

# THE SOUND OF MUSIC

11-21 MARCH 2020

**AUDITIONS TO BE HELD SUNDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2019 COMMENCING:  
9.30 am (for Children), 1.00pm for Company and Adult Principals**

## SYNOPSIS

The Sound of Music is based on the memoirs of Maria von Trapp and the Von Trapp Family Singers, and captures a personal tale of growth and hope amidst the horrors of World War II.

Set in Austria on the eve of the Anschluss in 1938 The Sound of Music tells the tale of young postulant Maria Rainer, whose free spirit has trouble fitting into the rules and regulations of Nonnberg Abbey. Commissioned by the Mother Abbess to serve as the governess for seven motherless children, Maria transforms the Von Trapp family home from a place of dour rules and regulations to one filled with joy, with laughter, and with music. In the process, Maria wins the hearts of all seven children - and their widower father, Captain Von Trapp. With the Mother Abbess' blessing, and to the children's delight, Maria follows her heart, and Maria and the Captain marry.

Upon returning home from their honeymoon, Maria and the Captain learn that their beloved Austria has been taken over by the Nazis, and the retired Captain is asked to report for immediate service in the Nazi Navy. When the Nazis show up at their door to take Captain Von Trapp away, it is a family singing engagement (cleverly navigated by their friend Max) that buys the family time to make their narrow escape. Their Austrian convictions compel Maria, the Captain, and the children to flee over the mountains of Switzerland to safety, taking the words of the Mother Abbess to heart: "Climb Every Mountain... till you find your dream."

## **CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS**

### **Maria Rainer**

Young postulant at Nonnberg Abbey. Must be a great singer/actress as the role demands a huge range of emotions from innocence and insecurity to strength, determination and defiance. She must also have a great rapport with the Von Trapp children. Good movement skills required.

### **Captain Georg Von Trapp**

Playing age - early 40's. A strong actor required with great stage presence. Following the loss of his wife, he commands his household and children the only way he knows how - with military order! He is a true patriot with strong views, but must mellow in his attraction to Maria and a life filled with love and music.

### **Mother Abbess**

Middle Aged. A strong empowering actress with a fabulous singing voice is needed. Head of the Nonnberg Abbey, the Mother Abbess carries great authority, but must also show gentleness, kindness and compassion.

### **Elsa Schraeder**

Playing age - mid to late 30's. A socialite of the era, very rich and sophisticated. She is determined to marry Georg, but his ideals and the responsibilities of a large family do not sit easily with her way of life. She is elegant and somewhat scheming. A good singer/actress who needs to be the complete opposite of Maria,

### **Liesl**

At sixteen, she is the eldest of the Von Trapp children and has all the emotional insecurity of a teenager of that time. She is totally innocent and trusting in her first love - Rolf. A beautiful singing voice and good dance ability is needed.

### **Ralph Gruber**

Playing age - 17. An energetic, enthusiastic telegraph delivery boy who falls in love with Liesl. Must have a good baritone voice and strong movement ability. He must also be able to show the physical and emotional differences in Rolf after he joins the Nazi party.

### **Franz**

Playing age - late 30's to middle age. Butler to the Von Trapp household, who was the Captain's orderly in the Imperial Navy. Should be played by an experienced actor with good diction and timing.

## **Frau Schmidt**

The Housekeeper - very business like in her duties, but with a warm side to her. She is devoted to the Captain and his family.

## **Sister Berthe - Mistress of the Novices**

## **Sister Margareta - Mistress of the Postulant**

## **Sister Sophia - the youngest of the 3 nuns**

Good actresses needed to portray 3 very different character nuns in nature and physicality. Bertha is very stern, Margareta is very lovable and Sophia is the youngest. Must all have excellent singing voices.

## **SMALL PARTS**

### **Herr Zeller**

Typical Nazi, Gestapo portrayal required. Dressed in civilian clothing, he should still have a military bearing and foreboding manner.

### **Baron Elberfield**

Aristocrat and true Austrian Patriot, Baron Elberfield is a neighbour of the Von Trapps - a very argumentative gentleman.

### **Admiral Von Schreiber**

Playing Age - Late 40's to middle age. An Admiral in the Navy of the Third Reich, should be played by an experienced and imposing actor. In uniform, he must add to the underlying sinister side of the story.

## **TO BE CAST FROM THE ENSEMBLE**

Baroness Elberfield  
Neighbours of the Von Trapp family  
Nuns, Novices and Postulants  
Contestants in the Festival Concert  
SS Soldiers

All nuns should have good singing voices

Neighbours - men and women should be able to move well (Waltz and Landler)