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Sound of Music: CSB/SJU's Connections to the Movie

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Background photo from <http://malonesmoviemminute.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/The-Sound-of-Music.jpg>




35 years ago last fall:

WARNER LECTURE SERIES / COLLEGE OF SAINT BENEDICT

"The Four Freedoms"

A Lecture by Maria von Trapp

Monday, October 15, 1979 / Benedicta Arts Center / 8:00 p.m.



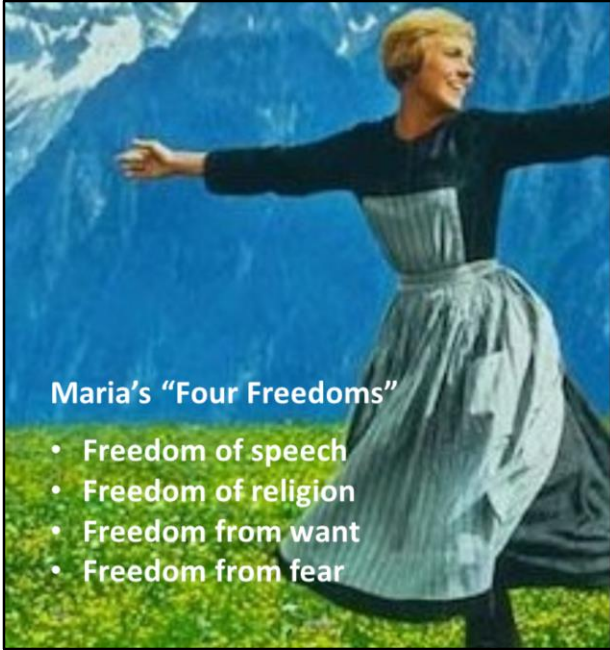
Since she left the Benedictine Abbey at Nonnberg to tutor the seven children of the Baron von Trapp, Maria von Trapp has become one of the most colorful personalities of the 20th century. The hit musical, *The Sound of Music*, is based on her award-winning book, *The Story of the Trapp Family Singers*. Her book, *Maria*, was a hardcover bestseller. Not only is Baroness von Trapp a respected author, she is also a musician, mother, homemaker, lecturer, and world-traveler. Since fleeing Austria in 1938, Maria von Trapp has lived in Stowe, Vermont.

THE LECTURE IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

The Warner Lecture Series is sponsored by the Leo and Rose Warner Foundation. Each year, through monies received from the Foundation, the College of Saint Benedict invites to its campus several lecturers who are prominent in their field of scholarship or social influence and who represent human qualities of concern, involvement, and generosity.

NEXT WARNER LECTURE: Antonia Brico, conductor—Tuesday, January 15, 1980

Background photo from <http://malonesmovieminute.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/The-Sound-of-Music.jpg>
1979-10-26, The Cable, p. 1
<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/896>



Maria's "Four Freedoms"

- Freedom of speech
- Freedom of religion
- Freedom from want
- Freedom from fear

Maria Von Trapp Stresses Four Freedoms

by Janet Buysse
 Maria von Trapp stole into the hearts of more than one thousand people, October 15, when she lectured on, "The Four Freedoms," sponsored by the Warner Lecture Series and held at the Benedicta Arts Center. This event concluded the presidential inaugural festivities.

The audience was well represented by members from the Convent, Abbey, CSB/SJU student body, as well as several central Minnesotans. They filled the chairs and lined aisles in the auditorium. In the past, the BAC has suffered from a declining attendance in those events held there.

The Maria who spoke wore her golden years of maturity quite well. Throughout the speech, her infinite capacity for humor was intertwined with her sincerity, faith, and deep love for God. She sees everything in a spiritual light, and that shone upon everyone present. "Try to find out the will of God. If you do, you'll always be at peace and everything will turn out all right." This faith carried the Trapp family in their desperate flight through Nazi Germany, to the United States, and later to all parts of the world bringing music to all.

Baroness von Trapp stressed to her audience that, "Our four freedoms, those of freedom of speech, religion, want, and from fear are being



Baroness Maria Von Trapp spoke to a large crowd at the BAC October 15.

freedoms back, for this would be a real love. Looking this to One CSB student remarked, "You know, she came at a

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 1979 Warner Lecture ad Maria Von Trapp AC18.02.F02 Bx1



The Cable (CSB paper) Oct. 1979 Page 1

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World traveler and lecturer, author of six spiritual and autobiographical books, inspiration for the famed movie, "The Sound of Music," Baroness Maria von Trapp is living "happily and family ever after" in her chalet in Stowe, Vermont.

