

## SOUND OF MUSIC

**Maria Augusta Kutschera von Trapp (1905 to 1987)**

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

### Differences between the book and the musicals

The book describes the life of the von Trapp family, from their beginnings in Salzburg, Austria, to their adventures in America where they escaped from Nazi-invaded Europe. The story reflects on family tragedies, victories, and the kindness of strangers who soon became friends to the young family.

### Adaptations of the autobiography

Maria von Trapp's book, *The Story of the Trapp Family Singers*, published in 1949, was a best-seller. It was made into two successful German / Austrian films:

- *Die Trapp-Familie (The Trapp Family)*, 1956 film
- *Die Trapp-Familie in Amerika (The Trapp Family in America)*, 1958 film
- *The Sound of Music*, 1959 stage musical; also see several other stage adaptations in this article
- *The Sound of Music*, the iconic 1965 film starring Julie Andrews and Christopher Plummer
- *Trapp Ikka Monogatari (Trapp Family Story)*, 1991 animated TV series, part of World Masterpiece Theater
- *The Sound of Music Live!*, 2013 live television production starring Carrie Underwood
- *The Sound of Music Live*, 2015 Live television production starring Kara Tointon
- *Sarigama* (Sinhala: සරිගම) is a 2016 Sinhala musical film written and directed by Somaratne Dissanayake
- *The Sound of Music*,\* 2017 Innovative Arts stage musical

The book was then adapted into *The Sound of Music*, a 1959 Broadway musical by Rodgers and Hammerstein, starring Mary Martin and Theodore Bikel. It was a success, running for more than three years. The musical was adapted in 1965 as a motion picture of the same name, starring Julie Andrews. The film version set US box office records, and Maria von Trapp received about \$500,000 (\$4.43 million today) in royalties.<sup>[6]</sup>

Maria von Trapp made a cameo appearance in the movie version of *The Sound of Music* (1965). For an instant, she, her daughter Rosmarie, and Werner's daughter Barbara can be seen walking past an archway during the song, "I Have Confidence", at the line, "I must stop these doubts, all these worries / If I don't, I just know I'll turn back."<sup>[23]</sup>

Maria von Trapp sang "Edelweiss" with Andrews on *The Julie Andrews Hour* in 1973. In 1991, a 40 episode anime series, titled *Trapp Family Story* aired in Japan, her character referred to by her maiden name (Maria Kutschera), voiced by Masako Katsuki. She was portrayed in the 2015 film *The von Trapp Family: A Life of Music* by Yvonne Catterfeld.