

\*\*\*\*\*

**CAPTAIN.** I'm Captain von Trapp.

Now, Fraulein, as to your duties here -  
you will be in charge of my children.

**AUDITIONS:**

- Captain

There are seven of them. You will find out how far they have progressed in their studies and carry on from there. Each morning will be spent in the classroom. Each afternoon, they march. You will see that at all times they conduct themselves with decorum and orderliness.

The first rule in this house is discipline.

*(The CAPTAIN takes out his silver whistle and blows a siren-like summoning blast, all the children enter and stand in a line military-style. The CAPTAIN crosses in front of them and addresses them.)*

**CAPTAIN.** Children- this is your new governess Fraulein Maria. As I sound your signal you will step forward and repeat your name. You, Fraulein, will listen and learn their signals so that you can call them when you want them.

**MARIA.** I won't have to whistle for them, Reverend Captain ...

What I mean is, I'll be with them all the time.

**CAPTAIN.** Not on all occasions. This is a large house and a large estate.

They have been taught to come only when they hear their signal. Now when I want you, this is what you'll hear.

*(He whistles the governess' signal.)*

**MARIA.** You won't have to trouble, sir, because I couldn't answer to a whistle.

**CAPTAIN.** That's nonsense. Everyone in this house answers to a whistle.

Well, I shall now leave you with the children. You are in command.

**MARIA.** Pardon me, sir - I don't know how to address you.

**CAPTAIN.** You will call me Captain .

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

**MARIA.** Dear God, I know now that You have sent me here on a mission. I must help these children to love their new mother and prepare them to win her love so she will never want them to leave her. And I pray that this will become a happy family in Thy sight. God bless the Captain, God bless Liesl, and Friedrich, Louisa, Brigitta, Marta, and little Gretl - and oh, yes, I forgot the other boy - what's his name? Well, God bless what's-his-name!

*(There is lightning and thunder. LIESL enters through the window. Her dress is smudged with dirt. She tiptoes to the hall door upstage.*

*MARIA sees her out of the corner of her eye, but continues.)*

God bless the Reverend Mother, and Sister Margareta and everybody at Nonnberg Abbey. And now, dear God, about Liesl -

*(LIESL stops and gives MARIA a startled look.)*

Help her to know that I am her friend and help her to tell me what she's up to. Help me to be understanding so that I may guide her footsteps. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

\*\*\*\*\*

## AUDITION:

- Maria

\*\*\*\*\*

**FRANZ.** Who wanted me on the telephone?

**FRAU SCHMIDT.** It was the post office. They've got a telegram for you. It will be delivered at seven o'clock.

**FRANZ.** Seven o'clock? That gives me five hours to be nervous.

**FRAU SCHMIDT.** With that scatterbrained boy delivering telegrams -

**FRANZ.** Well, that's one thing people are saying – if the Germans did take over Austria, we'd have efficiency.

**FRAU SCHMIDT.** Don't let the Captain hear you say that.

*(The CAPTAIN whistles offstage. FRAU SCHMIDT stops short, bristling.)*

He didn't whistle for us when his wife was alive.

**FRANZ.** He's being the captain of a ship again.

*(The CAPTAIN whistles again.)*

**FRAU SCHMIDT.** I can't bear being whistled for - it's humiliating.

**FRANZ.** In the Imperial Navy, the bosun always whistled for us.

**FRAU SCHMIDT.** But I wasn't in the Imperial Navy.

**FRANZ.** Too bad. You could have made a fortune.

\*\*\*\*\*

### AUDITIONS:

- Franz
- Frau Schmidt

\*\*\*\*\*

**FRAU SCHMIDT.** The Captain is going to Vienna tomorrow.

I have this material he ordered for a new dress for you.

**MARIA.** Oh, how nice of him.

Even before it's made, this is the prettiest dress I've ever had. I hope the Captain will like it because I want to ask him for more material.

**FRAU SCHMIDT.** More?

**MARIA.** Oh, not for me - for the children. For play clothes.

**FRAU SCHMIDT.** The von Trapp children never play.

The Captain doesn't like them to get dirty .