Background photo from <http://malonesmovieminute.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/The-Sound-of-Music.jpg>
 1979-10-26, *The Cable*, p. 1
<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/896>



72 years ago last fall:

THE RECORD

Thursday, October 22, 1942

Von Trapps, Renowned Coral Singers
Pay Surprise Visit To Johnny Campus

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/29468>

Von Trapps, Renowned Coral Singers Pay Surprise Visit To Johnny Campus

Last Wednesday afternoon and evening St. John's university was the surprised host to the Baron Georg Von Trapp family, world-famous Austrian *a capella* group. The singing von Trapps, now on concert tour in this country, stopped to renew fraternal acquaintances with Father Anthony Unterhofer, O.S.B. and Father Blase Schlammer, O.S.B., former professors of Baron von Trapp's two sons at Seitenstetten Abbey, in Austria, and now of St. John's Abbey.

The story which Father Anthony has to tell of this famous singing family begins at Seitenstetten abbey some years ago when the Baron's sons, Rupert and Werner, were studying music under Father Blase, and art under Father Anthony. Later, in their Tyrolean castle near Salzburg, Austria, the family of the aristocratic Baron von Trapp first learned how to make music for their own pleasure. Then came the opportunity to broadcast a program of Christmas carols from a local radio station.

and Agatha (first sopranos), Maria and Martina (second sopranos), Werner (tenor), Rupert (baritone), and their priest-director, Dr. Franz Wasner, to enter a folk-song competition. Winning this started the family on a far-reaching professional career. The Trapps, in colorful native Tyrolean costumes, have since successfully appeared on concert stages throughout Europe.

The family lived in Austrian Tyrol until the invasion of Austria by the Nazis when their home was confiscated. They took refuge in Italy temporarily, and then came to America. On Dec. 10, 1938, they gave their first American concert in Town Hall, New York City. During the past three years the Trapps have been in the United States, living in Pennsylvania when not touring the country with their picturesque musical presentations. Everywhere their spontaneity and youthful exuberance are received with enthusiasm.

As the Baroness von Trapp, her children, and Father Wasner were shown about campus and monastic grounds, they paused momentarily in the Chapel to sing a Sanctus composed by Father Wasner and "Ave

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/29468>

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REV. ANTHONY UNTERHOFER
O.S.B.
Drawing

The story, which Father Unterhofer has to tell of this famous singing family begins at Seitenstetten Abbey some years ago when the Baron's two sons, Rupert and Maria, were studying music under Father Werner under Father Anthony. Later, the family moved to a castle near Salzburg, Austria, the family of the autocratic Baron von Trapp first learned to play music for their own pleasure. Then they had the opportunity to broadcast a program of Christmas music on a local radio station.

... Maria and Martina (soprano), Rupert (baritone), Dr. Franz Wasner, conductor. Winning the competition. Winning a far-reaching professional reputation. Successfully appeared in Europe. Tyrol until the invasion of their home was confiscated. They took refuge in Italy temporarily, and then came to America. On Dec. 10, 1938, they gave their first American concert in Town Hall, New York

In 1939 two monks arrived at St. John's from Seitenstetten Abbey in Austria. They were the Reverends Anthony Unterhofer, O.S.B., and Elaise Schwammel, O.S.B., who were forced to leave their country because of the Nazi occupation. Father Blaise had held the post of music critic for an Austrian newspaper. Mr. Faith induced him to conduct the orchestra, for he was capable and wartime conscription had left many vacancies, particularly in the violin section.

