

Charlton Kings Community Players

present

THE SOUND of MUSIC



PROGRAMME

19th - 21st February 1998

at Balcarras School

Donations from the proceeds
of this production will be made to
the Delancey Hospital and local good causes.

The Sound of Music

Welcome to our first real musical and the most ambitious production the Charlton Kings Community Players have ever presented!

In case there are any in the audience who are not aware of the reason for the scale of this production may I briefly explain the background? We had at least 120 people expressing specific interest at the time of the auditions. Of these more than half were of school age and since one of our key aims is to try to involve as many young people as possible in our productions we were faced with a challenge.

Fortunately the Abbey, Wedding and Concert scenes all provided opportunities to extend the cast, and so we now have more than 100 people - eleven on make-up alone - involved in bringing you *The Sound of Music*. And a special 'thank you' to Joyce for cheerfully taking responsibility for well over 100 costumes!

We have found the stage version a real and surprising pleasure to work with, because there are numerous dramatic opportunities which seem to be omitted or glossed over in the film version. We are stressing the impact of the German invasion, the *anschluss*, on the Von Trapp household, and highlighting the contrast between Nazi behaviour and the spiritual atmosphere of Nonnberg Abbey.

I wonder how many of you are aware that, if Captain Von Trapp was a hero of the First World War, he must have been at least 50 in 1938, while Maria had only just completed her final year at college in Vienna. And see if you can spot at least one significant difference in the plot, as well as the three songs that do not appear in the film.

I must thank many, many people for their ceaseless commitment and hard work to this project over the many months. Keith coming straight to rehearsals from the London train suited and without supper, Helen transforming the moves for a tricky song with just half an hour of inspiration, June sorting out a myriad of problems before they get out of hand, the blossoming voices of those who never claimed to be singers, the smiles of the children which never wavered however late or long they were asked to stay - these are 'a few of my favourite things', but there are so many more involving so many people...

We are very fortunate in the talent and enthusiasm available to us in Charlton Kings, and I am personally very grateful for the opportunity to enable them to flourish. Thank you too for your on-going support and have a wonderful evening!

Peter Grainger

CAST

Maria Rainer	Kate Nye
Captain Georg von Trapp	Martyn Fry
Liesel	Hannah Maynard
Friedrich	Tom Clancy
Louisa	Emma Cleveland
Kurt	Gavin Irvine
Brigitta	Georgina Lewis
Marta	Rebecca Holder
Gretl	Isobel Powell
Frau Schmitt	Gill Garrett
Franz	Barry Irvine
Max Detweiler	George Cross
Rolf Gruber	Paul Coombe
Elsa Schraeder	Jill Richell
The Mother Abbess	Sue Dyson
Sister Margaretta	Anna Wright
Sister Berthe	Carol Davies
Sister Sophia	Alison Talbot
Herr Zeller	John Palmer
Frau Zeller	Ann Cross
Admiral von Schreiber	Pat Kearney
Baron Elberfeld	Jeremy Worth
Baroness Elberfeld	Doreen Fry
Ursula	Rachael Glover
Postulant	Suzy Hope
Novices	Nicky Broadberry, Natasha Demetriou, Leonie Stephens, Anna Mazonowicz, Melissa Monks, Kemela Nisbet and Kate Wardell

Nuns	Yvonne Brawn, Joan Collins, Ann Cross, Kate Dell-Smith, Anne Fry, Alice Hayward, June Pearce, Ann Tulacz and Pam Worth
Children at Opening	Rachael Glover, Susie Glover, Hannah Mansfield, Jessica and Edwina Tyrrell, Sarah White and Emilie Wright
Goatherd Dancers	Laura Jackman, Hannah Mansfield, Gareth Newcombe, Joseph Pigott, Catherine Sheppard, James Talbot, Emily Watkins and Olivia Wright
Party Guests	Verity Alexander, Mary Beckford, Andy Cleary, Carol Davies, Tony Farthing, Suzy Hope, Gareth Irvine, Pat Kearney, Beryl Middleton, Derek Pearce, Helen Roberts and Emma Veale
Wedding Guests/ Concert Audience	Mary Beckford, Carol Davies, Tony Farthing, Doreen Fry, Pat Kearney, Beryl Middleton, Derek Pearce, Helen Roberts and Jeremy Worth
Young Wedding Guests & Concert Audience	Rachael and Susie Glover, Laura Jackman, Hannah Mansfield, Gareth Newcombe, Catherine Sheppard, Joseph Pigott, James Talbot, Jessica and Edwina Tyrrell, Emily Watkins, Sarah White, Emilie and Olivia Wright
Soldiers	Andy Cleary, Gareth Irvine and Tim Richards
Concert Prize-winners	Verity Alexander, Suzy Hope, Helen Roberts and Emma Veale

