



The Sound of Music

A stylized illustration of a mountain range with purple and blue peaks, set within a green oval frame. A white flower with yellow centers and green leaves is positioned to the right of the mountains.

Director: Emil Djakic

Musical Director: Dominique Baker

Vocal Director: Brett Budgeon

Choreographer: Elizabeth Viney

Producer: Maree Brodzinski

Day: Friday
30 Nov

Saturday
1 Dec

Sunday
2 Dec

Time:

All auditions will take place at the Uniting Church Hall, Steele Street

Please arrive at least 10 minutes before your scheduled audition.
If you are running late please call 0408 079 805.

The Story

Act I

In Salzburg, Austria, just before World War II, nuns from Nonnberg Abbey sing the *Dixit Dominus*. One of the postulants, Maria Rainer, is on the nearby mountainside regretting leaving the beautiful hills ("The Sound of Music") where she was raised. She returns late. The Mother Abbess and the other nuns consider what to do about her ("Maria"). Maria explains her lateness, saying she was raised on that mountain, and also apologizes for singing in the garden without permission. The Mother Abbess joins her in song ("My Favorite Things"). The Mother Abbess tells her that she should spend some time outside the Abbey to decide whether she is ready for the monastic life. She will act as the governess to the seven children of widower Captain Georg von Trapp.

Maria arrives at the villa of Captain von Trapp, a decorated World War I Captain of the Austro-Hungarian Navy. He explains her duties and summons the children with a boatswain's call. They march in, clad in uniforms. He teaches her their individual signals on the call, but she openly disapproves of this militaristic approach. Alone with them, she breaks through their wariness and teaches them the basics of music ("Do-Re-Mi").

Rolf, a young messenger, delivers a telegram and then meets with the oldest child, Liesl, outside the villa. He claims he knows what is right for her because he is a year older than her ("Sixteen Going on Seventeen"). They kiss, and he runs off, leaving her screaming with joy. Meanwhile, the housekeeper, Frau Schmidt, gives Maria material to make new clothes, as she had given all her possessions to the poor. Maria sees Liesl slipping in through the window, wet from a sudden thunderstorm, but agrees to keep her secret. The other children are frightened by the storm. Maria sings "The Lonely Goatherd" to distract them.

Captain von Trapp arrives a month later with Elsa Schrader and Max Detweiler. Elsa tells Max that something is preventing the Captain from marrying her. He opines that only poor people have the time for great romances ("How Can Love Survive"). Rolf enters, looking for Liesl, and greets them with "Heil". The Captain orders him away, saying that he is Austrian, not German. Maria and the children leapfrog in, wearing playclothes that she made from old drapes. Infuriated, the Captain sends them off to change. She tells him that they need him to love them, and he angrily orders her back to the Abbey. As she apologizes, they hear the children singing "The Sound of Music", which she had taught them, to welcome Frau Schrader. He joins in, and he then embraces them. Alone with Maria, he asks her to stay, thanking her for bringing music back into his house. Elsa is suspicious of her until she explains that she will be returning to the abbey in September.

The Captain gives a party to introduce Elsa, and guests argue over the *Anschluss*. Kurt asks Maria to teach him to dance the Ländler. When Kurt is unable to negotiate a complicated figure, the Captain steps in to demonstrate. He and Maria dance until they come face-to-face, and she breaks away, embarrassed and confused. Discussing the expected marriage between Elsa and the Captain, Brigitta tells her that she and the Captain are really in love with each other. Elsa asks him to let the

children say goodnight to the guests with a song, "So Long, Farewell". Max is amazed at their talent and wants them for the Kaltzberg Festival, which he is organizing. The guests leave for the dining room, and Maria slips out the front door with her luggage.

At the Abbey, Maria says that she is ready to take her monastic vows; but the Mother Abbess realizes that she is running away from her feelings. She tells her to face the Captain and discover if they love each other, and that, by searching for it, she must find the life she was meant to live ("Climb Every Mountain").

Act II

Max teaches the children how to sing on stage. When the Captain tries to lead them, they complain that he is not doing it as Maria did. He tells them that he has asked Elsa to marry him. They try to cheer themselves up by singing "My Favorite Things", but are unsuccessful until they hear Maria singing on her way to rejoin them. Learning of the wedding plans, she decides to stay only until the Captain can arrange for another governess. Max and Elsa argue with him about the imminent *Anschluss*, trying to convince him that it is inevitable ("No Way to Stop It"). When he refuses to compromise, Elsa breaks off the engagement. Alone, he and Maria finally admit their love, desiring only to be "An Ordinary Couple". As they marry, the nuns reprise "Maria" against the wedding processional.

