



ACT Louisville Productions

THE SOUND OF MUSIC

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN: **Children will be double cast**

We are committed to inclusive, diverse casting. For every role, please submit qualified performers, without regard to age, sex, ethnicity, disability, race, color, national origin, sexual orientation or gender identity

Maria Ranier: OPEN ETHNICITY to play female 20's- Soprano

Orphaned as a child, Maria is a spirited postulant at Nonnberg Abbey. She is warm and compassionate – a lover of music who doesn't think twice about speaking her mind. Nearing the end of her novitiate, she is sent to serve as governess to the seven children of Captain von Trapp. Hoping to find her true calling in this new role, Maria faces a crisis when, unexpectedly, she falls in love with the Captain.
Soprano

The Mother Abbess- OPEN ETHNICITY to play female Early 50's- 60's. Soprano

The leader and superior of Nonnberg Abbey, Mother Abbess sees the novices through the process of becoming a nun, guiding and inspiring them as they weigh their decision. Firm and authoritative, but also warm and compassionate, Mother Abbess sends Maria to the von Trapp house, sensing that she would be a good fit in the role of governess. When Maria confesses that she has fallen in love with the Captain, the Mother Abbess assures her that love, marriage and motherhood can also be God's will.

Elsa Schraeder- OPEN ETHNICITY to play female Early 30's- 40's. Mezzo- Soprano

A beautiful, cosmopolitan woman in her late thirties, she has her eyes set firmly on the Captain. She is a businesswoman, president of her late husband's corporation, who feels the way to deal with the oncoming political situation is not to fight it and let it pass. When she and the Captain realize they don't see the future the same way, she knows the relationship is over.

Captain Georg Von Trapp- OPEN ETHNICITY to play male early -late 40's Bass- Baritone

A distinguished, retired Naval Lieutenant Commander whose stern, regimented disposition represses a deep sadness from the loss of his wife. Often away on business or spending time with Baroness Schraeder abroad, the Captain remains uncompromisingly loyal to his Austrian homeland as threats of Anschluss grow more serious. When Maria restores music to his household, the Captain reconnects with his children and falls unexpectedly in love with the governess.

Max Detweiler- OPEN ETHNICITY to play late 30's- 50's. Tenor

A charming impresario and friend of the Captain's. In his job as Third Secretary of Education and Culture, Max is looking for performers for the music festival. When he hears the family singing together,

he knows they would be perfect. The Captain protests, but with the Anschluss approaching, he has no choice. Max realizes he can't fight the new regime and agrees to go along with whatever is asked.

Liesl Von Trapp- BIPOC (bi-racial, indigenous, person of color) to play female 16- Mezzo- Soprano
Liesl is at that awkward age between childhood and adulthood, and assumes a maternal role with her younger siblings. She is, however, still naïve and in need of her own guidance. She is secretly seeing Rolf, a young delivery boy who is on the verge of being swept up in the approaching Anschluss.

Rolf Gruber- Caucasian to play male 17 Baritone

Rolf is a delivery boy who is interested in Liesl. As an impressionable teen, he is aware of the growing political tension and is caught between his affection for Liesl and a need to prove his manhood.

Friedrich Von Trapp- OPEN ETHNICITY to play male 14 Tenor

Friedrich is the oldest boy in the family and remembers what the von Trapp house was like before his mother passed away. He is learning to be a confident man, but with his father often traveling, he lacks someone to show him how.

Louisa Von Trapp- OPEN ETHNICITY to play female 13 Mezzo Soprano

Missing her mother very much, Louisa has become quite skilled at playing tricks on the governesses, hiding toads in their pockets or giving the wrong name during introductions. But with Maria, it seems she's met her match.

Kurt Von Trapp- OPEN ETHNICITY to play male 10 Countertenor

The youngest boy, Kurt is sensitive and pretends to not to be hurt by his father's absence. Though he misses his mother, Kurt greatly appreciates Maria from the start.

Brigitta Von Trapp- OPEN ETHNICITY to play female 9 Mezzo Soprano

She is keenly observant for her age. She is thoughtful and, as she says, "cannot tell a lie."

Marta Von Trapp- OPEN ETHNICITY to play female 7 Mezzo Soprano

She is very honest and forthright. Marta likes to enjoy herself and would like a pink parasol for her birthday.

Gretl Von Trapp- OPEN ETHNICITY to play female 6 Mezzo Soprano

The youngest of the Trapp children, Gretl is soft-spoken and shy, but sweet.

The following roles may be combined with one actor playing multiple roles and as ensemble members:

Sister Berthe

Female

Supporting

Mezzo-Soprano

Sister Margareta

Female

Supporting

Mezzo-Soprano

Sister Sophia

Female

Featured

Mezzo-Soprano

Franz

Male

Featured

Spoken

Frau Schmidt

Female

Featured

Spoken

Herr Zeller

Male

Featured

Spoken

Baron Elberfeld

Male

Featured

Spoken

A New Postulant

Female

Featured

Spoken

Admiral von Schreiber

Male

Featured

Spoken

Ursula

Female

Featured

Spoken

Guide written by Avital Shira Chloe Wintersteen and taken from
www.rogersandhammerstein.com

SYNOPSIS

The final collaboration between Richard Rodgers & Oscar Hammerstein II, *The Sound of Music*, has become a play beloved around the world. Based on the true story of the *Von Trapp Family Singers*, this play captures a personal tale of growth and hope amidst the horrors of World War II. *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 (wily 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." www.stageagent.com