

A Little Princess

Book, Music and Lyrics by
Catherine McDonald

Music by Adam Morris

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STORY OF THE MUSICAL

Set in an all-female boarding school in Victorian London, young Sara Crewe loses all her money and place in society when her father dies. Forced by the merciless headmistress to work in slave-like conditions in the school she once attended, Sara dreams of a better life. She uses her vivid imagination to deal with her adversity and even bring happiness to those around her. She encounters all sorts of characters, from the school bully and her cronies, to the nervous servant girl, to the mysterious old gentleman who moves in next door...

The songs have been written for a large variety of characters to allow for a large number of soloists, as well as any number of cast in the wider chorus.

"In My Heart" is a loving duet: Sara Crewe and her father say a fond farewell as Sara begins her life at boarding school. Little do they know they will not see one another again.

"The Money From the Diamond Mines" is a comedic, showstopper solo. Miss Minchin, the headmistress, dreams of all the ways that she will spend Captain Crewe's money, once Sara becomes a permanent boarder at her school. All her dreams are about to come true... or so she thinks.

In "We Begin Anew," Sara steps in privately after the school bully is mean to Becky, a young serving girl. During this up-tempo duet Sara and Becky become friends over tea and cake in a gesture of kindness from Sara.

Adapted from book by Frances Hodgson Burnett and set to all original music, this show is ideal for schools, community theatres and youth groups.

Approximately 1 hour and 45 minutes.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(9 m, 15 w, and numerous extras, doubling possible)

SARA CREWE: 13-year-old heroine.

MISS MINCHIN: Evil headmistress of the boarding school.

MISS AMELIA: Miss Minchin's sister and a teacher at the school.

MONSIEUR DUFARGE: French teacher at the school.

LAVINIA: A student, very glamorous.

MILLY: Lavinia's friend.

IZZY: Lavinia's friend.

ERMENGARDE: Becomes friends with Sara.

LOTTIE: A young motherless girl.

BECKY: A young serving girl.

CAPTAIN RALPH CREWE: Sara's father.

MR. BARROW: A lawyer who brings devastating news.

MR. CARRISFORD: An elderly gentleman.

RAM DASS: His servant.

CARMICHAEL: A lawyer for Carrisford.

MARIETTE: Sara's maid.

CLARA: School girl.

SOPHIE: School girl.

ANNA: School girl.

OLIVIA: School girl.

BAKER

BAKER'S WIFE

BUTCHER

POLICEMAN

EXTRAS: School girls, teachers, people of London, Christmas carol singers (4), urchins (4), royal courtiers, troupe of ballet dancers, new girl and family.

SETTING

The year is 1900. The setting is London, England. Miss Minchin's Select Seminary for Young Ladies. Please see props list at the end of the script.

ACT I

Scene 1: The common room of Miss Minchin's Seminary. It has comfy seats, rugs and cushions.

Scene 2: A foggy, gloomy day in London. Chimneys and church spires of London's skyline can be seen all around. Stage center is the façade of the school, a three-story building, severe and grim. A polished, gleaming brass plate on the red brick wall reads, "Miss Minchin's Select Seminary for Young Ladies."

Scene 3: The classroom. Lines of individual wooden desks and chairs are set out for the pupils.

Scene 4: The playground. There are benches and a hopscotch drawn in chalk.

Scene 5: The common room.

Scene 6: Sara's lovely, luxurious bedroom.

Scene 7: Miss Minchin's study.

Scene 8: The common room decorated for Sara's birthday party.

Scene 9: Miss Minchin's study.

ACT II

Scene 1: A street near Miss Minchin's Seminary, a winter day.

Scene 2: Sara's attic room, small, dark, cold, and miserable. There is a tiny pallet bed and a rag to sleep under.

Scene 3: The classroom.

Scene 4: Sara's attic room.

Scene 5: Mr. Carrisford's home.

Scene 6: Sara's attic room.