During the honeymoon, Max prepares the children to perform at the Kaltzberg Festival. Herr Zeller, the *Gauleiter*, demands to know why they are not flying the flag of the Third Reich now that the *Anschluss* has occurred. The Captain and Maria return early from their honeymoon before the Festival. In view of developments, he refuses to allow the children to sing. Max argues that they would sing for Austria, but the Captain points out that it no longer exists. Maria and Liesl discuss romantic love; Maria predicts that in a few years Liesl will be married ("Sixteen Going on Seventeen (Reprise)"). Rolf enters with a telegram that offers the Captain a commission in the German Navy. He consults Maria and decides that they must secretly flee Austria. German Admiral von Schreiber arrives to find out why he has not answered the telegram. He explains that the German Navy holds him in high regard, offers him the commission, and tells him to report immediately to Bremerhaven to assume command. Maria says that he cannot leave immediately, as they are all singing in the Festival concert, and the Admiral agrees to wait until after it.

At the concert, the von Trapps sing an elaborate version of "Do-Re-Mi". Then Max brings out the Captain's guitar, and he sings "Edelweiss", in which Austria's national flower becomes a declaration of loyalty to the country itself. Max asks for an encore and announces that this is the von Trapp family's last chance to sing together, as the honor guard waits to escort the Captain to his new command. While the judges decide on the prizes, the von Trapps sing "So Long, Farewell", leaving the stage in small groups. Max then announces the runners-up, stalling as much as possible. When he announces that the first prize goes to the von Trapps and they do not appear, the Nazis start a search. The family hides at the Abbey, and the Nazis do not find them until Rolf comes upon them. He calls his lieutenant, but upon seeing Liesl, he reports that he has found no one. A nun tells them that the borders have been closed. They flee over the mountains (the Alps) as the nuns reprise "Climb Every Mountain".

Characters

Please note:

- All ages are approximate. The ages given represent the age that actor must be able to portray, not necessarily their actual age.
- There are no non-singing roles and all characters will be required to sing. All characters will need strong acting skills.
- The von Trapp children's roles (other than Liesl) will be doubled.

Maria Rainer (soprano/mezzo soprano, dance, 20-35)

A postulant at Nonnberg Abbey – young, free spirited, warm, gentle and kind with much determination. Plays guitar.

Captain Georg von Trapp (baritone, moves well, 35-50)

A retired Austrian naval captain. Polished, yet very military in the way he runs his life to repress his sadness over the death of his wife; underneath, he is warm, understanding, and determined. Plays guitar.

Max Detweiler (tenor/baritone, moves well, 30+)

Charming and vital; a man of sophistication who enjoys the good life; true and loyal friend to the von Trapp family. A confirmed bachelor.

Elsa Schrader (soprano/mezzo soprano, moves well, 30+)

A Baroness of taste and elegance, sophisticated, dignified and mature.

Liesl von Trapp (mezzo soprano, dance, 16)

The oldest child, blossoming into a young lady with an interest in boys. She has a maternal edge to her and cares very deeply for her younger siblings. A little head-strong.

Friedrich von Trapp (age 14)

Tough exterior, very much trying to be "the man" of the family.

Louisa von Trapp (age 13)

Rebellious attitude.

Kurt von Trapp (age 10, treble)

Gentle and mischievous.

Brigitta von Trapp (age 9)

Smart, reads a lot. Not afraid to speak her mind.

Marta von Trapp (age 7)

Very sweet and gentle.

Gretl von Trapp (age 6)

Must have the cute factor. Shy.

Mother Abbess (soprano/mezzo soprano, wide vocal range, 40+)

Motherly, understanding, strong and authoritative, but kind.

Sister Berthe (alto, moves well)

Mistress of Novices, prudish, straight laced with a quick tongue, she is less tolerant than other nuns.

Sister Margaretta (mezzo soprano, moves well)

Mistress of Postulants, very kind, understanding and concerned.

Sister Sophia (soprano/mezzo soprano, moves well)

Neither demanding nor critical, sticks with the rules.

Franz (30+)

The von Trapp butler, rather formal but not without spirit, he is very German and loyal to the Fascist cause.

Frau Schmidt (30+)

The housekeeper, stoic, very little personality; she does her job efficiently but without affection. Strong and somewhat dominating.

Herr Zeller (40+)

Stern and unsmiling, a typical Nazi official whose primary concern is to see that everyone toes the line.

Rolf Gruber (age 17, low tenor, dance)

Suitor to Liesl, telegram delivery boy, later Nazi soldier.

Ensemble (various ages required)

Salzburg citizens, nuns, novices, postulants, Nazi soldiers, neighbours, and contestants in the Festival Concert

Children's Workshop
Saturday 24 November, 1.00 – 4.00pm
Workshop fee: \$5 per child

If you're aged between 5 - 15 you can be part of this workshop. Our workshop will help you feel more confident about your audition. You will meet new friends, learn more about the show and have the opportunity to work with some experienced theatre people.

There is a limit of 45 participants, with two sessions per group. One session will cover movement and acting, using some fun theatre games. The other session will look more at the musical side. There will be a focus on fun and team building. Afternoon tea will be provided.

