

PLAYBILL®

MUSICAL THEATRE ALLIANCE OF ARIZONA

All Saints Lutheran Church

January 25, 2025, 7:00 PM

The SOUND of MUSIC



CAST

(in order of appearance)

Maria Rainer, a Postulant at Nonnberg Abbey	..... BECCA BRYCE
Sister Berthe, Mistress of Novices	..... TINA LLOYD MEALS
Sister Margareta, Mistress of Postulants	..... CAMI ANGLEMYER
The Mother Abbess	..... MARY JANE McCLOSKEY
Sister Sophia	..... JANELLE PARIS
Captain Georg von Trapp	..... BILL MARSHALL
Franz, the Butler	..... WILLIAM MATTISON
Frau Schmidt, the Housekeeper	..... KERRI CHRISTIE
Liesl von Trapp	..... HAYDEN BETH BURWICK
Friedrich von Trapp	..... SHANE SEDIVY
Louisa von Trapp	..... KENNA KAVANAUGH
Kurt von Trapp	..... SAM BARKER
Brigitta von Trapp	..... CORA HANCOCK
Marta von Trapp	..... MADDIE AHLER
Gretl von Trapp	..... EMILY AHLER
Rolf Gruber	..... ELIJAH VIRAY
Elsa Schraeder	..... KATHERINE TALLEY MATT
Ursula	..... EMILY BINGHAM
Max Detweiler	..... MARK STODDARD
Herr Zeller	..... RICK WILLIAMS
Baron Elberfeld	..... BRIAN REECE
Baroness Elberfeld	..... JORDAN APPLEGATE
A New Postulant	..... MEGHAN VAN DOBBEN
Admiral von Schreiber	..... MARK KNOBLAUCH
Narrator	..... TARYN LANDIS

CHORUS | Patti Graetz, *Chorus Director* | Joni Van Rossum, *Rehearsal Pianist*

Soprano 1: Bailey Bydalek, Sarah Cassidy Otis, Lucy Glow, Danica Hill, Mary LaValley, Britney Montgomery, Skyler Patton, Robyn Pitman, Mary Roosma, Gracie Smith, Joanna Torla, Jessica Turner, Lila Weber, Alexa White; **Soprano 2:** Calm Arnold, Robyn Barker, Jimena Chavez, Kerri Christie, Christina Epp, Ellie English, Kaylee Fowler, Sharon Friendly, Stacy Holyfield, Terry Kerr, Natalie Lang, Noelle McCarthy, Lydia McCloskey, Linda Peters, Shannon Rankin, Elizabeth Reeves, April Rideout, Julie Snider, Laura Stevens, Valarie Vouuden, Meghan van Dobben; **Alto 1:** Irene Barberio, Kathleen Berger, Natalie Booth, Jane Chavers, Kimi Cunningham Shackelford, Jennifer Curtiss, Yoshi DeLisa, Allison Graham, Rhianon Huskey, Monica Landaiche, Alicia Langstraat, Courtney Langstraat, Lacey Langstraat, Jill Marion, Danielle Martinez, Margaret Miller, Lily Norton, Ann Pastor, Anna Patten, Kathy Travous, Sicily Wilcock; **Alto 2:** Jordan Applegate, Teresa Arnold, Emily Bingham, Leslie Boucher, Edie Chudnow, Megan Dyer, Lisa Glow, Patti Graetz, Taryn Landis, Vanity Lang, Abby McLain, Barb Napoletano, Neeya Nuez, Monika Phillips, Amanda Roca, Emily Rodgers, Jan Schmidt, Thylma Stamaria, Jenna Sweet, Katie Willes, Ashley Ziolko; **Tenor 1:** Colin Reynolds, Jonathan Lang, William Sokol; **Tenor 2:** Mark Knoblauch, James Melberg, Isreal Rodriguez, Aaron Schneider, Weisi Song; **Bass 1:** John Amenhauser, Todd Corbeil, William Mattison; **Bass 2:** Brian Reece, Rick Williams

