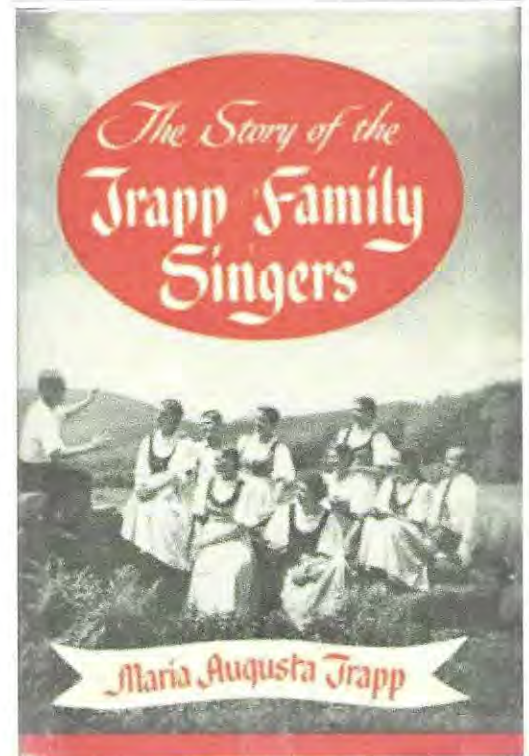


## SOUND OF MUSIC

Maria Augusta Kutschera von Trapp (1905 to 1987)

“The Story of the Trapp Family Singers” (1949)

*The Story of the Trapp Family Singers* is a 1949 memoir written by Maria Augusta von Trapp, whose life was later fictionalized in Rodgers and Hammerstein's Broadway musical *The Sound of Music* in 1959.



Cover art for the first and some subsequent editions

### Background

Maria never intended to write anything of her life. However, a friend persistently pleaded with her not to allow her story to be forgotten by others. Though she denied she had any writing skill whatsoever, her friend was not to be put off and kept on asking her whenever they saw each other. Finally, one day, in desperation, Maria excused herself and went to her room for an hour to scribble a few pages about her life story, hoping to prove once and for all she was no writer. However, this displayed such natural writing talent that she reluctantly agreed to finish what she had started, and her jottings formed the basis of the first chapter of her memoirs. Her book, *The Story of the Trapp Family Singers*, was a best-seller.<sup>[1]</sup> The book was published in 1949 by J. B. Lippincott Company of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

### Storyline

Maria married Georg von Trapp in 1927, not 1938 as portrayed in the musical. She initially fell in love with the children rather than the father and only later came to love him. The father was not the aloof patriarch who disapproved of music but a warm gentle-hearted parent. They also left Austria openly by train.<sup>[2]</sup>