Scene 7: The common room.

Scene 8: Mr. Carrisford's home.

Scene 9: Miss Minchin's study.

Scene 10: Mr. Carrisford's home.

Scene 11: Sara's attic room.

Scene 12: The street outside of Mr. Carrisford's home and Miss Minchin's Seminary.

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SYNOPSIS OF SONGS

SONG 1: A NEW GIRL IS COMING (*All students and staff except Lottie, Dufarge, and Sara.*)

SONG 2: IN MY HEART (*Sara and Crewe*)

SONG 3: ENCHANTÉ! (*Dufarge and Students, except Sara*)

SONG 4: I MUST (*Amelia and Dufarge*)

SONG 5: BALLET (*Instrumental for dancers*)

SONG 6: MESSAGES FROM HEAVEN (*Sara, Amelia, Lottie*)

SONG 7: WE BEGIN ANEW (*Sara, Becky*)

SONG 8: THE MONEY FROM THE DIAMOND MINES (*Minchin*)

SONG 9: I WISH, I WISH, I WISH (*Clara, Sophie, Anna, Olivia*)

SONG 10: SOME GIRLS HAVE ALL THE LUCK (*Lavinia*)

SONG 11: I WISH, I WISH, I WISH -- REPRISE (*Sara*)

ENTR'ACTE

ACT II

SONG 12: CHRISTMAS IS COMING! (*Londoners*)

SONG 13: IN MY HEART -- REPRISE (*Instrumental*)

SONG 14: DO YOU HEAR ME? (*Sara*)

SONG 15: WE MUST FIND HER (*Carrisford, Carmichael*)

SONG 16: THE ROYAL FEAST (*Courtiers*)

SONG 17: THE TRANSFORMATION (*Instrumental*)

SONG 18: THE ROYAL FEAST -- REPRISE (*All Students except Sara and Lavinia*)

SONG 19: I MUST -- REPRISE (*Amelia and Dufarge*)

SONG 20: WE MUST FIND HER -- REPRISE (*Carrisford, Carmichael, and Sara*)

SONG 21: A NEW GIRL IS COMING -- REPRISE (*All Girls*)

BOWS

EXIT MUSIC

ACT I

Scene 1

(AT RISE: The common room in Miss Minchin's Select Seminary for Young Ladies. Teachers, staff, and pupils are preparing for another day at school. Throughout the song the various characters bustle merrily about the stage in organized, enjoyable chaos. MISS MINCHIN is trying to control the YOUNG LADIES, ordering them about and getting things ready for the day. MONSIEUR DUFARGE is snoozing under a newspaper in a corner until roused by a group of girls and hurried along to his classroom. LAVINIA, MILLY, and IZZY are primping and preening themselves, straightening their bows, ribbons and laces, inspecting each other and looking very pleased with themselves. ERMENGARDE is eating her breakfast in a corner and trying to stay out of everybody's way. LOTTIE enters and throws a tantrum on the floor, kicking her heels and banging the carpet. MISS AMELIA tries to calm her and runs out after her. BECKY the serving girl is setting the fire, tidying up after the young ladies, and doing a dozen chores.)

SONG 1: A NEW GIRL IS COMING

ALL GIRLS:

A NEW GIRL IS COMING, ARRIVING TODAY!
A NEW GIRL! A NEW GIRL
WILL BE HERE TODAY!
AND WHO SHE MIGHT BE,
AND WHO SHE MIGHT BE – WE DISCOVER TODAY!

MINCHIN / AMELIA:

TUCK IN YOUR BLOUSES, SMILE A WINNING SMILE
NOW CROSS YOUR ANKLES IN THE MODERN STYLE.
STRAIGHTEN YOUR SPINES AND MAKE YOUR RIBBONS
CURL.

MINCHIN:

YOU ARE EXAMPLES OF MY PERFECT GIRLS!

(Cont'd.)

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