

A brief synopsis:

“In the last golden days of the 1930s...” Our play takes place in Salzburg, Austria, in 1938. The Austrian Alps, “alive with the sound of music,” hold a special place in the heart of Maria Rainer, a young postulant at the Nonnberg Abbey. Her frequent absences, however, are the source of discord at the Abbey and give rise to doubts as to her qualifications. Hence, the Mother Abbess sends Maria to serve as a governess for the widowed Captain vonTrapp, who runs his home with naval precision.

His seven children are slow in warming up to Maria, especially the oldest, Liesl, who feels she is “too old for a governess.” But when the Captain goes to Vienna, she wins them over with understanding and humor, while teaching them to sing. Captain vonTrapp returns from Vienna with his friend, Max, and fiancée, Elsa Schroeder. He is upset by his children’s lack of discipline but is touched by their singing, and reminded of the music his household has lost since his wife’s death. Maria also makes great strides in helping Liesl with her relationship with a young deliveryman, Rolf. Meanwhile, Hitler’s army of the Third Reich is gaining momentum, and the anschluss is imminent. Elsa and Max express cynical sentiments, feeling that there is no way to stop the Nazi army, and argue that the Captain should just accept it.

Before long, Maria realizes she is in love with the Captain and, horrified, returns to the Abbey. The Mother Abbess convinces her that love is also a holy thing, and with the children’s blessing, Maria and the Captain are married. During the honeymoon, Austria is annexed to Germany, making a difficult situation for the Captain who has been ordered to return to the navy. Entering the Salzburg music festival provides a means of escape for the family, and with the aid of the nuns, they flee over the hills Maria and the Captain love so well and into freedom in Switzerland.

Character

Maria Rainer, a nun and governess

Captain Georg vonTrapp, a widowed naval captain
with 7 children

Elsa Schraeder, a wealthy Austrian engaged to CvT

Max Detweiler, a comical, cynical friend of the vonTrapp family

Liesl, the oldest of the vonTrapp children at 16.

Friedrich, the second of the children. “14 and a boy”

Louisa, the third of the children; a spunky trickster

***Kurt**, the fourth of the children; “11 and encouragable”

***Brigitta**, the fifth child; 10, and very smart.

***Marta**, the sixth child; 7, pink is her favorite color

***Gretl**, the youngest; “5 and practically a lady.”

Mother Abbess, “head nun” and mentor

Sister Berthe, Mistress of Novices

Sister Margareta, a compassionate nun

Sister Sophia, a kind nun

Rolf Gruber, a telegram delivery boy with eyes for Liesl

Vocal Range (C4 = middle C)

A3 to Bb5

F2 to F3

C4 to A5

D3 to E4

C4 to C5 (

C4 to C5

C4 to A5

B3 to D5

B3 to Eb5

B3 to E5

D3 to E4

Nuns’ Chorus: four part women choral pieces!! Need all voice types!

Soldiers, Household Staff, Austrians, Musicians -- we need you! There are many other non-solo singing roles with important parts and lines! Come on out!

*Will be cast from TE or elementary school