



The SOUND *of* MUSIC

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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 a novice nun 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."

Production Team

Director: Sarah Monypenny

Musical Director: Samantha Atkinson

Choreographer: Lyndell Farmer-Smith

Production Manager: Amanda Girdlestone

Assistant Director: Paul Girdlestone

Stage Manager: Ben Mushet

Technical Director: Liam Woods

Production Assistant: Peta Figgins

Who to contact

Production & Audition Enquiries: som@roo-theatre.com.au

Membership Enquiries: info@roo-theatre.com.au

Show Dates

Friday 8th November 7:30pm

Saturday 9th November 7:30pm

Sunday 10th November 2:00pm

Wednesday 13th November 7:30pm

Friday 15th November 7:30pm

Saturday 16th November 2:00pm & 7:30pm

Sunday 17th November 2:00pm

Wednesday 20th November 7:30pm

Friday 22nd November 7:30pm

Saturday 23rd November 2:00pm & 7:30pm

Characters:

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

A postulant at Nonnberg Abbey, young, free spirited, warm and kind. She is from the Austrian countryside, an orphan, who has used her resourcefulness, intelligence and inner confidence to overcome the difficulties of her early life. There is a part of her that wants sheltering from the uncertainties of the outside world as well, and that, coupled with her absolute faith in God's will, is what has led her to seek life as a nun. The actor must have versatility, a powerful voice, great sense of natural humour, ability to move well.

Captain Georg von Trapp (baritone, moves well, Late 20s -45)

A retired Austrian naval captain. Educated, polished, and military in the way he runs his life, his home and his children's lives. The father of seven, ranging in age from six to sixteen, he is a widower. When we meet him he is still in mourning over the death of his wife; his unconscious defence has been to push his children away and remove himself from the home that reminds him too much of what he has lost, resulting in a cool, detached exterior; underneath, he is warm, understanding, and as much in need of love himself as are his children.

Max Detweiler (baritone, 25+)

Charming, sophisticated, enjoys the good life, which he can't afford, so he avails himself of the Captain's largesse at every opportunity. He is practical and sees the coming of Nazism as unavoidable, so one must "accommodate", which brings him into conflict with the Captain. Ultimately, he proves a true and loyal friend to the family.

Elsa Schrader (mezzo, moves well, 25-45)

A baroness of taste and elegance; she is sophisticated and worldly. Like Max, she will find a way to accommodate the coming Anschluss. She tolerates the children, but would send them off to boarding school, so she and the Captain could spend most of their time in Vienna. She loves the Captain in a measured way; he represents good social standing and a continuation of the comfortable, luxurious lifestyle she enjoys.

Mother Abbess (powerful soprano, wide vocal range, 35+, strong actress)

Motherly, understanding, authoritative, she is Maria's guiding light. Her years have brought her wisdom, patience and inner confidence.

Sister Berthe (alto) moves well. Mistress of Novices (20-60) is the more critical, finding all the faults in Maria's conduct, and may be a little pompous

Sister Margareta (mezzo) moves well. Mistress of Postulants (20-60) has a good sense of humour, and so appreciates what is humorous in Maria's conduct

Sister Sophia (soprano) moves well (20-60) is more inclined to notice the positive aspects of Maria's conduct. All are frustrated with her inability to settle into the lifestyle of the Abbey.

Rolf Gruber (tenor, ideally a strong dancer or very good mover, 16-20)

Rolf is a telegraph delivery boy on bicycle, and later drawn into the Nazi youth movement. He and Liesl have fallen in love, and they look for every opportunity to see one another.

Franz (non-singing, 30+, strong actor)

The von Trapp butler, formerly the Captain's orderly on shipboard; formal, but not without spirit; his loyalties move very swiftly to the Fascist cause.

Frau Schmidt (non-singing, 30+, strong actor)

The housekeeper, rather stoic, but with a guarded sense of humour; she knows how to run the household as the Captain wishes it.

Herr Zeller (non-singing, 25+, strong actor)

Bureaucratic neighbour who becomes an early Nazi official. He is critical of the Captain's loyalties to the old Austria and ultimately, as an official of the Third Reich, leads the move to take the Captain into Nazi naval service; hard-nosed, inflexible.

Admiral Von Schreiber (non-singing, 40+, strong actor)

Admiral of the Navy of the Third Reich, he arrives to escort the Captain to his forced commission. He is more flexible and accommodating than Zeller.

The Children;

Liesl von Trapp (mezzo, strong dancer, 16-21) The oldest child, blossoming into a woman, and smitten by Rolf. She also has a maternal edge and cares deeply for her younger siblings. Initially she thinks herself too old to need a governess; she discovers otherwise.

Friedrich von Trapp (age 14-18) Proud to be "a boy" in this family of mostly girls, and an often-absent father.

Louisa von Trapp (age 13-17) The trickster of the family, full of mischief.

Kurt von Trapp (age 10-15, some dance) Gentle and a peacemaker. He dances the Laendler with Maria.

Brigitta von Trapp (age 9-14) Smart, reads a lot, always tells the truth, even when it may be inappropriate.

Marta von Trapp (age 7-14) Very much the little princess; pink is her favourite colour.

Gretl von Trapp (age 5-10) Very cute, just wants to be loved.

Ensemble: Men and Women Ensemble members (16-60+ years)

To play nuns, monks, priests, Nazis novices, postulants, guests at the Captain's party, Salzburg citizens, and Contestants in the Festival Concert.

Dates and Timetable for Auditions Dates:

Saturday 17th, Sunday 18th August and Monday 19th August – with Call Backs scheduled Tuesday 20th August 7pm – 9pm (if required)

NB: All auditions must be by appointment only.