ORCHESTRA | Dylan Suchiro, *Conductor*

Flute: Danielle Peterson, Nancy Sowers; **Oboe:** Maja Dinger; **Bassoon:** Zach Millwood; **Clarinet:** Lisa Ballard, Corey Rork; **Horn:** Brian Alan, Karen Teplik, Gail Rittenhouse; **Trumpet:** Joel Uliassi, Michael Downey, Brian Stoneberger; **Trombone:** Ryan Pratt, Earl Weisbrod; **Tuba:** Max Godfrey; **Guitar:** Wes Crenshaw; **Harp:** Kayla Lee; **Percussion:** Sonja Branch; **Violin 1:** Sylvia Depta, Alicia Martin, Heather Merchant, Anne Phelan, Michael Wilde; **Violin 2:** Irina Andrianan Jason, Natalie DeVore, Eileen Friedman, Jay Friedman, Allison Claire Ko, Rachel Kulhanek, Sujoy Spencer; **Viola:** Brenna Goth, Jason Hsung, Holly Jackson, Leila Lubovac, Carol Routh; **Cello:** Liz Galpin, Sandra Leen, Mark Pyle, Samuel Turner; **Bass:** Alyssa Carpenter, David Fattu

CREW

Audio Technician	..... Andrea Gudeyon
Additional Percussion Equipment	..... All Saints Lutheran Church, ProMusica Arizona Orchestra
MTAA Volunteers	..... Natalie Booth, Edie Chudnow, Sheri Dixon, Mary Kelly, Gillian Lunn, Cris Mory, Dallin Packer, Raul Sanchez, Jan Schmidt, Brandon Spevak, Kyle Varble, Susan Woods
All Saints Lutheran Church Staff	..... Shari Clark, Jerry Gunderson, Dan Hoeger, Duncan Moore, Donald Wade

SCENES & MUSICAL NUMBERS

Austria, early in 1938

ACT I

Scene 1:	Nonnberg Abbey	
	PRELUDIUM	Ensemble
Scene 2:	Mountainside near the Abbey	
	THE SOUND OF MUSIC	Maria
Scene 3:	The office of the Mother Abbess, the next morning	
	MARIA	Mother Abbess, Sister Margaretta, Sister Berthe, Sister Sophia
Scene 4:	A corridor in the Abbey	
	MY FAVORITE THINGS	Maria, Mother Abbess
Scene 5:	The living room of the Trapp Villa, that afternoon	
	DO-RE-MI	Maria, the von Trapp Children
Scene 6:	Outside the Trapp Villa, that evening	
	SIXTEEN GOING ON SEVENTEEN	Rolf, Liesl
Scene 7:	Maria's bedroom, later that evening	
	THE LONELY GOATHERD	Maria, the Children
Scene 8:	The terrace of the Trapp Villa, six weeks later	
	HOW CAN LOVE SURVIVE?	Max, Elsa
Scene 9:	A hallway in the Trapp Villa, one week later	
	THE SOUND OF MUSIC (Reprise)	The Children
Scene 10:	The living room, the same evening	
	LÄNDLER	Orchestra
	SO LONG, FAREWELL	The Children
Scene 11:	A corridor in the Abbey	
	MORNING HYMN	Ensemble
Scene 12:	The office of the Mother Abbess, three days later	
	CLIMB EV'RY MOUNTAIN	Mother Abbess