... singing a Sanctus composed by Father Wasner and "Ave

Insets from the 1947 *Sagatagan* and the August 1952 *Scriptorium*

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/29468>

Unterhofer photo from 1947 *Sagatagan* p.6

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SJUArchives/id/18630>

Text box from 1952 August *Scriptorium* Volume 12 Number 02 p.10

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SJUArchives/id/26033>



<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/29468>

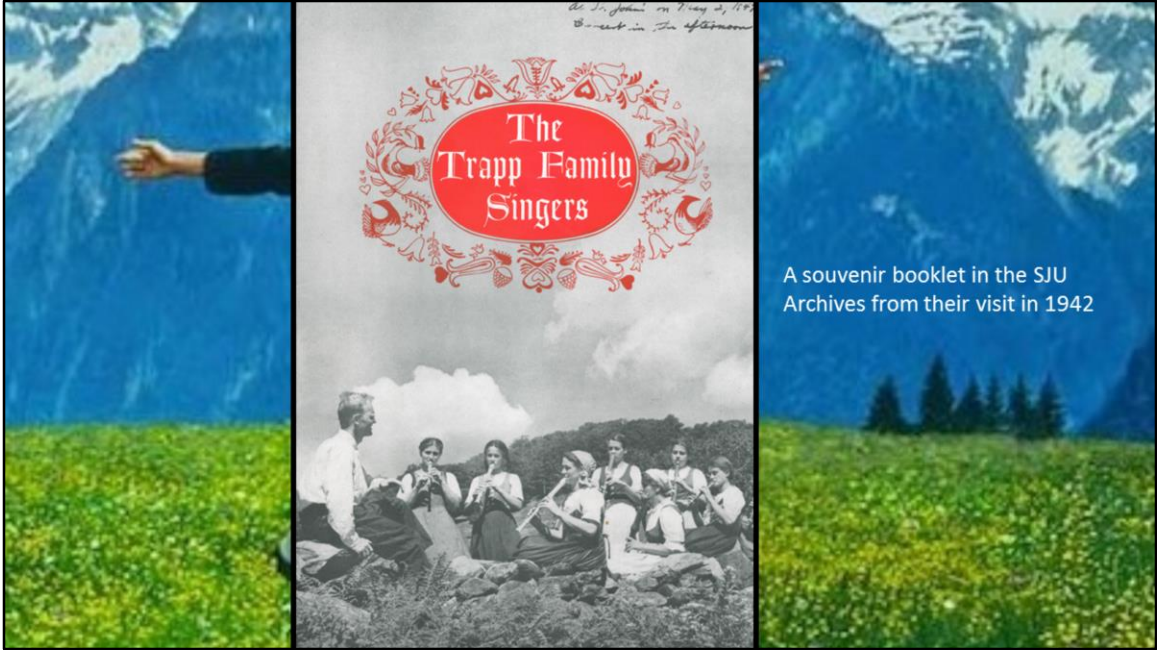
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Seitenstetten_kirche_aussen.jpg

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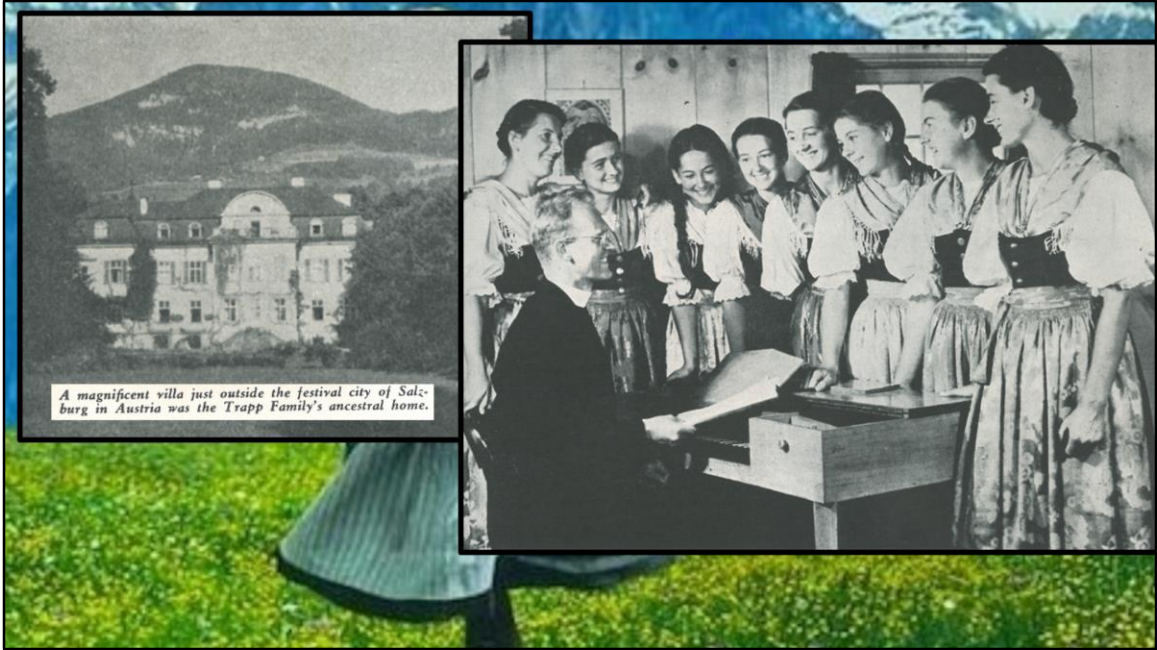
[1947-04 The Benet Volume 12 Number 04 p.1](#)

