

VON TRAPP FAMILY

Life in America

Singing and Tours in America

Maria wrote an account of the singing family *The Story of the Trapp Family Singers* which was published in 1949 and was the inspiration for the 1956 West German film *The Trapp Family*, which in turn inspired by Rodgers and Hammerstein's Broadway musical *The Sound of Music*.^{[4][5]} The original seven Trapp children were: Rupert (1911–1992); Agathe (1913–2010); Maria Franziska (1914–2014); Werner (1915–2007); Hedwig (1917–1972); Johanna (1919–1994); and Martina (1921–1952). The later children were Rosmarie (b.1929), Eleonore (b.1931), and Johannes (b.1939).^[6] The eldest daughter, Agathe (called "Liesl" in the film), published her own account of life in the Trapp family in 2003, *Memories Before and After The Sound of Music*,^[7] which was later itself turned into the film *The von Trapp Family: A Life of Music* in 2015.

On the other hand, press releases subsequent to 1941 advertised "rollicking folk songs of many lands," "gay, lilting madrigals," and "lusty yodels and mountain calls" as well as "exquisite old motets and masses," and bragged of "record cross-country tour[s]" and large numbers of engagements,^[9] which attested to their popular appeal and suggests that the religious content was only one of several contributing elements to this over their main period of popularity in America.