ACT II

	ENTR'ACTE	Orchestra
Scene 1:	The terrace, the same day	
	THE LONELY GOATHERD (Reprise)	Max, the Children
	MY FAVORITE THINGS (Reprise)	The Children
	NO WAY TO STOP IT	Elsa, Max, Captain von Trapp
Scene 2:	A cloister overlooking the chapel	
	SOMETHING GOOD	Maria, Captain von Trapp
	PROCESSIONAL	Ensemble
Scene 3:	The living room, one month later	
	SIXTEEN GOING ON SEVENTEEN (Reprise)	Maria, Liesl
	DO-RE-MI (Reprise)	Maria, Captain von Trapp
Scene 4:	The concert hall, three days later	
	The Concert: DO-RE-MI	Maria, Captain von Trapp, the Children
	EDELWEISS	Captain von Trapp
	SO LONG, FAREWELL (Reprise)	Maria, Captain von Trapp, the Children
Scene 5:	The garden of Nonnberg Abbey, that night	
	Finale Ultimo: CLIMB EV'RY MOUNTAIN	The Company

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST



EMILY AHLER (*Gretl*) is seven years old in second grade, and she is passionate about musical theater. She is so excited to be *Gretl!* Emily just finished performing as Molly in *Annie* (DST); other favorite roles include Pearl (*Finding Nemo Jr.*, DST), Baby Bear (*Shrek Jr.*, DST), Young Kangaroo (*Seussical Kids*, *Greasepaint*), and Young Miss Honey (*Matilda Jr.*, PYT). She is so grateful for his experience with such talented actors!



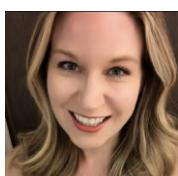
MADDIE AHLER (*Marta*) is ecstatic to be performing in this show! She is ten and was in her first musical at age seven. She has been in numerous productions, with favorite roles including Matilda Wormwood (*Matilda Jr.*, PYT), Jack (*Into the Woods Jr.*, DST), Kate (*Annie*, DST), Ms. Mayor (*Seussical Kids*, *Greasepaint*), among others. She is incredibly grateful to sing with MTAAs incredible performers!



CAMI ANGLEMYER (*Sister Margaretta*) is so pleased to be joining MTAAs for this Showcase presentation of a classic musical that is dear to her heart. A pianist and vocalist, she earned her BFA from Millikin University and performed as both a soloist and ensemble singer with various groups in the Chicago area prior to relocating to AZ. Here in the Valley, Cami has appeared in musicals at Hale Centre Theatre and sung in previous Showcase and Underscore productions. She is an auxiliary singer with The Phoenix Chorale and a member of The Phoenix Symphony Chorus.



SAMUEL BARKER (*Kurt*) is a seventh grader at Madison Meadows, and this is his first production. He comes from a very musical family and is the fifth of six brothers (so he's used to a von Trapp-type household!). Other interests include playing the piano, volleyball, and soccer. Sam's biggest musical accomplishment was winning Rookie of the Year singing "Never Enough" from *The Greatest Showman* at his school talent show.



BECCA BRYCE (*Maria Rainer*) is excited to be a part of her third production with this incredible company, and BEYOND thrilled to revisit the role of Maria. Other recent experience includes: *The Music Man* (Marian), *Beauty and the Beast* (Belle), *Nunsense!* (Sister Amnesia), *Godspell* (Joanne/Lindsay), *Bright Star* (Lucy),

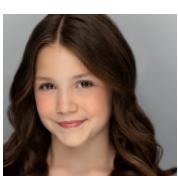
and *Songs for a New World* (Woman 1). Becca holds a degree in Music Theatre Performance from ASU.



HAYDEN BETH BURWICK (*Liesl*) is delighted to participate in her third Showcase with MTAAs! She has previously been seen as Alice Beineke in CYT Phoenix's *The Addams Family* (AriZoni award recipient); Wendy Darling in *Peter Pan*: A New Musical (AZ premiere); and Chava in *Fiddler on the Roof*. Hayden Beth's serves on the worship ministry staff at Desert View Bible Church while pursuing her B.A. in Biblical and Theological Studies at Arizona Christian University. She is a Christian singer-songwriter and recording artist and has a deep passion to see the arts used for the glory of God. Hayden Beth is beyond grateful to the team at MTAAs, the cast & crew, and her family & friends who lovingly show their support—especially her dad and mom who have sat in audiences for 15 years! She hopes your "heart will be blessed" by our performance.



