

VON TRAPP FAMILY

Life in America

Singing and Tours in America

Initially calling themselves the "Trapp Family Choir", the von Trapps began to perform in the United States and Canada. They got attention when they performed in New York City at The Town Hall on 10 December 1938.^{[2][7][8]} The New York Times wrote:

There was something unusually lovable and appealing about the modest, serious singers of this little family aggregation as they formed a close semicircle about their self-effacing director for their initial offering, the handsome Mme. von Trapp in simple black, and the youthful sisters garbed in black and white Austrian folk costumes enlivened with red ribbons. It was only natural to expect work of exceeding refinement from them, and one was not disappointed in this.^{[2][8]}

After an unsuccessful engagement with Charles Wagner, they signed on with Frederick C. Schang. Thinking the name "Trapp Family Choir" too churchy, Schang "Americanized" their repertoire and – following his suggestion – the group changed its name to the "Trapp Family Singers".^[6] The family, which by then included ten children, became famous in a new context and was soon touring the world. Alix Williamson served as the group's publicist for over two decades.

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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.