

STEEL VALLEY BEACON ARTS

2022 PRODUCTION

AUDITION PACK

Contact manyja@hotmail.co.uk

Auditions

At Christ Church, 586 Manchester Rd, Stocksbridge.

Full Company Thursday 18th of November 7pm to
8.30pm

Main cast auditions 20th/21st November

At Christ Church.

Email Mandy Aitken for an audition slot.

**To be performed June 17th, 18th, 24th and 25th
2022.**

The Sound of Music needs very little introduction. A firm family favourite, the Rodgers & Hammerstein musical is based on the true story of the von Trapp family singers, set in Austria in the build-up to World War II, and Maria, the free-spirited, would-be nun, who comes to look after them as their governess.

Steel Valley Beacon Arts will perform this over 2/3 weekends at the end of June 2022. We hope to take the show on tour to Sheffield Cathedral and to St John's Ranmoor.

To audition please prepare to sing

Maria Last verse and chorus of "Lonely Goat Herd"

Mother Abbess "Climb Every Mountain"

Captain von Trapp “Edelweiss”

Liesl and Ralph “16 Going on 17”

Von Trapp children “Do Re Me”

Baroness Schrader/Max Detweiler “Edelweiss”

Named Nuns “How do You Solve a Problem Like Maria”

PLEASE SEE A LIST OF SHORT MONOLOGUES TO LEARN

Character descriptions and casting requirements.

If you wish to be in the chorus please attend the company auditions on Thursday 18th of November at 7pm to 8.30pm. Actors auditioning for main parts should also attend this audition.

Our auditions will be run by Mandy Aitken, our Director and Daniel Timmins our Musical Director.

If for any reason you cannot attend the auditions please get in touch to arrange another time.

Some parts will be double cast.

We will inform you of your part before Christmas and then make scripts/musical scores available.

Rehearsals will commence on January 14th 2022, from January to March we will rehearse on Friday evenings at Christ Church 7pm to 9pm. From April to June rehearsals will take place on Tuesdays and Friday 7pm to 9pm. There will also be some weekend rehearsals.

COST - The Sound of Music is an expensive show to produce we will have several fund-raising events that cast members will be expected to support.

You must be a member of SVBA £5 per year and pay a monthly fee of £20 (this covers all and any rehearsals). We have a policy which allows us to support anyone who may be struggling financially so please talk to us if you need help.

Character Biographies and Requirements (Note: All age ranges listed will be treated as a guide only and are playing ages rather than genuine age.)

Maria Rainer (Soprano/Mezzo Soprano) A postulant at Nonnberg Abbey, young, free-spirited, warm and kind. She is from the Austrian countryside, an orphan, who has used her resourcefulness, intelligence and inner confidence to overcome the difficulties of her early life. There is part of her that wants sheltering from the uncertainties of the outside world as well, and that, coupled with her absolute faith in God's will, is what has led her to seek a life as a nun. The actor must have versatility, a powerful singing voice, a great sense of natural humour and the ability to move well. Some dance is required. Playing age: 20-35

Captain Georg von Trapp (Baritone) A retired Austrian naval captain. Educated, polished and military in the way he runs his life, his home and his children's lives. The father of seven, ranging in age from six to sixteen, he is a widower. When we meet him, he is still in mourning over the death of his wife; his unconscious defence has been to push his children away and remove himself from the home that reminds him too much of what he has lost, resulting in a cool, detached exterior. Underneath, he is warm, understanding, and as much in need of love himself as are his children. The actor must be able to move well. Playing age: 30s - 50

Max Detweiler (Baritone) Charming, sophisticated and enjoys the good life, which he can't afford, so he avails himself of the Captain's largesse at every opportunity. He is practical and sees the coming of Nazism as unavoidable, so one must "accommodate", which brings him into conflict with the Captain. Ultimately, he proves himself a true and loyal friend to the family. Playing age: **25+**

Elsa Schrader (Mezzo Soprano/Soprano) A baroness of taste and elegance; she is sophisticated and worldly. Like Max, she will find a way to accommodate the coming Anschluss. She tolerates the children, but would send them off to boarding school, so that he and the captain could spend most of their time in Vienna. She loves the Captain in a measured way; he represents good social standing and a continuation of the comfortable, luxurious lifestyle she enjoys. The actor must be able to move well. Playing age: 25- 45

Mother Abbess (powerful Mezzo Soprano/Soprano, wide vocal range required) Motherly, understanding, authoritative, she is Maria's guiding light. Her years have brought her wisdom, patience and inner confidence. Playing age: 35+