BAND

Pianos	Keith Mead and Paul Smith
Harmonica	Carol Axford
Flutes	Brenda Johnston and Lee Axford
Clarinet	Alastair Palmer
Bass Guitar	Dave Daniel

Producer	Peter Grainger
Assistant Producer	June Pearce
Musical Director	Keith Mead
Choreography	Helen Lewis
Costumes	Joyce Morgan assisted by Clare Clancy and Doreen Rose
Stage Manager	Alison Luna
Assistant Stage Manager	Gareth Irvine with Daniel Worth
Set Construction	Ray Talbot with Brian Wright
Lighting Consultant	Richard Mead
Lighting	Andrew Bartlett, assisted by Nouritsa Biberian and Robin Davies
Sound Consultant	Steve Cooper
Sound	David Brawn
Hairdressing	Sue Travaskis and assistants
Make-up	Jill Richell and Elaine Agg, Fiona Collins, Julie Holder, Becky Holland, Gina Humphries, Alison Mansfield, Diane Pippin, Caroline Powell, Tricia Ratcliffe and Naomi Wright,
Front of House	Peter Collins and assistants
Publicity	Lynne Glover with Melanie Fletcher
Poster/leaflet design	Geoffrey Maynard
Photography	Barry Curl
Displays	Michelle Grainger, Alison Mansfield, Jill Richell and Anna Wright
Administrative Assistant to the Producer	Tricia Ratcliffe
Treasurer	Derek Pearce

Join in!

Towards the end of the Concert scene you may like to join the stage audience in singing the final chorus of 'Edelweiss':

*Edelweiss, edelweiss,
Every morning you greet me.
Small and white, clean and bright,
You look happy to meet me.
Blossom of snow,
May you bloom and grow,
Bloom and grow for ever -
Edelweiss, edelweiss,
Bless my homeland forever.*

Thank you!

We continue to be very grateful to Chris Healy, the Governors and staff of Balcarras School for again allowing us the use of their beautifully redecorated hall. A special 'thank you' to Dave Thomas, the Deputy Head, for his quiet but ever-present support and to Garry Pargeter, the School Caretaker, for all his help in the weeks leading up to the production.

We would like to thank all those who have loaned us furniture and props for both the production and the publicity displays. We are grateful to SWS Property Services for providing supplies for the building of the set and to Smith and Mann for freezer space for the large quantity of ice-cream required for our audiences.

We are delighted to have the artwork for the posters, leaflets and this programme designed by a father of one of the cast, Geoffrey Maynard, and thank him for his lovely drawings. Each production means a major contribution from Barry Curl who takes and then donates a considerable range of beautiful photographs of the cast; we would particularly like to thank him for all his generosity over the years.

We have been very fortunate in having the impressive house and grounds of Cowley Manor Nursing Home made available to us, and we are very grateful not only for their permission but also for the kindness of both staff and residents as assorted nuns, lamps and children descended on them one cold Sunday morning.

Many thanks too to those who so kindly sell our tickets year after year, *Charlton Kings Pharmacy*, 'Secondwind', 'Sounds Good' and 'The Vine', this time with insufficient tickets to meet the insistent demand! We would also like to thank Margaret and Derek Walker for the use of their window as the focus for communicating with the cast, and all those helping the young cast with their numerous costume changes backstage.