**MARIA.** But they're children. They have to climb trees, roll on the grass.

Think of all the rocks and caves -

**FRAU SCHMIDT.** The Captain says the best exercise is marching.

The children will continue to march. I hope you find your room comfortable.

**MARIA.** Yes, thank you.

**FRAU SCHMIDT.** There will be new curtains for the window and the alcove.

They will be hung tomorrow.

**MARIA.** But these curtains are very good.

**FRAU SCHMIDT.** There will be new curtains.

**MARIA.** Will the Captain be away long?

**FRAU SCHMIDT.** I don't know. Of course he has to come home every time he hires a new governess. I sometimes think the children get rid of their governesses just because they want to see their father.

**MARIA.** (*Picking up her guitar case.*) He must want to see them, too.

**FRAU SCHMIDT.** Since his wife died, they remind him too much of her. (*Seeing the guitar.*) You can put that away. You won't be using it.

**MARIA.** Why not?

**FRAU SCHMIDT.** The Captain won't have music here.

**MARIA.** He won't have music?

## AUDITIONS:

- Frau Schmidt
- Maria

**FRAU SCHMIDT.** And he used to love music. There were wonderful evenings here. His wife would sing and he would play the violin or guitar. But now he's shut all that out of his life.

**MARIA.** So that's why he's the way he is. But not to have music - that's wrong for him and wrong for the children, too.

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

**MOTHER ABBESS.** I think we should be pleased with our efforts.

Out of twenty-eight postulants, sixteen or seventeen are ready to enter the novitiate. Let's consider the doubtful ones again. There's Irmagard ...

**SISTER BERTHE.** Reverend Mother, there's no doubt about Irmagard - the religious life is no place for the pious.

**MOTHER ABBESS.** You mean the pretentiously pious, Sister Berthe. There's Christina - and there's Maria.

**SISTER BERTHE.** Well, after last night I don't think there can be any doubt in the Reverend Mother's mind about Maria.

**MOTHER ABBESS.** I gave her permission to leave the abbey for the day.

**SISTER MARGARETTA.** I told you, Sister Berthe -

**SISTER SOPHIA.** Reverend Mother, I've brought Maria. She's waiting.

**MOTHER ABBESS.** Sister Sophia, the Mistress of the Postulants and the Mistress of the Novices do not see eye to eye about Maria. How do you feel about her?

**SISTER SOPHIA.** I love her very dearly. But she always seems to be in trouble, doesn't she?

**SISTER BERTHE.** Exactly what I say!  
She climbs a tree and scrapes her knee,  
Her dress has got a tear.

**SISTER SOPHIA.**  
She waltzes on her way to mass  
And whistles on the stair.

**SISTER BERTHE.**  
And underneath her wimple  
She has curlers in her hair –

**CALLBACKS:**

- Sister Sophia
- Sister Berthe
- Sister Margarett

*(All to be read as dialogue—  
NOT sung)*

**SISTER SOPHIA.**

I've even heard her singing in the abbey!

**SISTER BERTHE.**

She's always late for chapel -

**SISTER SOPHIA.**

But her penitence is real.

**SISTER BERTHE.**

She's always late for ev'rything, Except for ev'ry meal.

I hate to have to say it, But I very firmly feel

**SISTER BERTHE & SISTER SOPHIA.**

Maria's not an asset to the abbey.

**SISTER MARGARETTA.**

I'd like to say a word in her behalf:

**MOTHER ABBESS.** Then say it, Sister Margaretta .

**SISTER MARGARETTA.**

Maria ... makes me ... laugh!

**SISTER SOPHIA.**

How do you solve a problem like Maria?

**MOTHER ABBESS.**

How do you catch a cloud and pin it down?

**SISTER MARGARETTA.**

How do you find a word that means maria?

**SISTER BERTHE.**

A flibbertigibbet!

**SISTER SOPHIA.**

A Will-O'-The-Wisp!

**SISTER MARGARETTA.**

A clown!

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

**CALLBACKS:**

- Maria

**MOTHER ABBESS.** Sit down, Maria, I want to talk to you.

**MARIA.** Yes - about last night. Reverend Mother, I was on

my knees most of the night because I was late – and after you'd been so kind and given me permission to leave.

