

SOUND OF MUSIC

Agathe Gobertina Whitehead von Trapp (1891 to 1922)



Whitehead and von Trapp in 1909

Born	Agathe Gobertina Whitehead 14 June 1891 Fiume, Kingdom of Croatia-Slavonia, Austria-Hungary
Died	3 September 1922 (aged 31) Klosterneuburg, Austria
Spouse(s)	Georg Ritter von Trapp (m. 1911)
Children	Rupert von Trapp, Agathe von Trapp, Maria Franziska von Trapp, Werner von Trapp, Hedwig von Trapp, Johanna von Trapp, Martina von Trapp
Parent(s)	John Whitehead Countess Agathe von Breunner-Enckevoirth

Agathe Gobertina von Trapp (née **Whitehead**; 14 June 1891 – 3 September 1922) was a British-Austrian heiress and aristocrat. She was the first wife of Georg Ritter von Trapp and the mother of seven of the Trapp Family singers.

Early life and family

Whitehead was born on 14 June 1891 in Fiume as the first daughter and third child of John Whitehead and Countess Agathe Gobertina von Breunner-Enckevoirth.^[1] Her father, a British engineer who had been made a knight of the Order of Franz Joseph, was the son of Robert Whitehead, the eponym of the Whitehead torpedo.^{[2][3][4]} Her mother, an amateur architect and pianist, was a member of the Austrian and Hungarian nobility.^[5] Through her father, Whitehead was a niece of the diplomat Sir James Beethom Whitehead, who served as the British Minister to Serbia, and a first cousin of Sir Edgar Whitehead, who served as Prime Minister of Southern Rhodesia. Through her mother, she was the niece of Countess Marie von Bruenner-Enckevoirth, the wife of Victor II, Duke of Ratibor and Prince of Corvey, and the niece of Countess Eleonore von Breunner-Enckevoirth, the wife of Karl Maria Alexander, 9th Prince of Auersperg.^[5] Her maternal cousin, Princess Agathe of Hohenlohe-Schillingsfürst, was the wife of Prince Friedrich Wilhelm of Prussia.

Whitehead grew up at Villa Whitehead, a palatial home near the Adriatic Sea.^{[6][2]} Her family was closely linked with the Austrian imperial family and, shortly after her birth, Emperor Franz Joseph I visited the family's home and torpedo factory in Fiume.^[2] Fluent in English, German, and Italian, she was educated at home by tutors and was given piano, violin, and voice lessons.^[2]

Her father died in 1902 from stomach cancer.^[2] From that time on, Whitehead's mother raised her and her five siblings and the management of the torpedo factory passed to a paternal relative.^[2] After the family spent a summer at Lake Zell in the Austria Alps, Whitehead's mother built Erlhof, a waterfront house which became the family's summer residence.^{[2][7]}