

SOUND OF MUSIC

Maria Augusta Kutschera von Trapp (1905 to 1987)

Biography

Move to the United States

In the 1940s, the family moved to Stowe, Vermont, where they ran a music camp when they were not touring. In 1944, Maria Augusta, Maria Franziska, Johanna, Martina, Hedwig and Agathe applied for

U.S. citizenship, whereas Georg never applied to become a citizen. Rupert and Werner became citizens by serving during World War II, while Rosmarie and Eleonore became citizens by virtue of their mother's citizenship. Johannes was born in the United States in Philadelphia on the 17th January 1939 during a concert tour.^[13] Georg von Trapp died in 1947 in Vermont after suffering lung cancer.

The family made a series of 78-rpm records for RCA Victor in the 1950s, some of which were later issued on RCA Camden LPs. There were also a few later recordings released on LPs, including some stereo sessions. In 1957, the Trapp Family Singers disbanded and went their separate ways. Maria and three of her children became missionaries in Papua New Guinea. In 1965, Maria moved back to Vermont to manage the Trapp Family Lodge, which had been named *Cor Unum*. She began turning over management of the lodge to her son Johannes, although she was initially reluctant to do so.^[17] Hedwig returned to Austria and worked as a teacher in Umhausen.

On June 25, 2019, *The New York Times Magazine* listed the Trapp family singers among hundreds of artists whose material was reportedly destroyed in the 2008 Universal fire.

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