**MOTHER ABBESS.** It wasn't about your being late, Maria.

**MARIA.** I must have awakened half the abbey before Sister Sophia heard me and opened the gate.

**MOTHER ABBESS.** Maria, very few of us were asleep. We could only think you had lost your way - and to be lost at night on that mountain!

**MARIA.** Reverend Mother, I couldn't be lost on that mountain.

That's my mountain. I was brought up on it! It was that mountain that brought me to you.

**MOTHER ABBESS.** Oh?

**MARIA.** When I was a little girl I used to come down the mountain, climb a tree and look over into your garden. I'd see the sisters at work, and I'd hear them sing on their way to vespers. Many times I went back up that mountain in the dark - singing all the way.

-- And that brings up another transgression - I was singing yesterday – and I was singing without your permission.

**MOTHER ABBESS.** Maria, it's only here in the abbey that there is a rule about singing.

**MARIA.** That's the hardest rule of all for me. Sister Margareta is always reminding me - but too late, after I've started singing.

**MOTHER ABBESS.** Maria .. .in spite of what you saw over the abbey wall, you weren't prepared for the way we live, were you?

**MARIA.** No, Mother, but I pray and I try.

**MOTHER ABBESS.** Tell me, Maria, what is the most important lesson you've learned here?

**MARIA.** To find out what is the will of God and to do it.



**MOTHER ABBESS.** Even if it is hard to accept?

**MARIA.** Even then.

**MOTHER ABBESS.** Maria, the dress you wore when you came to us - is that still in the robing room?

**MARIA.** Why, no, Mother, I'm sure that's been given to the poor. Sister Margaretta said that when we enter the abbey our worldly clothes ... Reverend Mother, why do you ask?

**MOTHER ABBESS.** Maria, it seems to be the will of God that you leave us.

**MARIA.** Leave? Leave here?

*(Rises.)* Oh, no! Mother, please no!

**MOTHER ABBESS.** For a while only, Maria.

**MARIA.** Don't send me away, Mother, please. This is what I want. This is my life.

**MOTHER ABBESS.** But are you ready for it? Perhaps if you go out into the world again for a time you will return to us knowing what we expect of you and that we do expect it.

**MARIA.** I know what you expect, Mother, and I'll do it. I promise.

**MOTHER ABBESS.** Maria.

**MARIA.** If it is God's will. Where am I to go?

**MOTHER ABBESS.** There's a family - a family of seven children.

You like children - you're very good with them. They need a governess until September.

**MARIA.** Until September!

**MOTHER ABBESS.** Captain von Trapp expects you this afternoon. He's a fine man -and a brave one. He was given the Maria Teresa medal by the Emperor. It was for heroism in the Adriatic.

**MARIA.** A Captain in the Navy! Oh, Mother, he'll be very strict.

**MOTHER ABBESS.** You're not being sent to his battleship.

God bless you, Maria.

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

**LIESL.** Good night, Rolf.

**ROLF.** Liesl!

**LIESL.** Yes?

**ROLF.** You don't have to say good night this early just because your father's home.

**LIESL.** How did you know my father was home?

**ROLF.** Oh, I have a way of knowing things.

**LIESL.** You're wonderful.

**ROLF.** Oh, no, I'm not - really.

**LIESL.** Oh, yes, you are. I mean – how did you know two days ago that you would be here at just this time tonight with a telegram for Franz?

**ROLF.** Every year on this date he always gets a birthday telegram from his sister.

**LIESL.** You see - you are wonderful.

**ROLF.** Can I come again tomorrow night?

**LIESL.** Rolf, you can't be sure you're going to have a telegram to deliver here tomorrow night.

**ROLF.** I could come here by mistake - with a telegram for Colonel Schneider. He's here from Berlin. He's staying with the Gauleiter but I –  
*(Suddenly concerned.)*

No one's supposed to know he's here. Don't you tell your father.

**LIESL.** Why not?

**ROLF.** Well, your father's pretty Austrian.

**LIESL.** We're all Austrian.

**ROLF.** Some people think we ought to be German. They're pretty mad at those who don't think so. They're getting ready to ... Well, let's hope your father doesn't get into any trouble.

