

## THE SOUND OF MUSIC

Music by Richard Rodgers

Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II

Book by Howard Lindsay and Russel Crouse

Suggested by *The Trapp Family Singers* by  
Maria Augusta Trapp

Directed and Choreographed by Donna Feore

### GRADE RECOMMENDATION

Suitable for all grades.

### STUDENT MATINÉE DATES

April 21, 24, 28; May 11, 6, 12, 18, 21, 28; June 2, 9, 18,  
23, 26; September 1, 2, 9, 16, 18, 24; October 1, 9, 14, 15.

### ABOUT THE PLAY

The musical is inspired by a real-life story. In 1923, Maria Augusta Kutschera entered Nonnberg Abbey in Salzburg as a postulant and teacher. She intended to take holy orders, but in 1926 she was asked to teach one of the seven children of Georg Johannes von Trapp. Within a year, Georg asked her to marry him.

When financial disaster struck in 1935, Maria decided that the family could make some money by singing. In 1938, Germany annexed Austria and Georg was offered a naval commission, but because he was reluctant to serve under the Nazi regime, the family left Austria on a series of concert tours. They eventually moved to the United States, settling in 1941 in Stowe, Vermont, where they opened the Trapp Family Lodge.

Maria published their story in her 1949 book *The Story of the Trapp Family Singers*, which became the basis for *The Sound of Music*. Thinking that the story would make a great stage vehicle for his friend Mary Martin, director Vincent J. Donehue approached Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II, who wrote the music and lyrics for a libretto by Howard Lindsay and Russel Crouse.

### SYNOPSIS

Maria, a high-spirited postulant at Nonnberg Abbey in pre-Second World War Austria, is sent by her Mother Abbess to act as governess to the seven children



of widowed naval captain Georg von Trapp – and to discover whether she is truly suited to a religious vocation.

Maria's love of music, and of life, soon endears her to the children and eventually to their father. Maria flees the household, however, when she finds herself falling in love with her employer, who is already engaged to wealthy socialite Elsa Schraeder. She returns to the abbey, where the Mother Abbess reminds her that her feelings for the Captain need not be incompatible with her faith.

Elsa, realizing that von Trapp will never accept the Nazi occupation of his homeland, releases him from their engagement, leaving him free to marry Maria. But soon after the wedding, the Captain is ordered to accept a commission in the German navy. Using their concert appearance at the Salzburg Festival as a cover, the family slip backstage, elude the watchful Nazi officers and escape over the mountains into Switzerland.

## CONTENT ADVISORY FOR STUDENTS

Contains some scenes with Nazi soldiers and one character is threatened at gunpoint in the climax.

## THEMES

- Love & Romantic Relationships
- Youth & Independence
- Family
- Honour & Loyalty
- Perseverance through Adversity
- War & Freedom
- Faith
- Courage
- Parenting

## CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

- All Grades: Language/English (Listening to Understand, Speaking to Communicate, Reading for Meaning & Critical Literacy)
- All Grades: Drama, Music, Visual Art
- Gr. 1 Health and PE (Healthy Living: Recognizing Caring Behavior)
- Gr. 1 Social Studies (Roles, Responsibilities & Identity)
- Gr. 2 Social Studies (Tradition & Heritage: Interrelationships & Significance)
- Gr. 3 Social Studies (Community, Challenges & Adaptations: Causes & Consequences)
- Gr. 4 Social Studies (Understanding Context: Significant Characteristics & Interactions)
- Gr. 4 Health & PE (Healthy Living: Bullying/Abuse; Growth and Development: Characteristics of Healthy Relationships.)
- Gr. 5 People & Environments (Role of Government & Responsible Citizenship)
- Gr. 5 Health & PE (Healthy Living: Bullying/Violence; Growth & Development: Stress and Pressure)
- Gr. 6 Social Studies (Responses to Global Issues)
- Gr. 7 Health & PE (Bullying/Harassment, Healthy Sexuality)
- Gr. 7-8 Social Studies (Understanding Historical Context: Events & Their Consequences)
- Gr. 10 History (Communities, Conflict & Cooperation: Historical Significance & Perspective)
- Gr. 10 Civics (Civic Issues, Democratic Values; Rights

& Responsibilities; Personal Action on Civic Issues)

- Gr. 11 History (Cause & Effect; Global Forces)
- Gr. 11 – 12 Politics (Citizenship, Democracy & Participation; Political Ideologies)
- Gr. 11 – 12 Interdisciplinary Studies (Faith, Belief & Imagery / Music & Society)
- Gr. 11– 12 Social Sciences and Humanities (World Religions & Belief Traditions / Equity & Social Justice / Dynamics of Human Relationships / Challenge & Change in Society)
- Gr. 12 History (World History: The West & The World – Interpretation & Analysis)

## ENRICHMENT

Private workshops and post-show chats may be arranged by calling the Education Department at 519.271.4040, ext. 2354.

Festival Theatre and Costume Warehouse tours may be arranged by calling the Box Office at 1.800.567.1600.

Additional classroom activities and ideas for engagement with the text can be found at [stratfordfestival.ca/teachingmaterials](http://stratfordfestival.ca/teachingmaterials).

## LET US TAKE CARE OF LUNCH!

Picnic lunches are available anytime (must be ordered two weeks in advance) and Student Deli Lunch Buffets are another option (subject to availability). For more information, see page 11 of the Schools Guide (available online) or ask the Groups and Schools Department when placing your ticket order.

## THEATRE ETIQUETTE

Respect the actors and your fellow patrons. When the lights dim, it is time to be quiet and engage with the actors on stage. Be sure to turn off cell phones and refrain from texting, talking or eating, as this is disrespectful to the actors who are telling the story.

Respond to what you see through laughter, tears, smiles, giggles or captivated silence. The actors feed off your presence and response to their work on stage. Don't respond by talking to your neighbour; please wait until after the performance to discuss your thoughts.

## BOOKING INFORMATION

### Online

Order at any time and select your seats! Visit [stratfordfestival.ca/festivaltrip](http://stratfordfestival.ca/festivaltrip).

### Phone

1.800.567.1600 or 519.273.1600

### Fax

519.273.3731

### Email

[groups@stratfordfestival.ca](mailto:groups@stratfordfestival.ca)

Download an order form at

[stratfordfestival.ca/orderform](http://stratfordfestival.ca/orderform)

### Mail

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