

Sound of Music Website Content

Title: Sound of Music MUSIC BOX (SOM Music Box)

Main

Welcome to The Sound of Music MUSIC BOX — the unofficial time capsule and memorial of the greatest musical-movie ever created.

The Keeper (Sound of Music personal statement)

One summer night, my family sat down to watch our next family movie night film. This one was a staple movie, he had told us. The Sound of Music. I had never heard of it, but I was enticed by my own unfamiliarity with something supposedly so culturally significant.

Five years later, I cannot imagine myself without this movie. No movie has ever surpassed the love I feel for the Sound of Music. It has been embedded in my personality all these years, from its nostalgia to the authenticity of its music, and especially its heartwarming characters that have remained in my heart ever since I first watched the film.

In retrospect, I suspect that on that quiet summer night, I had, unbeknownst to me, felt the deep, imminent sensation that I was about to witness a consequential turning point in my life. This movie was my first grand introduction to a world of film, setting the stage for a world I would not revisit until my post-pandemic adolescent years—during which I'm still navigating my passions for the art of video and filmmaking. In this critical stage, I felt obliged to call tribute to the very inspiration that started it all.

Here is a digital time-capsule dedicated to a timeless movie that hopefully continues to leave its legacy as a timeless treasure in cinematic history. As its keeper, I will do my best to commemorate the Sound of Music's memory through this "music box."

- Hyaemhin Moon

Origins

The von Trapp Family

The Sound of Music, although based on the true story of the von Trapp family and Maria von Trapp, strays from the original historical events in many of its details.

The von Trapp family originated with Georg von Trapp, an Austro-Hungarian naval officer, and his first wife, Agatha. After Agatha's death, Georg married Maria Kutschera, a novice from Nonnberg Abbey. The family, initially bonding through music, began performing publicly after winning a Salzburg music competition in 1936. With the Nazi annexation of Austria in 1938, they

fled to the United States, where they continued their musical career as the Trapp Family Singers and settled in Vermont. Their story inspired the 1956 German film and the Broadway musical, culminating in the famous 1965 movie. Today, the Trapp Family Lodge in Vermont, operated by their descendants, remains a testament to their enduring legacy.

Their full story can be found in the book *The Story of the Trapp Family Singers*, written by none other than Maria von Trapp herself.

The making of "The Sound of Music" is a remarkable journey that began with this very book, inspiring a 1956 German film that later caught the attention of Broadway producers. Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II adapted the story into a stage musical, premiering in 1959 and becoming a huge success.

The Making

Read about how the contents of this music box came to be!

The film adaptation, directed by Robert Wise and produced by 20th Century Fox, was greenlit in the early 1960s. Julie Andrews, fresh from her success in "Mary Poppins," was cast as Maria, while Christopher Plummer was chosen to play Captain Georg von Trapp. Filming took place in various locations, including Salzburg, Austria, and the 20th Century Fox studios in California.

During production, the crew faced several challenges, including weather-related delays and logistical issues in Austria. However, the picturesque settings, combined with the memorable score by Rodgers and Hammerstein, contributed to the film's charm. The film's musical numbers, such as "Do-Re-Mi," "My Favorite Things," and "Climb Ev'ry Mountain," became iconic.

Lehman once said of the music: "[The Sound of Music] is not to be a picture in which we feel slightly apologetic every time anyone sings. On the contrary, our aim is to be slightly apologetic every time anyone talks."

After...

Released in 1965, "The Sound of Music" received critical acclaim and was a box office sensation. It won five Academy Awards, including Best Picture and Best Director. The film's success solidified its status as a classic, and it remains one of the most beloved musicals of all time, celebrated for its heartwarming story, captivating performances, and timeless music.

People

Director, Writer, & Composers

Robert Wise: The Original Craftsman
1914-2005

Chosen to direct the film in 1962 by American screenwriter Ernest Lehman. Getting Wise to take over this movie was not an easy feat, but Lehman knew he had to be the one directing the film. Wise's earlier projects included *The Curse of the Cat People* and *West Side Story*. After the *Sound of Music*, he directed a couple of other films (Star!, *Star Trek: The Motion Picture*, and more) until he shifted to a career as president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Science. Wise passed away from a heart attack in September 2005 at age 91.

Ernest Lehman: The Genius Behind the Script

Ernest Lehman, a renowned screenwriter in the mid-1960s, was already celebrated for his work on films like "North by Northwest" and "West Side Story" when he adapted "The Sound of Music" for the big screen. His exceptional screenplay was key to the film's immense success, blending humor, emotion, and music seamlessly. The adaptation became one of the most beloved musicals ever, cementing Lehman's reputation as a masterful storyteller. Although he passed away in 2005, Lehman's legacy endures, with his work continuing to influence screenwriters and filmmakers, and "The Sound of Music" standing as a testament to his remarkable talent.