CORA HANCOCK (*Brigitta*) is a ten-year-old fifth grader who is making her debut with MTAAs. She has numerous shows under her belt, including *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat*, *Roo* in *Winnie the Pooh*, *A Christmas Tale*, and *Lavender* in *Matilda*. She loves every moment on stage. When she's not performing, Cora loves to express her creativity through drawing and painting. She is grateful for the support of her amazing coaches and parents.



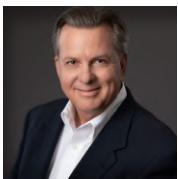
KENNA KAVANAUGH (*Louisa*) is eleven years old and in sixth grade. She is so thankful to be a part of MTAAs inaugural Showcase of *The Sound of Music*! Her love for this music is the entire reason Kenna ever took to the stage in the first place. Kenna recently played Pepper in *Annie* with AFTC and Lavender in *Matilda Jr.* at Studio 111. Kenna is a competitive dancer at Inspire South Gilbert and has placed competitively in musical theatre singing. Her happy place is bringing joy on stage. We hope you enjoy the show!



TINA LLOYD MEALS (*Sister Berthe*) originally from the Midwest, spent over 30 years as a musician in the Bay Area, embracing a variety of roles. She sang with the San Francisco Opera Chorus, performed lead roles in community opera, and worked as a music director, accompanist, and performer in children's musical theater, choirs, and community

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theater. A passionate vocal pedagogy student, Tina earned certifications in Speech Level Singing, The Institute for Vocal Advancement, Modern Vocal Training, and PROFTY, learning from master teachers worldwide. She has taught voice lessons privately, at camps, and in schools, directed vocals and arranged music for choirs and high schools, and led worship music in churches. Nearly two years ago, Tina and her supportive husband, Greg, moved to Tucson, where she is thrilled to engage with the city's vibrant artistic community.



BILL MARSHALL (*Captain Georg von Trapp*) is excited to be a part of MTAAs first Showcase! Previously, he participated in *A Little Night Music*. Recent roles have included Max Bialystock in *The Producers* in Hudson, Wisconsin; Archibald Craven in *The Secret Garden*, Plymouth Players; Tony Esposito in *The Most Happy Fella*, Skylark Opera. Major concert repertoire includes *Carmina Burana* (Baritone) with the San Diego Ballet and Symphony; soloist in Brahms, Faure, Duruflé, and Mozart Requiems. Much love to my wife Margaret on this journey.



MARY JANE McCLOSKEY (*Mother Abbess*) has been active in Arts Education and performance for more than 30 years! She was honored to be awarded "West Valley Teacher of the Year" for her arts education work in the public schools. She also served as Education Director for Arizona Opera, where she developed the "Opera in a Box" school presentation. She was nominated for a 2022 Arizona ZONI award for Best Supporting Actress for her portrayal of Mother Abbess in *The Sound of Music* with DST in 2021. Mary Jane serves as Arizona District Membership Director for the National Association of Teachers of Singing. She is also the co-founder of the Muddy River Opera Company, bringing opera to underserved schools in rural Illinois. Mary Jane and her husband, Cory, live in Phoenix and love singing together in their church choir. Besides being an adjunct voice teacher at Arizona Christian University, she maintains a busy private voice studio. Mary Jane has an M.M. in Vocal Performance from The University of Michigan and a B.M. from the Wheaton College Conservatory of Music.



JANELLE PARIS (*Sister Sophia*) is excited and honored to make her debut with MTAAs. She has been performing in musicals for over 30 years both professionally and for fun. Favorite recent roles include Velma in *Chicago*, Lily in *The Secret Garden*, Sister Amnesia in *Nunsense!*, and Lady of the Lake in *Spamalot!* She holds a Masters in Dance and Kinesiology and currently

teaches piano, dance, and fitness. Janelle choreographs musicals around the valley and has won awards for both her vocal and dance contributions. She is thankful for the opportunity to perform!