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchives/id/1729>



A souvenir booklet in the SJU Archives from their visit in 1942

20-page booklet in the SJU Archives, 1768:6.



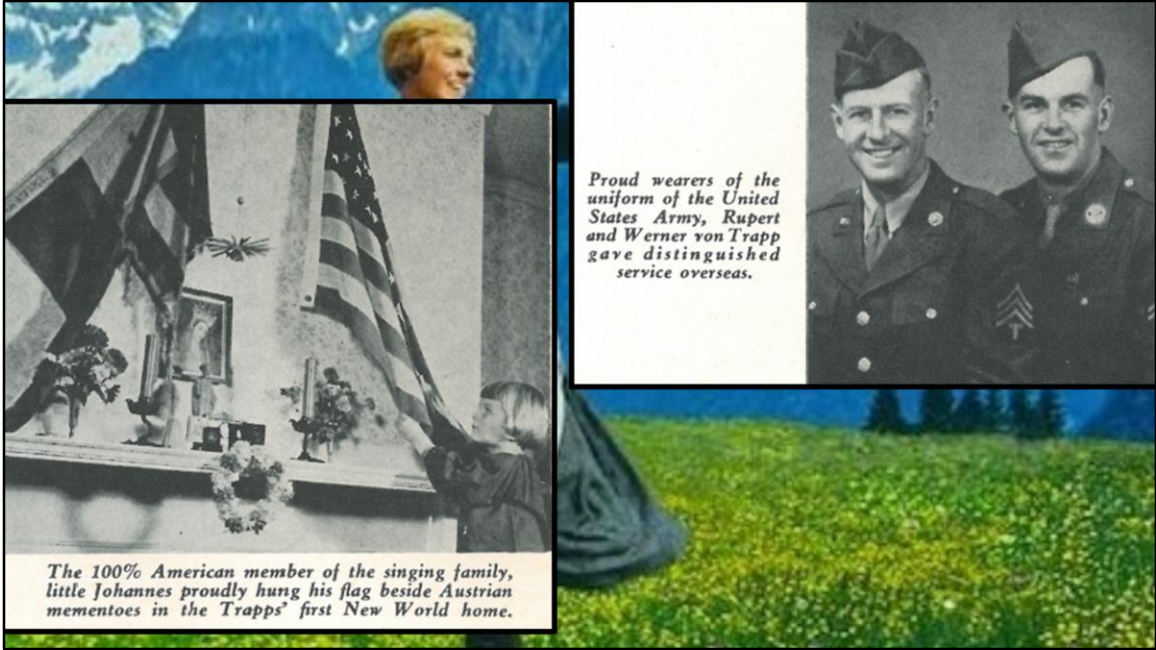
Inset photos from 20-page booklet in the SJU Archives, 1768:6.



