

Mike Oldfield – Incantations (1978)

Written by bluesever

Wednesday, 21 July 2010 14:01 - Last Updated Thursday, 02 August 2018 15:17

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- 01. Part One – 19:06
- 02. Part Two – 19:33
- 03. Part Three – 16:57
- 04. Part Four – 16:57

Personnel:

- Mike Oldfield – all instruments played, except:
- Mike Laird – trumpet
- Pierre Moerlen (Moerlin) – drums, vibraphones (04)
- Maddy Prior – vocals
- Sally Oldfield – vocals
- The Queen's College Girls Choir – vocals
- David Bedford – strings and choir conductor
- Sebastian Bell – flutes
- Terry Oldfield – flutes
- Jabula – African drums

After a two-year pause following the release of *Boxed*, Mike Oldfield returned with a new epic project, this one spread over four vinyl sides and devoted to Native American themes rather than hewing once more toward the Celtic end of the spectrum. Included was Oldfield's musical adaptation of "The Song of Hiawatha," grandiose but empty; there was a nice sense of the dramatic when it came to dynamic range, but no sense of time -- the piece ran far too long as Oldfield searched for enough musical ideas to prop the whole thing up. After this, Oldfield avoided album-length concepts for quite some time. ---Steven McDonald, AllMusic Review

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