SHANE SEDIVY (*Friedrich*) is making his debut performance with MTAAs. He has appeared in other local productions such as: *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* at VYT (Clopin Trouillefou) and *Alice By Heart* at SYT (Dodgy/The Duchess). He would like to thank the MTAAs team for allowing him to be a part of this production as well as his friends and family for encouraging him in this endeavor.



MARK STODDARD (*Max Detweiler*) is an award-winning theater director, actor, playwright, arts educator, and jingle singer. He is the Associate Artistic Director of Valley Youth Theatre and has directed over 300 musicals, plays, and original works. His artistic work has been seen at Phoenix Theatre Company, Arizona Opera, Arizona Musicfest, Theaterworks, Phoenix Boys Choir, Desert Stages, Dream City Arts and numerous schools and churches. Special thanks to his lovely wife Rachel, their three kids and two doggies!



KATHERINE TALLEY MATT (*Elsa Schrader*) hails from Tucson and Fairford, England. She began singing professionally at nine and has performed across the U.S. and Europe in a variety of genres. Recently seen in MTAAs *Ragtime* as Solo Woman/Wailer, she also sings and plays piano at her church and is part of the local choral ensemble Euphony. In Los Angeles, she sang with the Colburn Chorale and Los Robles Master Chorale, recorded for commercials, movies, and pop and gospel artists, and expanded her skills to songwriting, arranging, and teaching voice and music. Ms. Talley Matt holds a Bachelor of Musical Arts and two master's degrees from ASU. Her credits span plays, operas, oratorios, and musicals, with highlights including *The Magic Flute*, *Suor Angelica*, *Bye-Bye Birdie*, and *Little Shop of Horrors*. She has performed at Carnegie Hall and contributed to films and commercials such as *Rango*, *The Goods*, and *The Generosity Water Project*.



Elijah Viray (*Rolf Gruber*) is thrilled to be a part of MTAAs. This marks his fourth Showcase, having made his debut as Will Bloom in *Big Fish*. He extends his deepest thanks to Cody DeLisa for introducing him to MTAAs and to everyone in the

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organization for helping him rekindle his love for performing. Outside of MTA, Elijah can be found cosplaying, airsofting, or putting his BSN to good use.



DYLAN SUEHIRO (*Conductor*) was born and raised in Hilo, Hawai'i. He is the director of the North Valley Youth Orchestra and serves as MTA's Marketing Director. As a performer, he is an avid multi-instrumentalist, playing with Tempe Winds and the

North Valley Symphony Orchestra, in addition to MTA. *The Sound of Music* marks Dylan's seventh Showcase; he previously conducted *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* and *The Pajama Game*.

Dylan studied trombone and music education at Indiana University, earning a Bachelor of Music Education. In 2021, he graduated with an M.M. in Conducting from ASU. Since moving to Arizona in 2013, he has taught at multiple schools in the Paradise Valley Unified School District, in addition to serving as a clinician and adjudicator for bands and orchestras in the Phoenix area. Some highlights of Dylan's career include conducting the New Symphony Orchestra in Sofia, Bulgaria, directing the ASU Gold Band, and leading the AMEA Junior High All-State Orchestra. In 2021, he was invited to Washington, D.C. as a finalist to conduct the "Pershing's Own" U.S. Army Band.

An active member of the local food community, Dylan is also a member of Emerging Leaders and volunteers at the Desert Botanical Garden. He lives in Phoenix with his husband Kyle.



PATTI GRAETZ (*Chorus Director*) has been Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of ProMusica Arizona since 2015. She is an accomplished conductor and award-winning soprano. Her 30+ year career includes leading roles

with Houston Grand Opera and Arizona Opera. A graduate of Concordia College in Minnesota, Patti was a soloist with the renowned Concordia Choir under Paul J. Christiansen.