Children's Roles Auditions for the children's roles will be conducted in 20 minute blocks with six auditionees in each group

Saturday 17th August: 9am to 1pm | Time Slots: 9:00, 9:20, 9:40, 10:00, 10:40, 11:00, 11:20, 11:40, 12:20, 12:40

Sunday 18th August: 9am to 12pm | Time Slots: 10:00, 10:20, 10:40, 11:00, 11:20, 11:40, 12:00

Adult Roles Auditions for the adult roles will be individual auditions of 10 minute duration

Saturday 17th August 2:00pm to 7:00pm - Time Slots: 2:00, 2:10, 2:20, 2:30, 2:40, 2:50, 3:00, 3:10, 3:30, 3:40, 3:50, 4:00, 4:10, 4:20, 4:30, 4:40, 4:50, 5:20, 5:30, 5:40, 5:50, 6:00, 6:10, 6:20, 6:30, 6:40, 6:50

Monday 19th August – 7:00, 7:10, 7:20, 7:30, 7:40, 7:50, 8:00, 8:20, 8:30, 8:40, 8:50, 9:00, 9:10, 9:20

All auditionees who require a call back will be notified by Monday 19th August 12:00pm and must attend a call back allocated to them. Call backs will fall between 7:00pm & 9:00pm.

Audition Material;

Music:

<u>Maria</u>	Sound of Music & My Favourite Things
<u>Mother Abbess</u>	Climb Every Mountain
<u>Nuns</u>	Maria
<u>Captain Von Trapp</u>	Edelweiss & An Ordinary Couple
<u>Liesl</u>	Sixteen Going Seventeen
<u>Children</u>	Do Re Mi
<u>Rolf</u>	Sixteen Going Seventeen
<u>Elsa</u>	No Way to Stop It
<u>Max</u>	No Way to Stop It
<u>Ensemble Female</u>	Maria
<u>Ensemble Male</u>	Edelweiss

Dance:

The Dance component will be taught at the auditions. This will depend on what character you are auditioning for, and will be more movement based.

Dialogue:

You will be given an extract from the script to read at the auditions. These will be available at the auditions in the foyer, so if you require more time to become familiar with the text, then we advise arriving earlier to your audition. This does not need to be memorised, it is just a good sign if you are familiar with the text.

...and a few important comments about the audition process

Commitment

Before you audition, review the essential dates provided. You must be prepared to make arrangements with your family, school, employer, coach, or other extracurricular activity supervisor to be available for these rehearsals. Except for emergencies, we cannot have last-minute absences from essential rehearsals or performances.

Timeliness

Please arrive early for your audition. We are lucky to have so many eager participants, but that means we are running a very tight schedule. Being on time for your audition is an indication of what we expect from you during rehearsals and performances.

Following Directions

Following directions is a very important skill in theatre. Carefully read and follow all the directions in this package, as well as directions provided at auditions by members of the production team. This is an indication of what we expect from you in rehearsals.

Preparation

There is a lot of material in this package! We know, because we made it! We are giving you the opportunity to prepare for your audition so that you can give us your strongest performance. We have provided plenty of resources here, so please take advantage of them. We want to assess what level of time and commitment you have put into this process.

Positive Attitude

Please treat each other and the production staff with respect. We are not interested in casting people who cannot get along with one another. Building a strong ensemble is essential to a good production and this can only happen with cast members who support each other.

Audition Logistics

Your audition begins at your designated time.

What to expect:

- 1) You need to arrive 15 minutes before your designated time and quietly take your place and wait for us to call your name.
- 2) Please bring a headshot to be given to the Audition Panel at the day of auditions. Another photo may be taken of you to compare heights when casting decisions begin.
- 3) Please wait in the designated area which is the Roo Theatre Foyer. Do not wander around the building.
- 4) If you are in a group session, you are expected to be respectful and encouraging of fellow auditionees.
- 5) If you are in the waiting area, you are expected to maintain a polite volume so as to not distract anyone else preparing in the Foyer.
- 6) Bring water.
- 7) Remember that we like you! We have to keep neutral expressions, but we really do want you to do well. Take a few deep breaths in through your nose and out through your mouth before you start performing and try to calm yourself down. Give us your best shot in the moment and remember to have fun!!

**** ALL SUCCESSFUL CAST WILL BE REQUIRED TO BECOME FINANCIAL MEMBERS OF THE ROO THEATRE COMPANY AT THE FIRST REHEARSAL ****

...and if you are lucky enough to be chosen for a part in The Sound of Music!

Rehearsal Times

The Sound of Music will rehearse on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7pm – 9:45pm, and Sundays from 11:00am – 5:00pm.

Rehearsal Commitment

The production team and the Roo Theatre Company Management expect that everyone involved in this production will be available for all scheduled rehearsals from the date of their casting through until performance. This is only fair to all other cast members. Everyone's time is valuable, and it is vital that rehearsal time is not wasted by the absence of cast members. All known absences at the time of the auditions must be recorded on the audition form. Missing rehearsals without notice may result in cast members forfeiting their place in the production.

Rehearsal Requirements - checklist:

All cast must ensure they bring the following to each and every rehearsal between now and the first performance.

Use this page as a checklist before leaving home:

1) The Script/Music!

Rehearsals cannot run smoothly if we are constantly sharing scripts and music between cast. All cast MUST bring their scripts and music with them to rehearsals.

2) A Water Bottle! - with your name on it.

Important! During rehearsals physical exertion will occur in the form of blocking, singing and dancing. ALL cast members must ensure they are properly hydrated. Please bring a water bottle.

3) A Pencil!

It is important you are able to make notes in your script during rehearsals to ensure you correctly remember blocking, choreography, script alterations or musical considerations. All cast must bring a pencil.