© Peter Grainger photo montages

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

Act 1

- Scene 1: Nonnburg Abbey
 2: Mountainside near the Abbey
 3: The Office of the Mother Abbess
 4: A Corridor in the Abbey
 5: The Living Room of the Von Trapp Villa
 6: Outside the Von Trapp Villa
 7: Maria's Bedroom
 8: The Terrace of the Von Trapp Villa
 9: A Landing in the Von Trapp Villa
 10: The Living Room
 11: A Corridor in the Abbey
 12: The Office of the Mother Abbess

Act 2

- Scene 1: The Terrace
 2: A Corridor in the Abbey
 3: The Office of the Mother Abbess
 4: The Chapel of the Abbey
 5: The Living Room
 6: The Concert Hall
 7: The Garden of Nonnburg Abbey

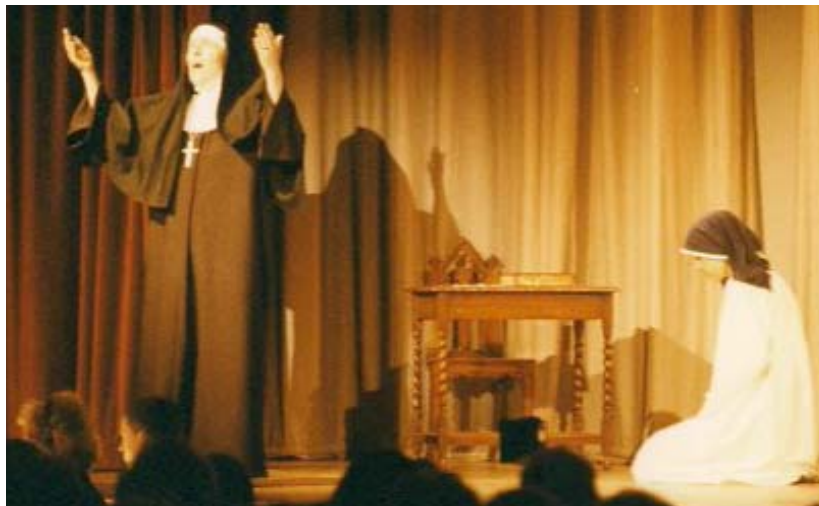
Music by RICHARD RODGERS Lyrics by OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II

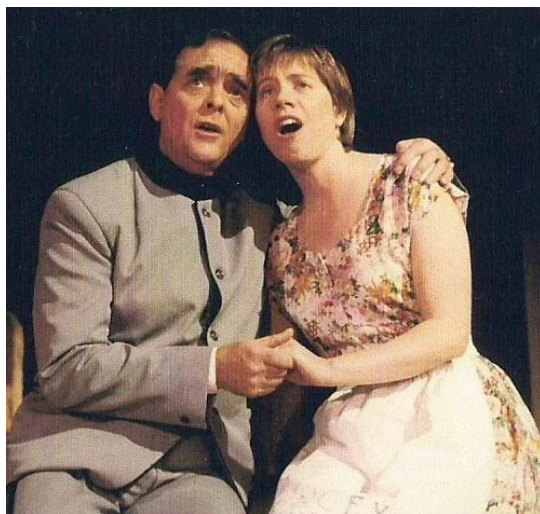
Book by HOWARD LINDSAY and RUSSEL CROUSE

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

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There will be an interval of 20 minutes between Acts 1 & 2

