

MAIN CHARACTERS

*** Please note: The age ranges listed are the characters' ages, not necessarily the ages of the actors.***

MARIA RAINER (musical theatre mix/soprano, dance, 20-30)

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. We see Maria grow from a spirited young lady to the loving and supportive matron of the family.

CAPTAIN GEORG VON TRAPP (baritone, moves well, 35-45)

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. His love of his country is overshadowed only by his love of his family and desire to protect them.

MAX DETWEILER (tenor/baritone, moves well, 30+)

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.

ELSA SCHRAEDER (mezzo soprano, moves well, 35-45)

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.

MOTHER ABBESS (legit soprano, wide vocal range, 40+) *****We are not auditioning for this role*****

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.

ROLF GRUBER (low tenor, dance, 17)

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.

TRAPP FAMILY CHILDREN *(All are singing roles)*

LIESL (mezzo, dance, 16)

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.

FRIEDRICH (age 14)

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

LOUISA (age 13)

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. A mischievous troublemaker.

KURT (age 10)

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

BRIGITTA (age 9)

Reads a lot and keenly observant for her age. She is thoughtful and, as she says, “cannot tell a lie.” As such she always speaks her mind...whether she should or not.

MARTA (age 7)

Very honest and forthright. She's sweet and gentle girl....and loves the color pink.

GRETLE (age 6)

The youngest of the Trapp children, Gretl is soft-spoken and shy, but sweet. She's the girl that melts everyone's hearts.

SUPPORTING CHARACTERS

SISTER BERTHE (alto, 40+)

(Mistress of Novices): A follower of strict tradition and not a fan of nonsense. Prudish, straight-laced with a quick tongue, she is less tolerant than other nuns. She's the "bad cop" that helps "whip" the novices into shape to become true nuns.

SISTER MARGARETTA (mezzo, 30+)

(Mistress of Postulants): An empathetic nun who sees something good in Maria. She can often be more energetic and whimsical than the other nuns. She's the "good cop" that helps the girls who just entered the convent feel more comfortable with their new life.

SISTER SOPHIA (soprano, 20+)

Neither demanding nor critical, sticks with the rules. Another sister who isn't sure what to do with Maria and tries to "suck up" to Sister Berthe.

FRANZ (non-singing, 30+)

The butler. A middle-aged man who was once the Captain's orderly in the Imperial Navy. He is formal but not without spirit. He is very German and, in the end, proves to be more loyal to the Fascist cause than to this family.

FRAU SCHMIDT (non-singing, 30+)

The housekeeper. Efficient, professional, strong and somewhat domineering. She may appear stern, but she cares deeply for the Captain and wishes only for the family's happiness.

HERR ZELLER (non-singing, 30+)

Stern and unsmiling, a typical Nazi official whose primary concern is to see that everyone toes the line. Appointed Nazi official who is to prepare Austria for the Anschluss.

ADMIRAL VON SCHREIBER (non-singing, 40+)

A German admiral who is now working with the Nazi party to recruit Baron von Trapp. Serious but less "uptight" than Herr Zeller.

BARON ELBERFELD (featured ensemble, moves well, 30-40+)

A neighbor of the Von Trapps and one of the "Old Guards" of Austria - violently opposed to the takeover of his beloved country by Nazi Germany. The baron attends the ball thrown by Captain Von Trapp in Elsa's honor. (Can double with other roles in the ensemble.)

BARONESS ELBERFELD (featured ensemble, moves well, 30-40+)

Baron Elberfeld's wife. (Often doubles as an other ensemble member.)

NEW POSTULANT (featured ensemble, mezzo/soprano, moves well, 20+)

A smart, well-dressed young girl who has a walk-on moment only. (Often doubles as an other ensemble member.)

SAENGERBUND OF HERWEGEN TRIO (featured ensemble)

Three-person performance group who wins 3rd place in the Festival Concert. (Often double as other ensemble members.)

FRAULEIN SCHWEIGER (featured ensemble)

Female performer who wins 2nd place in the Festival Concert. (Often doubles as an other ensemble member.)

NUNS ENSEMBLE (featured ensemble, must be able to move)

Nuns, novices, and postulants who live in the Noonberg Abby. (Often double as other ensemble members.)

AUSTRIAN and NAZI ENSEMBLE (featured ensemble, strong dancers/move well)

Nazi soldiers, neighbors, Salzburg citizens and Georg's friends (of naval background). (Often double as other ensemble members.)