, the sadness and seemingly endless struggle against domination and enslavement by other peoples. For the Romans, Goldsmith wrote a march that was designed to suggest the might of Imperial Rome, with military precision and prominent parts for brass and percussion. Relentless, even pompous in its simple, decisive, might-makes-right character, it recurs in many forms throughout the miniseries.

In 1981, Goldsmith re-recorded 38-minutes in London for the superb MCA album, but curiously omitted his fierce action cues as well as many other sequences. This is the premiere release of the recording sessions from the miniseries. Intrada had access to all of the original scoring session elements stored in the Universal vaults plus studio paperwork and engineering notes for this release. As with other recording projects done at Universal, the actual sessions were made partially on 2" 24-track tape and partially on 1/2" 4-track tape, depending on session dates, orchestra size and other engineering needs. Virtually all of these elements survived in perfect condition, from the largest set-pieces to the smallest Roman fanfares and commercial bumpers. As a result, Intrada is able to present the complete score for the entire miniseries, including music not used, on this 2-CD set with crystal clear stereo sound. Everything is included, from largest powerhouse set-piece to smallest Roman fanfare. Each part plays as an individual program, introducing unique credit music and new material while working with ideas from previous parts, then concluding with familiar *Masada* end credits.

The story of the siege of Masada in 72 A.D.—in which a hardy band of Jewish Zealots held off 5,000 Roman troops for months in a mountaintop fortress—is one of the most remarkable in the annals of world military history. Peter Strauss was cast as Eleazar ben Yair, the charismatic, intense commander of the Zealots. Peter O'Toole was cast as Cornelius Flavius Silva, the complex, brilliant Roman general in charge of the Tenth Legion.

This album is limited to 5000 copies.

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