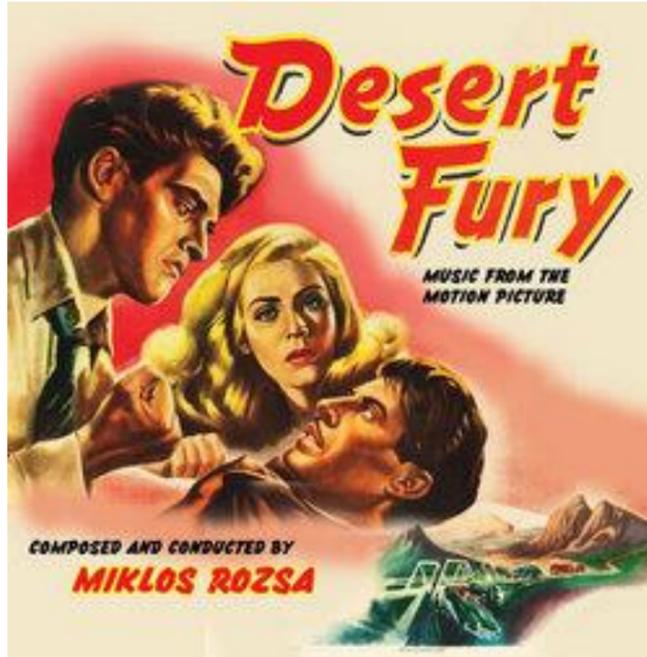




Announces:



DESERT FURY

Composed and Conducted by **MIKLOS ROZSA**
Intrada Special Collection Volume ISC 329

For the 1947 film *Desert Fury*, Paramount invested heavily in the music, budgeting nearly \$44,000 for the composition and recording of the score. Miklós Rózsa, a recent Academy Award-winner already well established as the go-to composer for film noir, was brought on board. In typical Rózsa fashion from the mid-to-late forties, he used relatively brief, malleable motifs unlike the sort of long-lined, closed-form melodies that would glorify his 1950s historical/epic scores for MGM. This gives the music remarkable fluidity, allowing him to constantly manipulate his material, with a principal theme characterized by crisp dotted rhythms and an agitated, yearning quality in the melodic line.

As with Intrada's release of *The Lost Weekend*, selected cues from the original optical music tracks for *Desert Fury* were transferred to 35mm magnetic film long ago—but only recently discovered and digitized. Two cues were never preserved (the complete, original "Bridle Trail" and "Fritzie's Designs"). Of what remains, most survived in fairly good condition, although a few cues were too damaged to be transferred to digital. As a result, approximately 10 minutes of what Rózsa recorded for the film is gone forever, but—in compensation—nearly eight minutes of previously unheard alternates comprise the "Extras" section of this disc.

At the center of the plot in *Desert Fury* is Paula Haller (Lizabeth Scott), a 19-year old college dropout who has returned to her Nevada home town. Her mother, Fritzie (Mary Astor), runs the local gambling establishment. When gambler Eddie Bendix (John Hodiak) arrives in town, Paula is smitten. But Eddie and Fritzie are ex-lovers and Eddie is suspected of having killed his wife. Fritzie warns her daughter to stay away from him. Deputy Sheriff Tom Hanson (Burt Lancaster) has unrequited love for Paula, and although Fritzie offers him money if he will propose to Paula, distracting her from Eddie, he refuses to play along...

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