Did you know? Although he never officially admitted to it, the reason Robert Wise agreed to direct *The Sound of Music* was because Lehman had smuggled a copy of his screenplay to Wise's agent! While Wise was reluctant to take on the musical-adaptation at first, he was pleasantly surprised after reading Lehman's script and decided the movie had potential.

*Picture of letter

Caption: Wise's letter to playwright Robert Anderson (who was working on *The Sand of Pebbles* with him) in October 1963

Rodgers and Hammerstein

Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II, the legendary musical theater duo, were responsible for composing the music and lyrics for *The Sound of Music*. Their collaboration on this classic musical resulted in memorable songs such as "Edelweiss," "My Favorite Things," and "Do-Re-Mi," which have become iconic in the realm of musical theater. Their work on *The Sound of Music* not only showcased their talent for creating emotionally resonant and melodic compositions but also cemented their legacy as pioneering figures in American musical theater.

Their company, The Rodgers & Hammerstein Organization, still continues to play a crucial role in producing and licensing their musicals, ensuring that the legacy of their works is preserved and that they continue to be performed and appreciated by new audiences.

The Cast: Where are they now?

Julie Andrews (Maria von Trapp)
(1935 - Present)

In 1965, Julie Andrews was a rising star when she played Maria in "The Sound of Music." Having just achieved significant success with her role in "Mary Poppins," for which she won an Academy Award, Andrews brought a mix of warmth, charm, and a powerful singing voice to the role of Maria. Her portrayal of the spirited governess who brings joy and music to the von Trapp family captured audiences' hearts and solidified her status as a leading actress in Hollywood. Andrews' performance, characterized by her clear, melodic voice and engaging screen presence, was a key factor in the film's enduring popularity and critical acclaim.

As of today, Julie Andrews is celebrated as a legendary figure in the entertainment industry, known for her extensive career in film, stage, and television. After "The Sound of Music," she continued to take on diverse roles in movies like "Victor/Victoria" and the "Princess Diaries" series. Although her singing career was impacted by a vocal surgery in 1997, which limited her ability to sing, Andrews has remained active in the industry. She has authored children's books, provided voice work in films like "Despicable Me" and "Shrek," and hosted the Netflix series "Julie's Greenroom." Andrews' legacy as Maria von Trapp endures, and she is widely respected for her contributions to entertainment and her graceful resilience in the face of personal and professional challenges.

Christopher Plummer (Baron von Trapp)
(1929-2021)

In 1965, Christopher Plummer starred as Captain Georg von Trapp in "The Sound of Music," bringing depth and gravitas to the role of the strict but loving father. Although Plummer initially viewed the film with some disdain, his performance was pivotal in balancing the film's emotional and musical elements. Over the decades, Plummer evolved into a highly respected and versatile actor, known for a wide range of roles in film, television, and theater. He earned critical acclaim and numerous awards, including an Academy Award for "Beginners" in 2012, becoming the oldest actor to win an Oscar at that time. Until his passing in 2021, Plummer continued to work prolifically, leaving behind a legacy as one of the finest actors of his generation.

Sound of MUSIC

Covers

Edelweiss (Hyaemhin Moon)

The Soundtrack

1. The Sound of Music

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encrypted-media; gyroscope; picture-in-picture; web-share"
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Did you know? When the crew was filming this scene, the cameramen sat on helicopters to get the overhead shot. Not only that, but some of the grass was also a bit yellow so they were colored in green electronically and the birch tree trunks you see were set props carried all the way up to the hills by the crew.

2. Maria

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3. I Have Confidence

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4. Sixteen Going on Seventeen

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5. My Favorite Things

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6. Do-Re-Mi

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7. The Lonely Goatherd

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8. Edelweiss

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Did you know? Though many believe “Edelweiss” to be an authentic Austrian folk song, it was actually the last song Rodgers and Hammerstein ever jointly wrote before Hammerstein died in August 1960. Supposedly, he had known he was dying while writing this song, making it all the more emotional.

9. So Long, Farewell

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10. Climb Ev’ry Mountain

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Snapshots (Gallery)

Behind the Scenes

- Photos

Art

- My artwork

Resources:

The Sound of Music by Julia Antopol Hirsch

NBC|ABC|20/20: News, Mystery - The Untold Story of “The Sound of Music”