

VON TRAPP FAMILY

Johanna Karollina Gobertina Barbara (Franziska) von Trapp (1919 to 1994)

Klosterneuburg by Wien (Austria). During the war (WWI) Georg, Agathe and their children, unable to stay at their home in Pola, Istria (today Croatia) came to live with her mother, Countess Agathe Whitehead (née Breunner-Enkevoirth), at Whitehead summer home, the "Raingut" in Erlberg (by Zell am See). The family then moved from Zell-am-See to Klosterneuburg, because their home became flooded and was no longer inhabitable. In 1922, when Johanna was three years old, her mother died of scarlet fever. Many years later she still recalled looking out the children's nursery window to see a black coach drawn by black horses come to carry her mother to her final resting place in Klosterneuburg. Her childhood was structured by nannies and spent playing with her younger sisters, while the older siblings were going to school. In 1925 Georg moved the family to Salzburg-Aigen. He had purchased and rebuilt a house that now became their new home. In 1927, Georg Johannes von Trapp was married for the second time to Maria Augusta Kutschera. Three more children were born into the von Trapp family: Rosemarie (1929), Eleonore (1931), and Johannes (1939).^[2]

Career

The family left Austria in the summer of 1938 and returned to the US in 1939 after a brief visit to Austria.^[3] Just 20 years old, departing Oct. 27th from Bergensford (Sweden) on the 'American Farmer' she and her family began an uncertain unknown journey. Their arrival in the United States began with a stay at Ellis Island, from where they were admitted and shortly thereafter began recording the first album released by RCA. Johanna sang first soprano in the family chorus, together with her sister Agathe von Trapp. After World War II ended, the Trapp family held summer music camps in Stowe Vermont, at which Johanna von Trapp taught aspiring musicians the recorder, cooked for the camp guests and her family. She was secretary of the Trapp Family Austrian Relief, Inc., co-founded by her father Captain Georg von Trapp, to aide his fellow Austrians caught in dire post WWII needs. Their relief effort partnered with CARE (Cooperative for American Remittance to Europe and now Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere) to send relief packages of food and clothing to Austria. From 1946 to 1950 they sent a total of 275,000 pounds of material. Throughout her singing career and later during her married life, Johanna found time to express her other artistic talents, working with ceramics, sketching and painting water colors. She became a naturalized United States citizen in 1948.



The Trapp family rehearsing before a concert, near Boston, 27 September 1941.

Johanna von Trapp married Ernst Florian Winter on Easter Monday in 1948 and changed her middle name to Franziska. She had seven children: Ernst Leopold (1949–1969), Florian Stefan (1951), Johanna Maria (1952), Notburga Maria (1953), Hemma Maria (1956), Agathe (1957) and Severin