Since moving to the Valley in 1989, Patti has served as head of vocal departments at the Arizona School for the Arts and Arizona Conservatory for Arts and Academics and was Director of Music for several churches. She spent eight years in Australia, performing with Australian Music Events, teaching for Opera Scholars Australia, and conducting choirs at the Murray Conservatorium. Patti has also been principal soprano for Opera-tunity and the Royal Renaissance Singers, and she continues to sing with the Royal Renaissance Singers and the Sonoran Desert Chorale.

At home, she teaches private voice and piano and enjoys "wind therapy" on her Can-Am Spyder motorcycle, logging over 11,000 miles in two cross-country trips this summer. Patti is married to Trevor, with three children and five grandchildren.



ROBYN PITMAN (*Assistant Chorus Director*) is an Arizona born performer, music director, and vocal coach who has worked in theaters across the country. Robyn performed in the regional tours of *Brigadoon* (Fiona), *The Music Man* (Mrs. Squires/Marian Understudy), and *Legally Blonde* (Elle's Mom/Judge). Regional credits include: *The Music Man* (Marian), *Brigadoon* (Fiona), *Carnival* (Lili-AriZoni Winner for Best Actress in a Musical) *Hello, Dolly* (Irene), *Titanic* (Alice), *Into the Woods* (Rapunzel), *1776* (Martha Jefferson), *Lucky Stiff* (Annabel), *Cinderella* (Portia), *A Little Night Music* (Mrs. Anderssen) and *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* (Woman One).

Music Directing credits include: *Les Misérables*, *Brigadoon*, *The Sound of Music*, *Legally Blonde*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Lucky Stiff*, and *Honk!* As an educator, Robyn taught high school choir for 14 years and was the proud director for multiple National award-winning Show and Jazz Choirs. She holds a BIS in Music and Education from Arizona State University and an MBA from University of Southern Indiana. When not performing, music directing, or coaching students in her private voice studio in Gilbert, Robyn currently works as a Human Resources Business Partner and Arizona Realtor.



STEPHEN SCHERMITZLER (*Artistic Director*) is the Founder of the Musical Theatre Alliance of Arizona. After earning a BFA in Music Composition from ASU in 2010, Stephen became the resident music director for Detour Company Theatre and the Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre (now Silver Star), along with several independent local community productions. As a pianist, he has collaborated with artists who have performed Broadway and national touring runs of *1776*, *Dear Evan Hansen*, *Waitress*, *Hamilton*, *Camelot*, *New York, New York*, and *42nd Street*. As a singer, he has been featured with Arizona Musicfest, Phoenix Chorale, Arizona Bach Festival, Symphony of the Southwest, North Valley Chorale, and the West Valley Symphony. He is intensely devoted to the nurture of authentic artistic development of all actors and musicians. Love always to Ray and the Pod.



JONI VAN ROSSUM (*Rehearsal Pianist*) is an accomplished musical director and composer. Originally hailing from the Netherlands, Joni's 15-year passion for music and theatre led him to embark on a journey to citizenship in the US. Throughout his career, Joni has been associated with remarkable productions including acclaimed shows like *Blood Brothers*, *Hair*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Lion King*, and countless others. In 2015, Joni's outstanding musical

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works were recognized with an esteemed composition award. Since 2016, Joni has been living in Phoenix. He served as Musical Director for the Scottsdale Musical Theater Company and is now the Director of Media & Production at a local Tempe church. *The Sound of Music* is Joni's tenth production with MTAA.



ANDREA GUEYON (*Audio Technician*) has been an integral part of every production since MTAA's inception in 2022, overseeing the critical technical elements of balancing the ensemble and managing precise sound cues. Her work spans acclaimed Showcase productions like *Titanic*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *Parade*, and *Ragtime*, in addition to supporting MTAA's Underscore events. Andrea also brings her skills to Detour Theatre as a sound designer and engineer and works as an AV technician for Encore Event Services. She holds a degree in Audio Production from Phoenix College.