**LIESL.** Don't worry about Father. He was decorated for bravery.

**ROLF.** I know. I don't worry about him. The only one I worry about is his daughter.

### CALLBACKS:

- Rolf
- Liesl

\*\*\*\*\*

### CALLBACKS:

- Maria
- Children

**MARIA.** Well, now that there's just us, would you tell me your names again and tell me how old you are. Now you're -?

*(Each CHILD, in turn, steps forward in military manner, speaks, and then steps back.)*

**LIESL.** I'm Liesl. I'm sixteen years old and I don't need a governess.

**MARIA.** *(Right of LIESL.)* I'm glad you told me. We'll just be friends .

*(LIESL steps back. FRIEDRICH steps forward.)*

**FRIEDRICH.** I'm Friedrich. I'm fourteen. I'm a boy.

**MARIA.** *(Right of FRIEDRICH.)* Boy? Why, you're almost a man.

*(FRIEDRICH looks pleased. LOUISA signals the other girls, who giggle.)*

**LOUISA.** I'm Brigitta.

**MARIA.** *(Crosses behind LOUISA, pulling up her braid.)*

You didn't tell me how old you are, Louisa.

**BRIGITTA.** *(Steps left of MARIA.)* I'm Brigitta. She's Louisa and she's thirteen years old and you're smart. I'm nine and I think your dress is the ugliest one I ever saw.

**KURT.** *(Steps right of MARIA.)* Brigitta, you mustn't say a thing like that.

**BRIGITTA.** Why not? Don't you think it's ugly?

**KURT.** If I did think so, I wouldn't say so.

*(Snapping to attention.)* I'm Kurt, I'm eleven - almost .

**MARIA.** That's a nice age to be, eleven - almost.

**MARTA.** *(Steps forward left of MARIA, pulling her skirt.)*

I'm Marta and I'm going to be seven on Tuesday and I'd like a pink parasol.

**MARIA.** Pink is my favorite color, too.

*(GRETL steps forward and stamps her foot.)*

And you're Gretl.

*(GRETL smiles and jumps into MARIA's arms.)*

I'm going to tell you something.

*(She sits on the chair by the sofa & puts GRETL on the floor beside her.)*

I've never been a governess before. How do I start?

**LOUISA.** *(Runs to MARIA.)* You mean you don't know anything about being a governess?

**MARIA.** No .

**LOUISA.** Well, the first thing you have to do is to tell Father to mind his own business.

**KURT.** No, Louisa, don't. I like her.

**BRIGITTA.** *(Above chair, picking up guitar case.)* What's in here?

**MARIA.** My guitar.

**BRIGITTA.** What did you bring this for?

**MARIA.** For when we all sing together.

*(BRIGITTA takes the guitar out of the case.)*

**MARTA.** We don't sing.

**MARIA.** Of course you sing. Everybody sings. What songs do you know?

**KURT.** We don't know any songs.

**MARIA.** *(Taking guitar from BRIGITTA.)* You don't?

**CHILDREN.** No.

**MARIA.** Well, now I know where to start .

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

**MARIA.** Oh, it's you Gretl. Are you afraid?

*(GRETl shakes her head. Thunder and lightning.*

*GRETl jumps up on the bed with MARIA.)*

You're not afraid of a thunderstorm, are you?

You just stay right here with me. Where are the others?

**GRETl.** They're asleep. They're not scared.

*(Thunder and lightning. BRIGITTA, LOUISA, and MARTA run on through the door upstage in their nightdresses.)*

**MARTA.** Wait for me.

**MARIA.** *(To GRETl.)* Oh, no? Look

*(To the others.)* Come, all of you. Up on the bed.

*(All three GIRLS jump up on the bed.)*

Now all we have to do is wait for the boys.