You will be divided into age groups so parents (and kids) know the 15 years olds won't be spending all afternoon with the 5 year olds. Don't worry if you're not available for the workshop. You can still audition for *The Sound of Music*. Don't forget to book your audition!

Audition Information

Friday 30 November, Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd December

All auditionees need to book an individual audition time at some stage over this weekend.

All auditionees are encouraged to try out for any role that they are interested in. All roles are open. Casting will be based entirely on people seen at these auditions.

The audition panel will include the Director, Music and Vocal Directors and the Choreographer.

Please ensure you are prepared for your audition:

- Warm up your voice for 15 minutes prior to your audition
- Bring water to drink (especially if you are nervous!)

Acting

- Please prepare a short reading from the recommended list. This does not have to be memorised.
- You will be asked to read a short passage of dialogue. (Panel members will focus on diction, accent, expression and flexibility of vocal tone.) You may be asked to read the dialogue again, incorporating changes suggested by the Director.

Vocal

- The panel encourages auditionees to prepare a vocal piece in the style of the show. (ie. other Rodgers and Hammerstein musicals or similar. Not pop or rock songs.) Please provide your own accompaniment (sheet music or CD backing). A piano accompanist will be available.
- Cast members should be generally vocally secure.
- During your audition, panel members will be focusing on the following abilities:
 - Vocal range & pitch
 - Vocal strength
 - Ability to hold basic harmony parts
 - Connection with the lyrics
 - Expression
- You may be stopped during your audition. This does not necessarily mean that you have not got the part; it could just mean that the panel has seen enough to base their decision on.
- You might have to do some short exercises to determine your range, ability to hold a part or change your vocal quality.

Movement

- You may not be required to dance at your audition, however please wear clothes and footwear that you can move easily in.

Do not be afraid to seek clarification on any instruction that you do not understand.

Please read this information carefully!

- Audition times are by appointment only. If you know someone else who is interested in auditioning then please have them make an appointment.
- Please arrive 10 minutes prior to your scheduled audition time to allow for check-in and warm up.
- Bring with you, your completed audition form and any appropriate attachments.
- Auditions may include singing, reading, acting and/or movement.
- Parents and friends will not be admitted into the audition room. A waiting area is available.
- Due to unforeseen circumstances delays can occur, especially later in the afternoon. Please be patient.
- Persons considered suitable for any role may be called back for a second audition.
- All persons who audition for *The Sound of Music* will receive written confirmation in the mail, outlining the outcome of their audition.
- Rehearsals will be held on Sundays (12noon - 5:00pm), Tuesdays and Fridays (7:00pm - 9:30pm). From April, there may also be rehearsals on Saturday afternoons with the band. If you have difficulties with any of these rehearsal times, please make a note of these on your registration form.
- The children cast in the show will be required at an introductory rehearsal "bootcamp" on Wednesday 23 and Thursday 24 January 2013, 1.00 – 4.00pm.
- Regular rehearsals will begin on Sunday 10 February 2013.
- Rehearsal schedules will be given out at regular intervals and will be available on the DCS website – www.devonportchoral.org
- Regular rehearsals will be held at the Uniting Church hall, Steele Street, Devonport.
- Cast members will be required to supply a USB for the recording of rehearsal material.
- All cast members will be required to contribute a minimum of eight hours towards backstage/offstage work on the production. This may include (but is not limited to) assistance with sets or costumes, seeking sponsorship or ushering during performances (parents of child cast members).
- All cast members will be required to become financial members of the Devonport Choral Society. Adult membership \$20.00, concession \$15 or family membership \$40.
- All cast members must be available for every performance:
17, 18, 24, 25, 31 May & 1 June - 8pm, 25 May & 1 June – 2pm
Possible additional shows 23 & 30 May (TBC)

**All performances to be held at the
Devonport Entertainment and Convention Centre**



AUDITION REGISTRATION

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: (H) _____ (MOB) _____

E-MAIL: _____

DATE OF BIRTH: _____ AGE: _____ HEIGHT: _____

VOICE TYPE & RANGE: *(If known)* _____

Do you read music? YES NO
Have you had experience in part singing? YES NO
Do you play an instrument? YES NO Instrument _____

I am auditioning for *(Please circle appropriate option/s)*: Principal Role Any Role

Principal Role *(Please list characters)*: _____

If you did not get a Principal Role, would you be prepared to be considered for any role?
YES NO

Other family members auditioning: _____

Please list commitments, (including work, school, holidays etc.), that you have between late January and June 2013, which may affect your availability and attendance at rehearsals

I understand that if I am cast in The Sound of Music, that there is a requirement to contribute a minimum of eight hours towards backstage/offstage work on the production. I also agree to become a financial member of the Devonport Choral Society.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

I give my permission for my son/daughter to be in The Sound of Music. I also understand that I am responsible for the required minimum of eight hours towards backstage/offstage work for my child.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

(of parent or guardian for those under 18 years old)

Please feel free to attach (or list on reverse side) appropriate information listing relevant experience

Audition Number: