

SOUND OF MUSIC:

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

Maria Ranier

Lead

Soprano C4-B5

Maria is a sweet young postulant whose love of freedom makes it obvious to her superiors that she is not suited for religious life at the Nonnberg Abby. Maria is full of energy, passionate, country girl who has a charming but gawky, awkward physicality and personality, naive, naughty, witty, strong- minded, and tomboyish. Needs to have an obvious connection with children and an ability to relate at their level.

Captain Georg Von Trapp

Lead

Bass/Baritone F#2-D5

A retired very wealthy Austro-Hungarian Naval Lieutenant Commander, distinguished, active, handsome, highly organized and regimented, efficient and very smart. The Captain is a widower with seven children who is strong and firm with a hidden softness. **Must play guitar.**

Elsa Schraeder

Lead

Mezzo-Soprano D4-F5

A very wealthy widow, who is president of her late husband's corporation. Elegant, sophisticated city person. Clever and canny and very much into making a good social arrangement

Max Detweiler

Lead

Tenor D3-F4

A theatrical agent and First Secretary of Education and Culture- personal friend of von Trapp and a sort of uncle to his children. He is clever at his job, witty and charming though quite pushy to get what he wants. We are not sure whose side he is on until the last moment. Wit and humor personality of the show.

Liesl Von Trapp (16)

Lead

Mezzo-Soprano B3-E5

Eldest daughter of Von Trapp. Innocent, naive, infatuated with Rolf, pretty but unsophisticated and tends to think everything is wonderful. She has a maternal edge to her and cares very deeply for her younger siblings. Growing up fast with no maternal role model, she represents the juvenile romantic plot. **Must play guitar.**

Mother Abbess

Lead

Soprano B3-G#5

A true big-hearted mother figure, loved, adored and respected.

Friedrich Von Trapp (14)

Supporting

Tenor C4-G5

Tough exterior, very much trying to be "the man" of the family; desperately needs his father. **Must play guitar.**

Louisa Von Trapp (13)

Supporting

Mezzo-Soprano C4-G5

Likes to play tricks on people and is quite a tomboy; Rebellious attitude. She misses her mother a great deal.

Kurt Von Trapp (10)

Supporting

Countertenor C4-G5

Gentle and a peacemaker, he describes himself as "11 - almost." He tries to be more of a grown-up whenever possible.

Brigitta Von Trapp (9)**Supporting****Mezzo-Soprano C4-G5**

She is a smart avid reader, always says what she thinks and observes well. She is suspicious of 'Uncle' Max.

Marta Von Trapp (7)**Supporting****Mezzo-Soprano C4-G5**

Very inquisitive, smart and gentle.

Gretl Von Trapp (The Youngest)**Supporting****Mezzo-Soprano C4-G5**

Sweet and loving-doll-like and wants attention. Must have the cute factor.

Rolf Gruber (17)**Supporting****Baritone C4-E5**

The other part of the juvenile romantic plot is the telegram delivery boy friend of Liesl blond, self-important, boasting, a very pleasant young man, somewhat aggressive but in a gentle way. Rolf has Hitler as his paternal role model and the Nazi regime as a future goal. He seems to know an enormous amount of what is going on because of his job and seems to relish his spying tactics.

Sister Berthe**Supporting****Mezzo-Soprano C4-E5**

No nonsense type, officious and very strict. Not a supporter of Maria.

Sister Margaretta**Supporting****Mezzo-Soprano B3-E5**

Kind and understanding supporter of Maria

Sister Sophia**Featured****Mezzo-Soprano B3-E5**

Dutiful and kind-takes the middle road to avoid controversy.

Franz**Featured****Spoken**

Originally a sort of protector to Captain Von Trapp in the Navy, he is now retired into this position as valet, which he carries out with somber efficiency. He is humorless and appears harmless but underneath we discover he is secretly plotting with the Nazi party Anschluss and might have become a major threat had the family not escaped.

Frau Schmidt**Featured****Spoken**

Going slightly deaf, very little personality; she does her job efficiently but without affection. She is strong and somewhat dominating. She has been around a long time and hates the way she is treated with whistles by the Baron. It affects her dignity. She appears to be a thoroughly reliable member of the staff and respected by all.

Ursula**Featured****Spoken**

The Von Trapp family's maid. Appears in scene 9.

Her Zeller**Featured****Spoken**

The Gauleiter-a sort of district governor appointed by the Nazi Regime to prepare the Anschluss. He is overbearing, arrogant and autocratic, self-important and pompous. Stern and unsmiling, a typical Nazi official whose primary concern is to see that everyone toes the line.

Baron Elberfeld**Featured****Spoken**

A neighbor of Captain Von Trapp and one of the "Old Guards" of Austria, violently opposed to the takeover of his beloved country by Nazi Germany. Can double with other roles in the ensemble

Baroness Elberfeld**Featured****Spoken**

A neighbor of Captain Von Trapp and wife to the Baron Elberfeld.

A New Postulant**Featured****Spoken**

A smart, well-dressed young girl who has a walk-on moment only-no dialogue. Can join with the women nun ensemble.

Admiral von Schreiber**Featured****Spoken**

An important figure in the Austrian Navy and appears to be much respected by Captain von Trapp. He has obviously agreed to be part of the new regime with Germany.

Saengerbund of Herwegen Trio **Featured**

Three person performance group who wins 3rd place in the Festival Concert.

Fraulein Schweiger**Featured**

Female performer who wins 2nd place in the Festival Concert

Ensemble

Men / Women: Strong actors needed to perform the onstage roles for the Nazi soldiers, dancing neighbors and friends who come to Captain Von Trapp's party, Salzburg citizens, and Georg's friends of naval background who participate in the Festival Concert. Strong actors, singers and dancers are also needed to perform "The Lonely Goatherd" scene.

Women: Strong actors and singers needed to compose the nuns, novices, and postulants who live in the Nonnberg Abby.