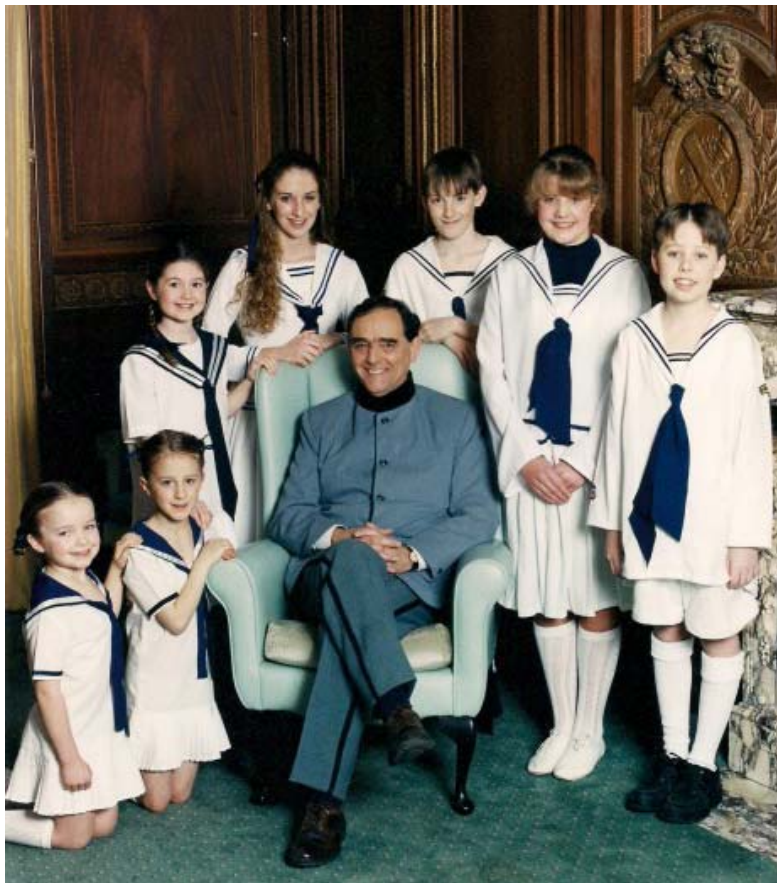








Publicity pictures taken at Cowley Manor



A selection of songs from **'The Sound of Music'** were sung at Cowley Manor on 7th June 1998. This musical entertainment was a 'thank you'.

The Sound of Music	Maria All
How do you solve a problem like Maria?	Mother Abbess Sister Berthe Sister Sophia Sister Margareta
Do-re-mi	Maria Children
Edelweiss	Captain All
My favourite things	Maria Mother Abbess
So long farewell	All Children Gretl
Climb every mountain	Mother Abbess All
The Sound of Music	All (from**)

© Barry Curl



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CHARLTON KINGS COMMUNITY PLAYERS

The Community Players were set up in 1992 as a community venture 'to encourage Faith, fun and fellowship' through ecumenical drama and musical activities for all ages.

All cast members must live, work or worship in Charlton Kings, so our productions are genuine *community* drama.

In the course of the last five years we have performed 'Toad of Toad Hall', 'The Vigil', 'Oh What A Lovely War', 'An Inspector Calls' and 'Edward'.

Our activities have also included a fund-raising cabaret entertainment for old people's homes in the village, dramatic contributions to outdoor ecumenical services and workshops on theatrical topics.

In recent years we have been able to donate £700 each to Balcarras School Library, the Old People's Minibus and Charlton Kings Junior School, bringing the total raised for charity to over £4750 in five years.

From the proceeds of this production we intend to make a contribution to Delancey Hospital and other good causes in Charlton Kings.

For further information or details on joining the Players please telephone our Chairman Martyn Fry on 239903.



WHAT PEOPLE HAVE WRITTEN ABOUT *THE SOUND OF MUSIC*

I thought you would appreciate reading extracts from what so many people have written about you and the production!

FROM MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE:

'The Sound of Music was a brilliant show - we enjoyed every minute of it.'

'The Sound of Music was truly memorable and completely delightful in every way.'

'The Sound of Music was a triumph and will stay in my and everyone's memory.'

'I could not believe I was sitting in a school hall - it should have been a big theatre - in fact it was worthy of the West End where I've seen shows not a patch on this one. I had no idea we had so much talent in C/Kings - it was absolutely magical.'

'There was a lovely innocence from all the characters where it was needed, and a real atmosphere of reality was created so that the audience became thoroughly involved.'

'We thoroughly enjoyed the production and were very impressed by the high level of talent and everyone's professionalism. It made us feel very proud to be a part of such a fun-loving, enthusiastic and talented community. We look forward to the next production with great anticipation.'

'Just a short note to thank and congratulate the Community Players on a wonderful and creative Sound of Music. Apart from entertaining so many, you have surely helped to bond the community.'

FROM MEMBERS OF THE CAST:

'When we started I had no idea how important this project was going to turn out to be.'

'I was in church yesterday for forty minutes after the end of the service while everyone I knew came and told me how much they had enjoyed the show and what it had meant to them. That was almost as special as seeing the delight on people's faces at the end of the performances. This is something bigger than all of us, and will live on in many hearts for a long, long time.'

'A really marvellous show and I am absolutely delighted to have been in it. I think I've enjoyed this part more than any other I've played.'

I enjoyed myself so much; I know that this production will carry very special memories and that I shall always carry a little of Maria with me wherever I go.'

