

## *Getting to Know... The Sound of Music* Casting Suggestions

### **MARIA RAINER**

Maria is a postulant at Nonnberg Abbey. She should sing well, be a strong actor and move with confidence (although she need not be a studied dancer). Find an actress who is naturally pleasant with a good sense of fun.

Vocal Range:



### **THE MOTHER ABBESS**

Mother Abbess is the figurehead of the Abbey and is in charge of the day to day activities and livelihood of the nuns who live there. While she can be strict, she is also loving and understanding, and gives guidance to those who need it. This role is a heavy singing role, so cast a young lady with a mature-sounding classical voice, comfortable with high notes.

Vocal Range:



### **SISTER BERTHE, SISTER MARGARETTA, SISTER SOPHIA**

Sister Berthe, Mistress of Novices, is the sternest of the nuns while Sister Margareta, Mistress of Postulants, is the most lenient, and Sister Sophia the last to make up her mind. All three should have strong voices with a good top range. Since the nuns will all be costumed in the same traditional nun costumes, it's helpful if these three characters contrast physically. For example, cast a tall actress, a shorter actress and one in between.

Sister Berthe Vocal Range:



Sister Margareta Vocal Range:



Sister Sophia Vocal Range:



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### **CAPTAIN GEORG VON TRAPP**

The Captain should sing reasonably well and be a very solid actor. It's likely your pool of actors will all be very similar in age, so cast an actor with the authority to be a believable Captain of a ship and a father.

Vocal Range:



### **FRANZ**

Franz is the butler in the von Trapp villa. This is a non-singing role and a great one for a student who may not be quite ready for a lead role, but is ready to break out of the ensemble.

### **FRAU SCHMIDT**

Frau Schmidt is the housekeeper in the von Trapp villa. This is a non-singing role and a great one for a student who may not be quite ready for a lead role, but is ready to break out of the ensemble.

### **THE CHILDREN OF CAPTAIN VON TRAPP**

A primary challenge of casting these roles in a school or after-school setting is getting enough physical contrast between the von Trapp children so the audience can quickly and visually tell them apart. One of the best ways to tackle this challenge is to recruit a few younger students from the lower grades to play Brigitta, Marta and Gretl. Additionally, casting children who contrast in size, shape and racial diversity will also be helpful. All of the children should be strong singers capable of holding a part. They should all be strong actors and move well. Brigitta and Liesel have the most lines and should be very strong actresses.

**LIESL**, 16 years old

Vocal Range:



**FRIEDRICH**, 14 years old

Vocal Range:



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**LOUISA**, 13 years old

Vocal Range:



**KURT**, 10 years old

Vocal Range:



**BRIGITTA**, 9 years old

Vocal Range:



**MARTA**, 7 years old

Vocal Range:



**GRETL**, the youngest

Vocal Range:



### **ROLF GRUBER**

Rolf is a 17-year old telegram delivery boy. He should be a good singer, actor and dancer. He and Liesel should perform well together, with voices that blend. It's a nice touch if Rolf has some training in dance, most importantly in partner dances like the waltz.

Vocal Range:



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### **MAX DETWEILER**

This is a non-singing role. Cast an actor capable of commanding the stage with solid comedic skills.

### **HERR ZELLER**

This is a non-singing role. It's helpful to note that Herr Zeller is against the Nazis. This role has just a few important lines, so be sure to cast an actor with a strong speaking voice.

### **BARON ELBERFELD**

This is a non-singing role. Baron Elberfeld is a Nazi sympathizer. Cast an actor with an imposing presence and a strong speaking voice.

### **ADMIRAL VON SCHREIBER**

This is a non-singing role. Admiral von Schreiber is an admiral in the Nazi Navy. Cast an actor who contrasts physically with Baron Elberfeld and has a strong, commanding speaking voice.

### **THE LONELY GOATHERD ENSEMBLE**

In this adaptation of *The Sound of Music*, the characters featured in the lyrics of "The Lonely Goatherd" are brought to life by your cast. These are great features for cast members who may not be ready for principal roles, but are definitely ready to be featured.

### **GOAT**

Cast the smallest, cutest child available, with a strong voice and the willingness to create a lovable, but lonely goat.

Vocal Range:



### **FOLKS IN THE TOWN**

This is a nice feature for a handful of students deserving of the spotlight.

### **GIRL IN THE PALE PINK COAT**

Cast a girl with a fine voice and bright smile who pairs nicely with the Goat.

Vocal Range:



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### **MAMA**

Cast a female who could reasonably be the mother of the Girl in the Pale Pink Coat.

### **CONTESTANTS AT THE FESTIVAL CONCERT**

The **TRIO OF THE SAENGERBUND OF HERWEGEN** is a great way to feature three non-singing character actors.

### **FRÄULEIN SCHWEIGER**

Non-singing role. The main bit for this role is to accept her second place award with a great deal of comedic enthusiasm. This is another great feature for an ensemble member, especially one willing to embrace physical comedy.

### **PARTY GUESTS, NUNS, GERMAN OFFICIALS**

This adaptation provides stage roles for as many young people as are available. Since it is common to have more girls than boys, feel free to add as many nuns as you see fit. Party guests should be a mix of boys and girls; however there can be more girls than boys onstage. Ideally, the German officials will be played by boys. Since the German officials only appear during the Festival concert, consider casting boys who may have some conflicts with a rehearsal. For example, boys from the soccer team whose playoff game happens to conflict with rehearsals. Just be sure they are available for dress rehearsals and the performances. Don't be surprised if they have so much fun performing the show that they choose to be in next year's musical!