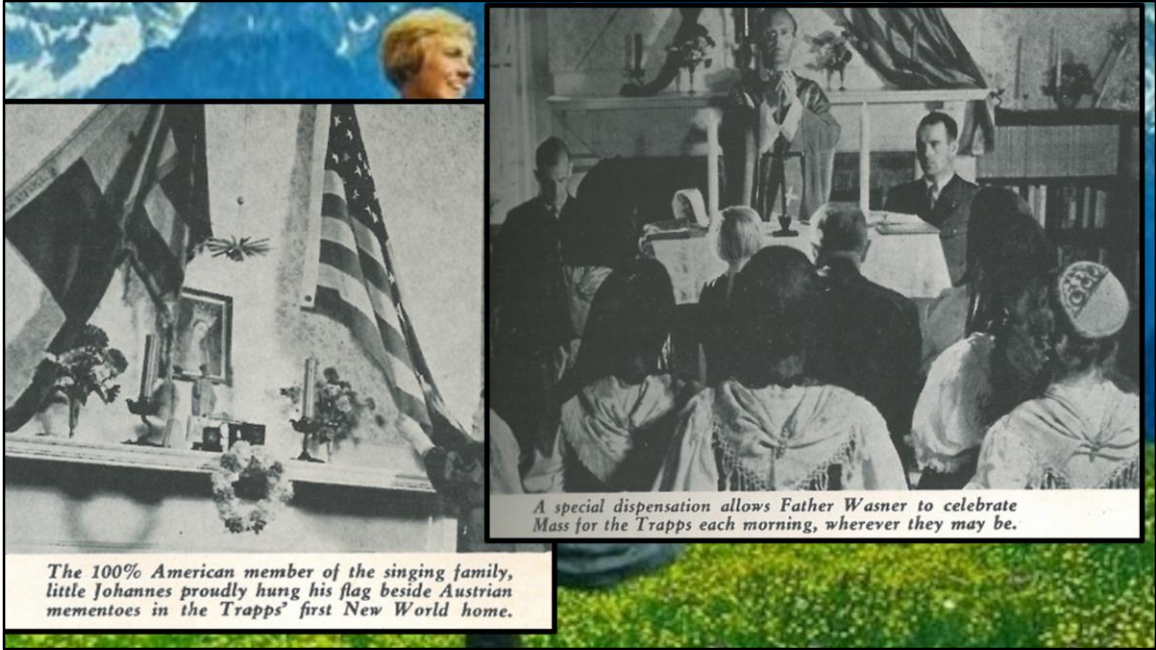
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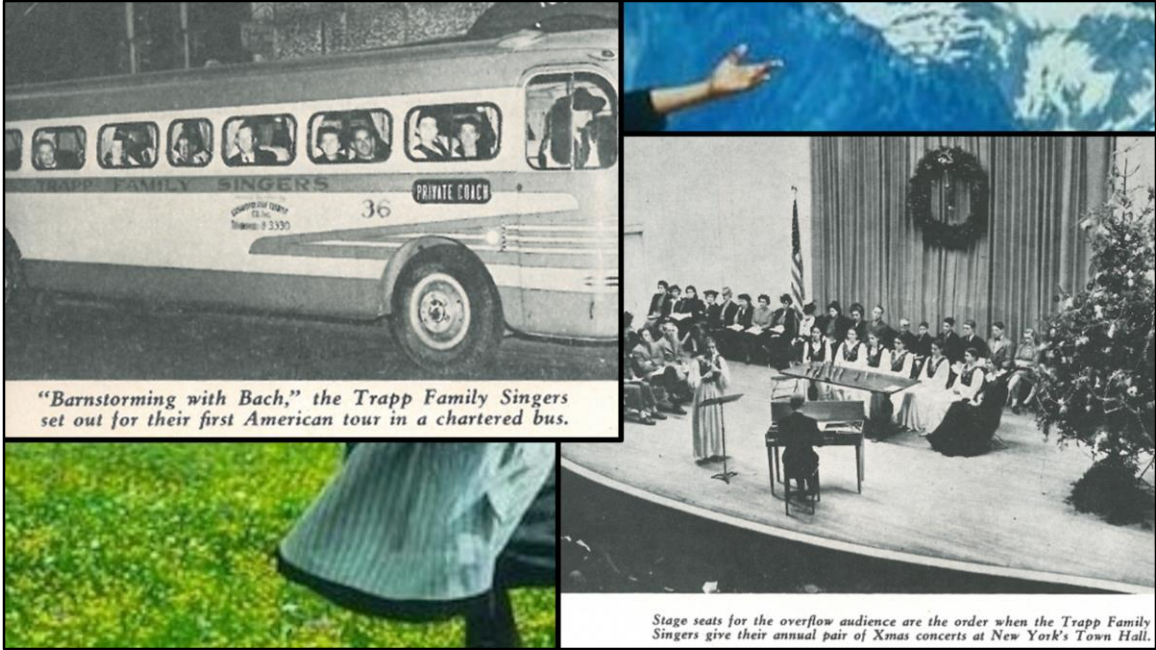
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Feeding the porkers, who will in turn feed them, is the daily chore of Martina and little Eleanore.

Gathering in the home-grown corn is the task of Hedwig and Johanna.

Ripe, red apples are plucked from the trees in their own orchard by Martina and Agatha.

Inset photos from 20-page booklet in the SJU Archives, 1768:6.