**LOUISA.** We won't see them! Boys are brave.

*(Thunder and lightning. KURT and FRIEDRICH enter through the door upstage in their pajamas.)*

**MARIA.** You boys aren't frightened, too, are you?

**KURT.** Oh, no. We just wanted to be sure you weren't .

**MARIA.** Was this your idea, Friedrich?

**FRIEDRICH.** Oh, no. It was Kurt's.

**MARIA.** That's it, Kurt. That's the one I left out.

*(Looking up.)* God bless Kurt.

*(Lightning and thunder. The BOYS run and cower at the foot of the bed.)*

**MARTA.** Why does it do that?

**MARIA.** Well, the lightning says something to the thunder and the thunder answers it back.

**MARTA.** I wish it wouldn't answer so loud.

**MARIA.** Maybe if we all sing loud enough we won't hear the thunder.

### CALLBACKS:

- Maria
- Children

\*\*\*\*\*

**ELSA.** Georg, those mountains - they're magnificent!

**CAPTAIN.** Yes, they're not like any other mountains – they're friendly. Look, that green stretch of woods over there - when the wind moves through it, it's like a restless sea.

**ELSA.** And that sweet little village.

**CAPTAIN.** That's not a village. That's a town.

**ELSA.** Oh, I'm sorry- I didn't mean to hurt its feelings.

**CAPTAIN.** It's fun being with you. You're quite an experience for me.

**ELSA.** You're quite an experience for me, too. Somewhere in you there's a fascinating man. Occasionally I catch a glimpse of him, and when I do, he's exciting.

**CAPTAIN.** Exciting? I've never been called exciting before.

**ELSA.** I'm beginning to understand you better now that I see you here. You know, you're a little like those mountains -- except that you keep moving. How can you be away from this place as much as you are?

**CAPTAIN.** Maybe I've been searching for a reason to come back here to stay.

**ELSA.** Georg, I like it here very much.

**CAPTAIN.** (*Embarrassed.*) Max can't still be on the telephone.

I know he's desperate about getting singers for the Kaltzberg Festival but -  
(*To ELSA.*) You like it here?

**ELSA.** Oh, we'd have to spend some time in Vienna. I have Heinrich's estate to look after.

**CAPTAIN.** I thought that was a corporation now.

**ELSA.** It is, and I'm president.

**CAPTAIN.** You, president of a corporation?

**ELSA.** After all, I managed Heinrich's affairs for years before he died.

**CAPTAIN.** I can't see you sitting behind a desk.

**ELSA.** Well, of course, I wear a business suit and smoke a big cigar.

### CALLBACKS:

- Elsa
- Captain

\*\*\*\*\*

**MAX.** I'm sorry I took so long.

**CAPTAIN.** Any luck?

**MAX.** How would you like this for the Kaltzberg Festival - the finest choral group in Austria, the greatest mixed quartet in all Europe, and the best soprano in the world?

**ELSA.** Max, that's something I'd love to hear!

**MAX.** So would I.

All I've got up to now is a basso who isn't even profundo.

**ELSA.** Max, you always come up with a good festival concert.

**MAX.** And why? Because my motto is: "Never start out looking for the people you wind up getting!" That's why I've been telephoning Paris, Rome, Stockholm, London-

**ELSA.** On Georg's telephone?

**MAX.** How else could I afford it? Why am I up here?

**CAPTAIN.** I hoped it was because you liked me.

**MAX.** Of course I like you. Why shouldn't I like you? You live like a king. You have an excellent wine cellar -

**ELSA.** Max!

**MAX.** I like rich people. I like the way they live. I like the way I live when I'm with them. Speaking as a government official, I - Georg, is there a cathedral around here?

**CAPTAIN.** That's our abbey - Nonnberg Abbey.

**MAX.** Do they have a choir?

**CAPTAIN.** A beautiful one .

**MAX.** Good! In the next few days I have to visit all these towns around here and listen to saengerbunds, choirs, quartets -

**CAPTAIN.** You'll be here for meals, won't you?

**MAX.** Oh, yes! It was in a town just about that size - Watzmann - where I discovered the St. Ignatius Boys Choir. In 1930 they won the festival, became very famous, toured all over the world.

### CALLBACKS:

- Elsa
- Max
- Captain

**ELSA.** Oh, yes -whatever became of them?

**MAX.** By the time their voices changed they were rich  
enough to live in America.

(Indicating.) Who lives in that dilapidated castle down there?

