

SOUND OF MUSIC

Maria Augusta Kutschera von Trapp (1905 to 1987)

Biography

Born	Maria Augusta Kutschera 26 January 1905 Vienna, Austria- Hungary
Died	28 March 1987 (aged 82) Morrisville, Vermont

Maria von Trapp



Von Trapp in 1948

Spouse(s)	Georg Ritter von Trapp (m. 1927; died 1947)
Children	3, including Johannes von Trapp plus 7 stepchildren

Early life

Maria was born on 26 January 1905 to Augusta (*née* Rainer) and Karl Kutschera.^[8] She was delivered on a train heading from her parents' village in Tyrol to a hospital in Vienna, Austria.^[6]

Her mother died of pneumonia when she was two. Her father, grief-stricken, left Maria with his cousin (her foster mother) who had cared for Maria's half-brother after his mother died. Maria's father then traveled the world, although Maria would visit him upon occasion at his apartment in Vienna. When she was nine, her father died. Her foster mother's son-in-law, Uncle Franz, then became her guardian.^[9]

Uncle Franz did not treat Maria well and punished her for things she did not do. (He later was found to be mentally ill.) This changed Maria from the shy child she was and, as a teenager, she became the "class cut-up", figuring she may as well have fun if she was going to get in trouble either way. Despite this change, Maria continued to get good grades.^[9]

After graduating from high school at 15, Maria ran away to stay with a friend with the intent to become a tutor for children staying at nearby hotels. As she looked so young, no one took her seriously. Finally, a hotel manager asked her to be the umpire for a tennis tournament. Although she did not know what an umpire was and had never played tennis, she took the job.

From this job, she saved enough money to enter the State Teachers College for Progressive Education in Vienna, where she also received a scholarship.^[9] She graduated from there at age 18, in 1923.

In 1924, she entered Nonnberg Abbey, a Benedictine monastery in Salzburg, as a postulant intending to become a nun.