Thank you so much for letting me be involved in The Sound of Music and enabling me to make so many special friends... I'd love to do it all over again!'

I count myself very lucky to have been part of such a wonderful show... I enjoyed the companionship, fun and excitement and the overwhelming feeling of everyone working together. The thrill when it was such a great success, and the audiences nearly bringing the house down will last for a long time. Everywhere I go in the local area people come rushing up to say how marvellous it was.'

'What can I say? From beginning to end all of our association with the Players was a marvellous experience. I never imagined it would be such fun to be involved. I didn't know I could sing when I auditioned, let alone act! I've amazed myself and what's more I can't wait to do it again.'

When I meet my fellow participants in the village I realise what affection grew between us all during those 6 months. That in itself I shall treasure.'

'I'm delighted to have been part of this.'

'We've all had a brilliant time and it's paid off.'

'I have really enjoyed myself and would love to do it again.'

'I'll go far in life now I've had the experience.'

'This week has been superb.'

FROM PARENTS:

'It was real experience for E. She thoroughly enjoyed every rehearsal and, even in her small part, felt very sad when it was all over. As a member of the audience I cannot emphasise enough what a wonderful show it was from start to finish.'

'Congratulations for putting on such a wonderful show and thank you for giving H. the opportunity to share it with you all. She has enjoyed it so much and you have all made her feel very special. ... You are a lovely friendly group of people and I hope H. will be able to work with you all again in the future.'

A special 'thank you' to everyone who took the trouble to write.
It's been so encouraging.

P.G.

March 1998 Charlton Kings Community Players newsletter

“Music proves enchanting”

Review: *The Sound of Music*, Charlton Kings Community Players, Balcarras School

This enchanting production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's musical by Peter Grainger results from more than a hundred people rehearsing and planning for six months. This is live theatre, well acted and sung, very cleverly produced and staged, with an effective accompaniment. In the leading roles, Kate Nye as the governess Maria and Martyn Fry as Captain von Trapp are exactly right for their parts. The children steal the show. They sing and act beautifully and they enjoy themselves. Among the adults, George Cross as Max is a jovial family uncle with real, homegrown side-whiskers and a pleasant voice. Jill Richell as Elsa acts and sings with assurance but is perhaps too nice for the part. Sue Dyson as Mother Abbess is wise and authoritative. The religious atmosphere is authentically Austrian, and the menace of Nazi invasion is powerfully suggested. It runs until Saturday.

Cast: Maria Rainer (Kate Nye); Captain von Trapp (Martyn Fry); Liesl (Hannah Maynard); Friedrich (Tom Clancy); Louisa (Emma Cleveland); Kurt (Gavin Irvin); Brigitta (Georgina Lewis); Marta (Rebecca Holder); Gretl (Isobel Powel); Frau Schmitt (Gill Garrett); Max Detweiler (George Cross); the Mother Abbess (Sue Dyson).

Producer, Peter Grainger; musical director, Keith Mead; choreography, Helen Lewis; costumes, Joyce Morgan assisted by Clare Clancy and Doreen Rose.

Gloucestershire Echo, 20 February 1998

Publicity for the production

“Show puts us all in harmony – Production of the Sound of Music has all the Trapp-ings needed to be a big success”

A major centre-spread article with seven large photographs of ‘The Sound of Music’. Various members of the cast photographed in costume. Quote from Assistant Producer: *‘There are 68 people in the cast and a lot more helping behind the scenes.’* Quote from Director: *‘It’s amazing how much talent we have in Charlton Kings.’*

Gloucestershire Echo

The Players used the abbreviated art form of mini sagas to provide publicity for the show. A competition was set up and a publication was the outcome. The prize was two tickets for the show. The sagas appeared on advertising posters. *Examples:*

Sensational end to festival finale. Winning family, led by naval captain, escape before presentation of prizes. Flight from the authorities accomplished despite a strong military presence. Rumour is, the family intend to climb every mountain on the way to Switzerland. By the look of the roadblocks, they may have to.

Vocational trainee, instructed by superior to aid family in distress, succeeds through a remarkable ability to hit the right note in high places. Her outlook on life draws others to sing with her, proving, among other things, that God moves in a mysterious way - to solve a problem like Maria.