Rumpelstiltskin?

**CAPTAIN.** Baron Elberfeld. The oldest family in the valley .

**ELSA.** I'd like to meet him. I'd like to meet all your friends.

Georg, why don't you give a dinner for me while I'm here?

Nothing very much - just something lavish.

**CAPTAIN.** I wouldn't know whom to invite. Today it's  
difficult to tell who's a friend and who's an enemy.

**ELSA.** This isn't a good time to make enemies. Let's make  
some friends.

\*\*\*\*\*



\*\*\*\*\*

**CAPTAIN.** Fraulein! Where did you get these abominations –  
Out of a nightmare?

**MARIA.** No, out of some curtains - the curtains that used  
to hang in my bedroom. There was plenty of wear left  
in them.

**CAPTAIN.** Just a moment. Do you mean to say the people of  
the neighborhood have seen my children wearing old  
curtains?

**MARIA.** Oh, yes, they've become very popular. Everyone  
smiles at them.

**CAPTAIN.** I don't wonder.

**MARIA.** They say, "There go Captain von Trapp's children."

**CAPTAIN.** My children have always been a credit to my name.

**MARIA.** But, Captain, they weren't. They were just unhappy  
little marching machines.

**CAPTAIN.** I don't care to hear from you about my children.

**MARIA.** Well, you must hear from someone. You're not  
home long enough to know them.

**CAPTAIN.** I said I don't want to hear -

**MARIA.** I know you don't - but you've got to. Take Liesl -  
Liesl isn't a child anymore. And if you keep treating her as one, Captain,  
you're going to have a mutiny on your hands.

And Friedrich - Friedrich's afraid to be himself - he's shy - he's aloof,  
Friedrich needs you – he needs your confidence -

**CAPTAIN.** Don't tell me about my son.

**MARIA.** Brigitta could tell you about him. She could tell you a lot more if  
you got to know her, because she notices things. And she always tells the  
truth - especially when you don't want to hear it.

Kurt - is sensitive - he's easily hurt - and you ignore him - you brush him  
aside the way you do all of them.

### CALLBACKS:

- Maria
- Captain

*(The CAPTAIN starts to leave.)*

I haven't finished yet! Louisa - wants to have a good time.

You've just got to let her have a good time.

Marta - I don't know about yet - but someone has to find out about her.

And little Gretl - just wants to be loved ... Oh, please, Captain, love Gretl,  
love all of them. They need you.

**CAPTAIN.** Stop! Stop it! You will pack your things and  
return to the abbey as soon as you can.

**MARIA.** I'm sorry. I shouldn't have said those things - not in  
the way I said them.

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

**MARIA.** Brigitta, have you seen your father?

**BRIGITTA.** I knew it all along. Frau Schraeder didn't have a headache. She just wanted to get out of the party. She was faking .

**MARIA.** Brigitta, you shouldn't say things you don't know are true.

**BRIGITTA.** But I do know. I heard her say to Father she'd been dodging these people.

**MARIA.** That doesn't mean that she didn't have a headache.

It's very important that you children like Frau Schraeder.

**BRIGITTA.** I like her all right. Why is it important?

**MARIA.** Well - I think she's going to be your new mother.

**BRIGITTA.** Oh, Fraulein, Father's never going to marry her.

Why, he couldn't.

**MARIA.** Why couldn't he?

**BRIGITTA.** Because he's in love with you.

**MARIA.** Now Brigitta, that's just the kind of thing -

**BRIGITTA.** You must know that -

**MARIA.** Brigitta - no!

**BRIGITTA.** Remember the other night when we were all sitting on the floor singing the edelweiss song he taught us? After we finished, you laughed at him for forgetting the words. He didn't forget the words. He just stopped singing to look at you. And when he speaks to you, the way his voice sounds -

**MARIA.** No, Brigitta, no.

**BRIGITTA.** And the way you looked at him just now when you were dancing. You're in love with him.

\*\*\*\*\*

### CALLBACKS:

- Maria
- Brigitta

(others called back for any children may be asked to read too)

\*\*\*\*\*

**ELSA.** I know I'm right, Max. We'll find him and ask him.

**MAX.** I'll take your word for it, Elsa.

**ELSA.** Georg, settle this for Max and me, will you.

How far down the mountain does your property go?

