

## **What to expect when I go to the Relaxed Performance of The Sound of Music:**

When I come into the theatre, the stage at the front will be covered by a red curtain. This is where the play will take place.

There are many actors in the play I am going to watch, some adults and some children. A few of the actors will come on stage to introduce themselves and say hello along with Ksenia, who works in the office at MTC. Ksenia will also explain some of the events in the show so I do not get too surprised, and some sounds that I will hear during the show so that I can get used to the volume.

After the introduction, I will hear the orchestra tuning their instruments. Then the curtain will go up and the play will begin.

The play I will see is called *The Sound of Music*. It is the story of Maria learning her place in the world and where she belongs as she brings love, laughter, and music to the von Trapp family.

The characters will change the clothes they wear during the play to show that it is a different day or event.

The main character in the play is Maria. She is kind and loves music.



When the play starts, Maria is living at an abbey learning to be a nun, but she isn't always good at following the rules. Some of the other nuns don't think that she will do a very good job. The Mother Abbess is in charge. She wears a cross.



Maria is given a job to take care of seven children whose mother has died. The children are Liesl, Fredrich, Louisa, Kurt, Brigitta, Marta, and Gretl von Trapp.



Their father is a ship Captain in the navy and is away from home a lot. When he comes back he is very stern, but he loves his children. The adults in the play call

him Georg. The Captain is proud of his country and worried that the Nazis will come to power.



Max Dettweiler is the Captain's friend. He is in charge of planning a concert. Max doesn't want to make anyone in power upset with him, so he tries to be friendly to everyone.



Elsa Schraeder plans to marry the Captain. She is very rich and also thinks it is best to go along with political changes. She is not worried about the Nazis.



Rolf is a delivery boy who Liesl is in love with. Later in the play, Rolf joins the Nazis, which makes the Captain angry.



The stage will transform to show different locations.

This is Nonnberg Abbey.



This is the Mother Abbess' office.



This is the inside of the von Trapp home.



This is Maria's bedroom at the von Trapp home.



This is the garden house at the von Trapp home.



This is the yard at the von Trapp home.



This is the stage at the music festival.





During the play, there will be bright lights and music on the stage. Sometimes the actors yell.

I can close my eyes or cover my ears if anything becomes too bright or loud.

If I need to, I can leave and go to the lobby or one of the quiet rooms on the second floor where I can take a break. A volunteer will help me leave the theatre and come back in when I am ready.

Partway through the play, there will be an intermission. An intermission is a 20-minute break. I can stretch my legs and talk to my friends. I can also use the bathroom in the lobby or sit in a quiet room, if I need to.

I will know the play is starting again when I hear an announcement. I will go to back my seat. The lights will dim, I will stop talking and the play will begin again.

When the play is over, the actors will come on stage as themselves again. Everyone will clap their hands. If the noise is too loud, it is okay to cover my ears. Everyone will leave the theatre at the end of the play in the same way they came in. If I want, I can wait in my seat until the crowd is gone.

The play is a total of 2 hours 45 minutes long including the intermission break.

## Some things I need to know about this play:

There is an orchestra with many musical instruments underneath the stage. They play all the music in the show.

I might be able to see the hands of the leader of the orchestra, the conductor, through a hole at the front of the stage, but usually he stays hidden.



Here is the conductor's hand reaching up through the hole!

There will be some yelling between some of the actors. It is only pretend.

The Captain blows a whistle to call his children. It is loud and high-pitched but it does not last long. I can cover my ears if that makes me feel better.

There are candles on the stage. They are a special effect, there is no real fire.

The play has characters who are Nazis, the group that took over Austria in the 1930s. These are just actors. Other characters will act very scared of the Nazis. Everyone is safe.

A Nazi points a gun at the von Trapp family close to the end of the play. It is not a real gun. The actors are only pretending to be scared. Everyone onstage and in the audience is safe.

The lights shining on the stage will change colour throughout the play. They will get brighter and darker. There will always be some lights on in the audience, so I will always be able to see.

There will be sound and lights of thunder and lightning. It is not a real storm. I can close my eyes or cover my ears if I want to.

Near the end of the play, actors will come into the audience. They will not speak to me or touch me, and I should not speak to or touch them. I must keep my body and my belongings out of the aisles so that they do not trip.



If I have any questions or comments about the play, I can talk with my friends after the play is over.

If I want to learn more about the play, I can look at the [Enrichment Guide](#).

If I have questions, I can contact Ksenia, Royal MTC's Education and Enrichment Manager by phone at 204 954 6413 or by email at [kbrodamilian@royalmtc.ca](mailto:kbrodamilian@royalmtc.ca).

**Credits:**

These are the people responsible for what you see in the photos in this booklet.

Photos by Dylan Hewlett.

Set by Lorenzo Savoini, Costumes by, Lighting by Larry Isacoff

Maria:

Director: Rachel Peake Choreographer: Ainsley Hillyard

Set Designer: Lorenzo Savoini

Costume Designer: Jessica Oostergo

Lighting Designer: Larry Isacoff

Maria: Priya Narine

Captain Georg von Trapp: Charlie Gallant

The Mother Abbess: Lara Ciekiewicz

Max Dettweiler: Kevin Klassen

Elsa Schraeder: Kristi Hansen

Nuns: Julia Davis, Renee DeSilva-Bissell, Katie German, Sarah Luby, Kristi Hansen, Christina Nguyen, Jan Skene

Liesl: Christina Nguyen

Fredrich: Isaac de Cresce

Louisa: Micah Buenafe

Kurt: Alex Schaeffer

Brigitta: Anastasia Rautert

Marta: Madelyn Torres

Gretl: Ellie Prescott

Rolf: Jesse Drwiega

This guide was created by Ksenia Broda-Milian based on past work for Royal MTC by Elena Anciro and Angela Chalmers.