

VON TRAPP FAMILY

Martina von Trapp (1921 to 1951)

In 1926, her older sister Maria Franziska became ill and was unable to attend school. During her recovery her father arranged for a teacher from a local convent to tutor her; the novice, Maria Augusta Kutschera, married Georg von Trapp the next year. Georg and Maria Augusta had three children together: Rosmarie (born 1929), Eleonore (born 1931), and Johannes (1939). In the 1930s Georg suffered serious financial losses. Maria Augusta, who had taught the children to sing, organized a series of concerts in order to pay the bills. She became a naturalized United States citizen in 1948.

Career

The family left Austria in the summer of 1938 after they declined an invitation to sing for Hitler at his birthday celebration at Berchtesgaden, Germany. They embarked on a concert tour of the US and

never went back. Von Trapp was nearly seventeen years old at the time. She sang second soprano in the family chorus together with her sister Maria Franziska.

Personal life/death

Aged 28, Martina wed French-Canadian Jean Dupire in 1949. She remained home for the 1950–1951 tour as she was expecting her first child. While the family was touring the western United States in the winter of 1951, she gave birth to a stillborn daughter (Notburga), and died the same day from complications of the Caesarean section she had undergone. She had just recently turned 30 years old.

She was buried at the von Trapps' lodge in Vermont, next to her father and with her baby in her arms. Her stepmother and three of her siblings – Rupert, Werner, and Hedwig – were later buried next to her.