**CAPTAIN.** Can you make out that stone wall? That's the property line.

**ELSA.** (Turning to MAX.) You see.

**MAX.** I didn't argue about it .

**ELSA.** I know, that makes me furious. I don't like to win without a fight.

(FRANZ enters from the house.)

**FRANZ.** Herr Detweiler, while you were gone, you had a long-distance call from Berlin.

**MAX.** (Innocently.) Who could be calling me from Berlin?

**FRANZ.** They said you'd know who it was.

**MAX.** Oh! Thank you, Franz.

(FRANZ exits into the house.)

Georg, what were we just talking about?

**CAPTAIN.** Max, this isn't the first call you've had from Berlin.

**MAX.** Georg, you know I have no political convictions. Can I help it if other people have?

**ELSA.** Let's not stir that up again. The Germans have promised not to invade Austria. Max knows that.

**CAPTAIN.** Then why does he bother to answer those calls from Berlin?

**MAX.** Because if they don't keep their promise, I want to have some friends among them.

**ELSA.** Naturally.

**CAPTAIN.** Oh, you agree, too?

**MAX.** Georg, this is the way I look at it. There was a man who was dying.

They were giving him the last rites. They asked him, "Do you

## CALLBACKS:

- Captain
- Elsa
- Max

renounce the devil and all his works?" and he said, "At this moment, I prefer not to make any enemies."

**ELSA.** Georg, if they - if they should invade us - would you defy them?

**CAPTAIN.** Yes.

**MAX.** Do you realize what might happen to you? To your property?

**ELSA.** To your children?

**MAX.** To everyone close to you - to Elsa - to me!

**CAPTAIN.** Well, what will you do if they come?

**MAX.** What anyone with any sense would do – just sit tight and wait for it all to blow over.

**CAPTAIN.** And you think it will?

**MAX.** One thing is sure - nothing you can do will make any difference.

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

**MARIA.** I'm sorry if I said something I shouldn't have said.

**CAPTAIN.** You did say the wrong thing - but you said it at the right time.

**MARIA.** The children told me that you were going to marry Frau Schraeder.

**CAPTAIN.** We found we just couldn't go the same way. That door is shut.

**MARIA.** Sister Margareta always says, "When God shuts a door-"

**CAPTAIN.** I know - "He opens a window." Maria, why did you run away to the abbey? What made you come back?

**MARIA.** The Mother Abbess - she said that you have to look for your life .

**CAPTAIN.** Often when you find it, you don't recognize it.

**MARIA.**No.

**CAPTAIN.** Not at first. Then one day - one night – all of a sudden, it stands before you.

**MARIA.**Yes.

**CAPTAIN.** (Crosses to MARIA.) I look at you now, and I realize this is not something that has just happened. It is something I've known – deep inside me - for many weeks. You knew it, too. (*MARIA nods.*) What was it that told you?

**MARIA.** Brigitta. She said - when we were dancing – that night-

**CAPTAIN.** She was quite right. That was not just an ordinary dance, was it?

**MARIA.** I hadn't danced since I was a very little girl. It's quite different after you're grown-up, isn't it?

**CAPTAIN.** When you were a very little girl, did a very little boy ever kiss you?

**MARIA.** Uh-huh.

**CAPTAIN.** That's quite different too.

**MARIA.** Is it? (*They embrace.*)

**CAPTAIN.** Your whole life will be different now, Maria.

I'll take you anywhere you want to go - give you anything you wish.

**MARIA.** But I don't want to go anywhere. All I could wish for ....is right here.

\*\*\*\*\*

## CALLBACKS:

- Maria
- Captain

\*\*\*\*\*

**ZELLER.** *(Saluting MAX.)* Heil!

**FRAU SCHMIDT.** I tried to explain -

**ZELLER.** Keep quiet.

*(To MAX.)* When is Captain von Trapp returning?