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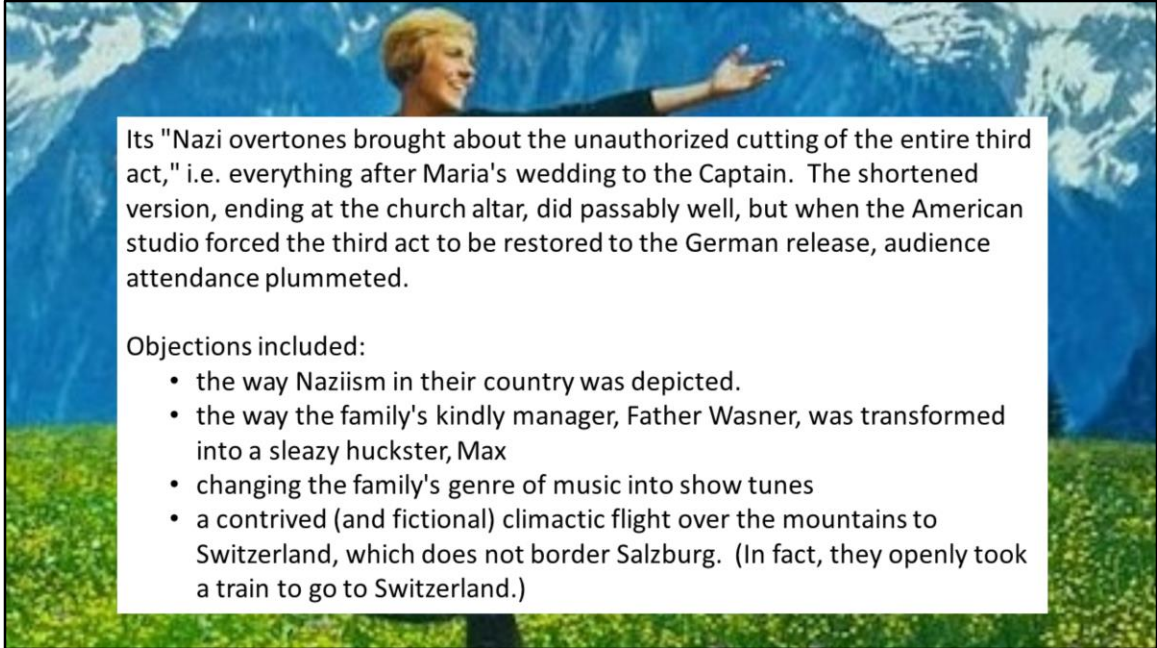


After its U.S. release, *The Sound of Music* opened overseas, the first American movie to be completely dubbed in a foreign language, both dialogue *and* music, in German, French, Italian, and Spanish.

It was a popular success in every country – except the two countries where the story originated, Austria and Germany.

There, it was compared to a much-loved 1956 film, *Die Trapp-Familie*, which provided the original inspiration for the Broadway musical, and its 1958 sequel, *Die Trapp-Familie in Amerika* —both films regarded in German-speaking Europe as the authoritative story.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Sound_of_Music_\(film\)#Release](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Sound_of_Music_(film)#Release)



Its "Nazi overtones brought about the unauthorized cutting of the entire third act," i.e. everything after Maria's wedding to the Captain. The shortened version, ending at the church altar, did passably well, but when the American studio forced the third act to be restored to the German release, audience attendance plummeted.

Objections included:

- the way Naziism in their country was depicted.
- the way the family's kindly manager, Father Wasner, was transformed into a sleazy huckster, Max
- changing the family's genre of music into show tunes
- a contrived (and fictional) climactic flight over the mountains to Switzerland, which does not border Salzburg. (In fact, they openly took a train to go to Switzerland.)

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A few years ago, the celebrated soprano, Lotte Lehmann, heard them in their Tyrolean home. She encouraged contralto Maria Augusta, mother, and her children, Hedwig (contralto), Johanna

"I am especially proud of the Baron's sons;" says Father Anthony, "they are good boys and they have not forgotten their old professors!"

The family lived in Austrian Tyrol until the invasion of Austria by the Nazis when their home was con-

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Something to think about the next time you visit the Chapel!

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/29468>
[1942-10-22, The Record, p. 2](#)



Compiled in March 2015 by
Peggy Landwehr Roske, CSB/SJU
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