

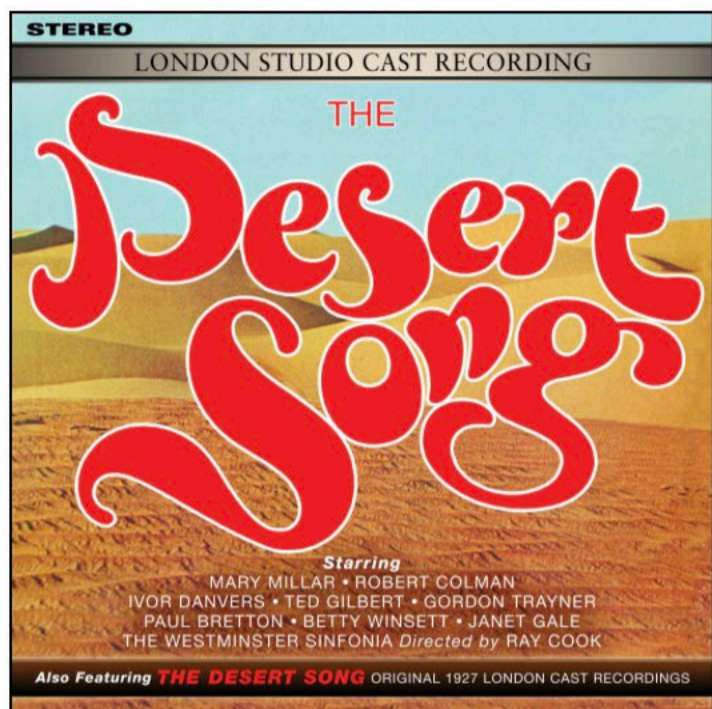
# THE Desert Song

STEREO  
SAGA

LONDON STUDIO CAST RECORDING

## Starring

MARY MILLAR • ROBERT COLMAN  
IVOR DANVERS • TED GILBERT • GORDON TRAYNER  
PAUL BRETTON • BETTY WINSETT • JANET GALE  
THE WESTMINSTER SINFONIA *Directed by* RAY COOK



## 1967 LONDON STUDIO CAST RECORDING (Stereo)

- 1 THE RIFF SONG - Robert Colman, Chorus
- 2 FRENCH MILITARY MARCHING SONG - Mary Millar, Chorus
- 3 ROMANCE - Mary Millar
- 4 THEN YOU WILL KNOW - Mary Millar, Robert Colman
- 5 I WANT A KISS - Paul Bretton, Mary Millar, Robert Colman
- 6 IT - Ivor Danvers, Janet Gale, Chorus
- 7 THE DESERT SONG - Robert Colman, Mary Millar
- 8 SONG OF THE BRASS KEY - Betty Winsett, Chorus
- 9 ONE GOOD BOY GONE WRONG - Ivor Danvers, Betty Winsett
- 10 ONE FLOWER IN YOUR GARDEN / ONE ALONE - Ted Gilbert, Robert Colman, Chorus
- 11 THE SABRE SONG - Mary Millar, Robert Colman

## ORIGINAL 1927 LONDON CAST RECORDINGS

- 12 ONE ALONE - Harry Welchman, Chorus
- 13 THE RIFF SONG - Harry Welchman, Chorus
- 14 ROMANCE - Edith Day, Chorus
- 15 THE SABRE SONG - Edith Day
- 16 IT - Gene Gerrard, Chorus
- 17 EASTERN AND WESTERN LOVE - Dennis Hoey, Sidney Pointer  
And Drury Lane Male Chorus
- 18 THE DESERT SONG - Edith Day, Harry Welchman
- 19 FRENCH MILITARY MARCHING SONG - Edith Day, Chorus

## BONUS TRACKS

20. ONE ALONE - John Hanson
21. THE DESERT SONG - John Hanson

Stage Door Records are pleased to present the CD debut of the Saga Records 'The Desert Song' 1967 London Studio Cast Recording.

If there were a group of musicals which might be described as the corner stone of show business, then surely 'The Desert Song' would be amongst them. This wonderful show, produced originally in 1926 and at that time called 'Lady Fair', has delighted and thrilled millions of people all over the world. The story of intrigue and romance, of soldiers and espionage, of excitement and love is truly an exciting one. Combine this with the magic formula of lilting lyrics of Otto Harbach and Oscar Hammerstein II and unforgettable melodies of Sigmund Romberg and what else can you have but a worldwide success. 'The Desert Song' first opened in London at the Theatre Drury Lane Theatre in April 1927 starring Edith Day and Harry Welchman and ran for an impressive 432 performances. This was followed by a trio of West End revivals in the 1930s. A staple touring favourite in provincial theatres, 'The Desert Song' returned to the West End in 1967 with a celebrated production at the Palace Theatre.

To coincide with the 1967 London revival, Saga Records produced a superb studio cast recording of the score led by well established performers from past British touring productions. Singing the role of Margot is popular actress and singer Mary Millar who played the role on two extensive tours of the United Kingdom in 1957 and 1959 (opposite John Hanson and Bruce Trent, respectively). In 1960, Millar was understudy to Julie Andrews' Queen Guenevere in the Original Broadway production of 'Camelot' and later starred in the West End musicals 'Ann Veronica' and 'Popkiss' before playing Madame Giry in the original cast of Andrew Lloyd Webber's 'The Phantom of the Opera'. As Pierre / Red Shadow, Saga cast Australian actor and singer Robert Colman who had played the role in numerous touring seasons. Colman's West End credits included 'Camelot', 'Charlie Girl' and understudying Keith Michell in 'Robert and Elizabeth'. The cast is rounded out by seasoned performers Ivor Danvers (fondly remember for his role as Gerald Urquhart in 'Howards' Way), Betty Winsett, Gordon Trayner, Ted Gilbert, Paul Bretton and Janet Gale, accompanied by the Westminster Sinfonia under the direction of Ray Cook.

Digitally remastered from the original Saga master tapes, the London Studio Cast Recording is complemented with the Original 1927 London Cast Recordings starring Edith Day and Harry Welchman. Originally released across 4 80rpm recordings, these historic recordings have been newly remastered for this release.

The Desert Song London Studio Cast Recording is licensed from the Saga tape collection at the British Library and is a limited edition release of 500 units only.

RELEASE DATE: FEBRUARY 12th, 2021  
CATALOGUE #: STAGE 9080  
BARCODE: 5055122190806

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Our Leading Lady MARY MILLAR will be Margot Bonvalet. She played the same part a couple of years ago. Miss Millar has made a rapid rise to the front rank of Leading Ladies. She played the part of Mary Fenton, the little milliner in the recent tour of "Old Chelsea" and got "rave notices" in every town this attraction visited.



Mary Millar as Margot Bonvalet (UK tour of The Desert Song 1959)