**MAX.** *(Crosses to ZELLER.)* Who knows? When a man is on his honeymoon -

**ZELLER.** These are not times for joking! It's been four days since the Anschluss. This is the only house in the province that is not flying the flag of the Third Reich .

**BRIGITTA.** You mean the flag with the black spider on it!

**MAX.** Brigitta!

**ZELLER.** Do you permit such remarks in this house? Who are you?

**MAX.** I am Maximilian Detweiler, First Secretary of the Ministry of Education and Culture.

**ZELLER.** That was in the old regime.

**MAX.** In the old regime I was Third Secretary. Now I'm First Secretary.

**ZELLER.** Good! Then you will order them to fly the flag.

**FRAU SCHMIDT.** Captain von Trapp wouldn't ... I mean, I can take my orders only from Captain von Trapp.

**ZELLER.** You will take your orders from us - and so will the Captain.

\*\*\*\*\*

## AUDITIONS:

- Herr Zeller
- Max
- Frau Schmidt

\*\*\*\*\*

**CAPTAIN.** This way, Admiral, we can talk in here. Admiral von Schreiber, may I present Herr Detweiler. Max, I think you know Herr Zeller. Would you gentlemen care to sit down?

**ZELLER.** We are here on business.

**VON SCHREIBER.** Captain von Trapp, a telegram was sent to you three days ago.

**CAPTAIN.** I have just received it. I've been away. I've only been home half an hour.

**MAX.** Captain von Trapp has just returned from his honeymoon, sir.

**VON SCHREIBER.** Congratulations, Captain.

**CAPTAIN.** Thank you, sir.

**VON SCHREIBER.** Your record in the war is very well remembered by us, Captain.

**CAPTAIN.** It's good to hear you say that, sir.

**ZELLER.** Let's get to the point .

**VON SCHREIBER.** (To ZELLER.) If you don't mind.

(To the CAPTAIN.) In our Navy we hold you in very high regard. That explains why I am here. Having had no answer to our telegram, the High Command has sent me in person.

**CAPTAIN.** That's very flattering, Admiral. But I've had no time to consider -  
(MARIA enters on the balcony.)

**VON SCHREIBER.** I am here to present you with your commission -

**CAPTAIN.** I am deeply conscious of the honor, sir, but -

**VON SCHREIBER.** And your orders are to report immediately to the naval base at Bremerhaven.

**MARIA.** (Coming downstairs, with feigned innocence.)

Immediately? Oh, I'm afraid that would be impossible for you, Georg.

**CAPTAIN.** Admiral, may I present my wife, the Baroness von Trapp –  
Admiral von Schreiber.

## CALLBACKS:

- Von Schreiber
- Captain
- Herr Zeller



**VON SCHREIBER.** Madame!

**MARIA.** What I meant, sir, is that we are all singing in the Kaltzberg Festival Friday night.

You see - the von Trapp Family Singers - here in the program.

(She hands a program to VON SCHREIBER, then to ZELLER.)

**MAX.** It's been arranged by the Ministry of Education and Culture.

**VON SCHREIBER.** Friday night? This is Wednesday. That's only a matter of two days. It might be possible. You could report to Bremerhaven by Monday ...

**ZELLER.** (Protesting.) Admiral!

**VON SCHREIBER.** Is there a telephone I could use?

**MAX.** This way, Admiral. If there is any question, perhaps adding the weight of my voice - (They exit downstage left.)

**ZELLER.** (To the CAPTAIN.) It gives here only the names of the children.

**CAPTAIN.** (Quickly.) It says the von Trapp Family Singers.

I'm head of the von Trapp Family.

**ZELLER.** It's hard to believe, Captain von Trapp – you singing in a concert.

**CAPTAIN.** (Coolly.) Herr Zeller, you may believe what you choose.

**ZELLER.** (Crosses to the CAPTAIN.) It doesn't say here what you're going to sing. What are you going to sing, Captain?

**CAPTAIN.** It's your privilege to come to the concert and hear us .

**ZELLER.** I'd like to hear you sing now. Sing what you're going to sing in the concert. Sing!

\*\*\*\*\*