MTAA Founders Circle

Thank you to our generous supporters!

It is our privilege to list the following donors who have contributed \$1,000 or more since the inception of the Musical Theatre Alliance of Arizona. Every donor is a valued partner in each achievement, both onstage and throughout our community outreach and future programming.

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Gillian Lunn
Roger Cheney
Rick Ross
Sam
Aaron Schneider
Torres Family
Lynne Traverse
Dylan Suehiro & Kyle Varble
Rick Williams & Cami Anglemeyer
Gavin & Susan Woods

Special Thanks

All Saints Lutheran Church Staff for facilitating venue arrangements, providing equipment storage, and being an integral part of MTAA's story.

FOX 10 Phoenix and Cory McCloskey for helping to amplify our message and spread the word about MTAA around the Valley.

Sujoy Spencer for hosting an additional rehearsal for our string section, and Sylvia Depta for coordinating and being a fierce advocate for our organization.

The Ahler family for welcoming the von Trapp kids into their home, and Robyn Pitman for her guidance and sharing her expertise with the Children.

Dayna Demaine for her brilliant design and execution of MTAA's new logo and branding.

Ben Collison for documenting rehearsal footage and assisting with the MTAA marketing efforts.

Dylan Suehiro for designing the digital and printed programs.

Kyle Varble for leading operations behind the scenes and helping manage communications.

Raul Sanchez for putting together tonight's silent auction, and the generous local businesses who contributed to our event.

Edie Chudnow and Susan Woods for coordinating volunteers and ensuring the success of every event from beginning to end.

Scott DeWald for providing sage legal guidance as we continue our organizational journey.

Lynne Traverse and Brandon Spevak for navigating the 2024 transition and spearheading the incorporation of MTAA.

Stephen Schermitzler for his artistic leadership and providing the vision for the future of musical theatre in Arizona.

ABOUT THE SHOW

BOOK BY

**Howard Lindsay
Russel Crouse**

MUSIC BY

Richard Rodgers

LYRICS BY

Oscar Hammerstein II

Suggested by *The Trapp Family Singers* by Maria Augusta Trapp

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MTAA thanks you for your cooperation.

SYNOPSIS

Based on the true story of the von Trapp Family Singers, this musical captures a personal story of growth and hope amidst the horrors of World War II. *The Sound of Music* tells the tale of young postulant Maria Rainer, whose free spirit has trouble fitting into the rules and regulations of Nonnberg Abbey. Commissioned by the Mother Abbess to serve as the governess for seven motherless children, Maria transforms the von Trapp family home from a place of dour rules and regulations to one filled with joy, with laughter, and with music. In the process, Maria wins the hearts of all seven children—and their widower father, Captain von Trapp. With the Mother Abbess' blessing, and to the children's delight, Maria follows her heart, and Maria and the Captain marry. Upon returning home from their honeymoon, Maria and the Captain learn that their beloved Austria has been taken over by the Nazis, and the retired Captain is asked to report for immediate service in the Nazi Navy. When the Nazis show up at their door to take Captain von Trapp away, it is a family singing engagement (wily navigated by their friend Max) that buys the family time to make their narrow escape. Their Austrian convictions compel Maria, the Captain, and the children to flee over the mountains of Switzerland to safety, taking the words of the Mother Abbess to heart: "Climb Ev'ry Mountain...till you find your dream." —Chloe Wintersteen

WHAT'S NEXT?

UNDERSCORE

February 22, 2025 | First Church UCC

THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE

April 5, 2025 | All Saints Lutheran Church

UNDERSCORE

May 3, 2025 | First Church UCC

UNDERSCORE

June 7, 2025 | Location TBA



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