

SOUND OF MUSIC

Maria Augusta Kutschera von Trapp (1905 to 1987)

Biography

Baroness Maria Augusta von Trapp DHS (née **Kutschera**; 26 January 1905 – 28 March 1987) was the stepmother and matriarch of the Trapp Family Singers.^{[4][5]} She wrote *The Story of the Trapp Family Singers*, which was published in 1949 and was the inspiration for the 1956 West German film *The Trapp Family*, which in turn inspired the 1959 Broadway musical *The Sound of Music* and its 1965 film version.

From nun to nanny

As we've mentioned, the film was based on a true story. Maria von Kutschera was born in Vienna. Later she was a novice in waiting at the Benedictine cloister on Nonnberg Hill in Salzburg. However, her abbess sent her to look after the seven children of the widower, Baron Georg Ritter von Trapp, as a governess.

However, not long after Maria married the Baron and at the beginning of the 1930s she founded a family choir with which she gave numerous concerts. Following the Austrian 'Anschluss' with Germany in 1938 the family fled from Austria, and from this time on they were wholly dependent upon their musical activities as the only source of income. Ultimately the Trapps reached the USA and in 1941 in Vermont (Stowe) they purchased a farm, which over the years was developed into the Trapp family lodge.



Children

Name	Birth	Death	Notes
Rosmarie Erentrudis von Trapp	14 February 1929 ^[20]		Rosmarie worked as a singer and missionary in Papua New Guinea. She most recently lived in Pittsburgh, and had no children. ^[6]
Eleonore von Trapp	14 May 1931 ^[21]		Married Hugh David Campbell in 1954 and had seven daughters with him. Currently lives with her family in Waitsfield, Vermont. ^[5]
Johannes von Trapp	17 January 1939 ^[21]		Married Lynne Peterson in 1969 and had one son and one daughter with her. ^[5] He became manager of the family lodge in the 1970s. ^[22]



The Sound of Music - The Trapp Family



The film itself is based on a true story. Born in Vienna, Maria von Kutschera was living as a novice candidate at the Benedictine Convent on Nonnberg in Salzburg when she was sent by her Mother Superior as a governess to the household of Baron Georg von Trapp to look after his seven children, left motherless after the death of his wife. Shortly afterwards Maria became the Baron's wife and in the early 30's she founded a family choir with which she undertook frequent public performances whilst they remained in Austria.

After fleeing the country on Hitler's annexation of Austria in 1938, the family had no income other than that drawn from their musical performances. Their success in the USA, however, proved sufficient to enable them to settle there and, in 1941, to purchase a farm in Stowe, Vermont, which ultimately became the Trapp Family Lodge. Today the Trapp Family Lodge is a flourishing hotel.

You can also visit the Trapp Family Lodge on the web, just have a look.