Other Featured Adult Characters Three Featured Nuns at the Abbey

Sister Berthe (Alto) Mistress of Novices, she is the most critical, finding all the faults in Maria's conduct, and may be a little pompous. The actor must be able to move

well. Playing age: 20 - 60

Sister Margaretta (Mezzo Soprano) Mistress of Postulants, she has a good sense of humour, and so appreciates what is humorous in Maria's conduct. The actor must be able to move well. **Playing age: 20 – 60**

Sister Sophia (Soprano) More inclined to notice the positive aspects of Maria's conduct (although all the Nuns are frustrated with Maria's inability to settle into the lifestyle of the Abbey). The actor must be able to move well. Playing age: 20 – 60

Rolf Gruber (Tenor) Rolf is a telegraph delivery boy on bicycle, later drawn in to the Nazi youth movement. He and Liesl have fallen in love and they look for every opportunity to see one another. The actor should ideally be a strong dancer/mover. Playing age: 16 - 25

Franz (non-singing role) The von Trapp family's butler, formerly the Captain's Orderly on ship. He is formal, but not without spirit; his loyalties move swiftly to the Fascist cause. A strong actor is required for this role. Playing age: 30+

Frau Schmidt (non-singing role) The housekeeper, rather stoic, but with a guarded sense of humour; she knows how to run the household as the Captain wishes it. A strong actor is required for this role. Playing age: 30+

Herr Zeller (non-singing role) Bureaucratic neighbour who becomes an early Nazi official. He is critical of the Captain's loyalties to the old Austria and ultimately, as an official of the Third Reich, he leads the move to take the Captain in the Nazi naval service; hardnosed and inflexible. A strong actor is required for this role. Playing age: 40+

Admiral von Schreiber (non-singing role) Admiral of the Navy of the Third Reich, he arrives to escort the Captain to his enforced commission. He is more flexible and accommodating than Herr Zeller. A strong actor is required for this role. Playing age: 55+

The von Trapp Children (We will consider double casting or adding extra children)

Liesl (Mezzo Soprano) The oldest child, blossoming into a woman, and smitten by Rolf. She also has a maternal edge and cares deeply for her younger siblings. Initially, she thinks herself too old to need a governess; she discovers otherwise. The actor should ideally be a strong dancer/mover. Playing age: 16 - 25

Friedrich (Playing age: 14-18) Proud to be "a boy" in this family of mostly girls, with

an often-absent father.

Louisa (Playing age: 13-17) The trickster of the family, full of mischief.

Kurt (Playing age: 10-15) Gentle, and a peace-maker., He dances the Laendler with Maria. The actor must have some dance/movement ability.

Brigitta (Playing age: 9-14) Smart, reads a lot, always tells the truth, even when it may be inappropriate

Marta (Playing age: 5-14) Very much the little princess; pink is her favourite colour

Gretl (Playing age: 6-10) Very cute, just wants to be loved.

Ensemble Men and women (Playing age: 18 – 60+) To play nuns, monks, priests, Nazis, novices, postulants, guests at the Captain's party, Salzburg citizens and contestants at the Festival Concert.

MONOLOGUES

Please choose ONE of the following monologues to prepare for auditions. Select a monologue that closest fits the role you are interested in. When you audition, your monologue should be prepared and polished, and **memorized**. Show us how you interpret the character.

MARIA

Well, you see, the sky was so blue today and everything was so green and fragrant, I just had to be part of it. And the Untersberg kept leading me higher and higher as though it wanted me to go right through the clouds with it. Mother, I could never be lost up there. That's my mountain. I was brought up on it. It was the mountain that led me to you. When I was a child, I would come down the mountain and climb a tree and look over into your garden. I'd see the sisters at work and I'd hear them sing on their way to vespers. Which brings me to another transgression, I was singing out there today without permission.

MARIA

Dear Father, now I know why You've sent me here. To help these children prepare themselves for a new mother. And I pray that this will become a happy family in Thy sight. God bless the Captain, God bless Liesl and Friedrich, God bless Louisa, Brigitta, Marta and little Gretl. And, oh, I forgot the other boy. What's his name? Well,

God Bless Whats-his-name. God bless the Reverend Mother, Sister Margareta (sees Liesl leave the room) and everybody at Nonnberg Abbey. And no, dear God, about Liesl. Help her to know that I am her friend, and help her to tell me what she's been up to. Help me to be understanding so that I may guide her footsteps. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, Amen.

CAPTAIN VON TRAPP

Fraulein Maria, I don't know how much the Mother Abbess has told you. You are the twelfth in a long line of governesses, who have come to look after my children since their mother died. I trust that you will be an improvement on the last one. She stayed only two hours.

There's nothing wrong with the children – only the governesses. They were completely unable to maintain discipline. Without it, this house cannot be properly run. You will please remember that, Fraulein. Every morning you will drill the children in their studies.

ROLFE

Well, let's see. I could come here by mistake – with a telegram for Colonel Schneider. He's here from Berlin staying with – Oh, no ones supposed to know he's here. Don't tell your father, now ... Some people think we ought to be German, and they're very mad at those who don't think so. They're getting ready to.. Well let's hope your father doesn't get into trouble.

FRAU SCHMIDT

He's leaving for Vienna in the morning ... the last time he visited the Baroness he stayed for a month. I shouldn't be saying this, not to you. I mean, I don't know you well but if you ask me, the Captain is thinking seriously of marrying the women before Summers over.

LIESL

I was out taking a walk and somebody locked the doors earlier than usual and I didn't want to wake everybody up. So when I saw your window open. You're not going to tell Father are you? That's how we always get into this room and play tricks on the governess. Louisa can make it with a whole jar of spiders in her hand. I told you today I didn't need a governess, well maybe I do.

MOTHER ABBESS

Why did you do this? Maria, our abbey is not to be used as an escape. What is it you

can't face? Are you in love with Captain Von Trapp? Maria, the love between a man and a woman is holy, too. The first time we talked together, you told me you remembered your father and mother before they died. Maria, you were born out of happiness, of their love. And my child, you have a great capacity to love. What you must find out is, how does God want you to spend your love. My daughter, if you love this man, it doesn't mean you love God less. You must find out. You must go back.

Children please learn to recite

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 forever

Edelweiss, Edelweiss

Bless my homeland forever.

The Baroness

Georg, those mountains – they're magnificent. And that sweet little village. You know, Georg. You're quite an experience for me. Somewhere in you is a fascinating man. Occasionally, I catch a glimpse of him, and when I do, he's exciting. I'm beginning to understand you better now that I see you here. You know, you're a little like those mountains – except that you keep moving. How can you be away from this place as much as you are? I like it here very much.

MAX

Georg, you know I have no political convictions. Can I help it if other people have? If the Nazis come, I'll do anyone else would do – just sit and wait for it to blow over.

Maria, he must pretend to work with these people. I admire the way he feels but you must convince him, he has to compromise. You must talk to him, If these children don't sing in the festival, well it will reflect badly on Austria, and it wouldn't do me any good either.

Steel Valley Beacon Arts (SVBA) - The Sound of Music Participant Contract for Rehearsal and Performance This document forms an agreement between Steel Valley Beacon Arts and the individual attending and working in rehearsal and performance.

Attendance - The success of a musical depends on the full commitment of all involved. It is imperative that all cast members attend all rehearsals scheduled for their part. It is difficult for cast members to catch up on material that is missed, due to the organic and constantly changing nature of rehearsing and perfecting a show. If you miss rehearsal, you may, at the discretion of the production team, be prevented from participating in the show.

Financial Responsibility - By managing a tight budget for rehearsal and productions, SVBA manages to keep the cost of rehearsal/workshops fees to a minimum. To cover costs we ask for: • A £15 refundable deposit for scripts/musical score • Membership fee of £5 per year • Monthly fee of £20

Behaviour and Bullying - Anyone involved in the musical will be held to a very high standard of behaviour and attitude both in and out of rehearsal. Disrespect of anyone will not be tolerated. Everyone has the right to feel physically and emotionally safe at SVBA rehearsals and performance.

Every individual should do everything they can to treat others with respect and create and maintain a physically and emotionally safe environment. Bullying is defined as intentionally aggressive behaviour that can take many forms (verbal, physical, social, emotional, or cyber - or any combination of these). Bullying can consist of one person bullying another or a group of people against one lone person. Such behaviour will not be tolerated.

Dress code - Unless asked to do otherwise by the Director, please wear a T shirt (full length), or polo shirt, or hoody or sweatshirt and track suit bottoms, leggings or comfortable trousers. Shorts are acceptable but they must be to the knee. No crop tops, sliders or flip flops.

Actors' responsibility I understand that my attendance at every rehearsal is critical, and that I may be cut from a scene or removed from the show if I miss rehearsal. I understand that bullying and disrespectful actions and attitudes will not be tolerated, and that I may be removed from the show if I am not being kind and courteous to everyone involved - both in person and online. I understand that adhering to the dress code is a requirement of being involved in this production.

Name of participant (Print name) _____ Signature _____
Date _____

Parent's/Guardian responsibility I have fully read the summary of SVBA code of conduct summarised above and have discussed the expectations for attendance, dress code, payment of fees and behaviour with my child. I understand that if my child does not follow these policies, they may be removed from the production.

Name of Parent/Guardian (Print name) _____ Signature _____
Date _____

SVBA has policies covering Safeguarding, Health and Safety, GDPR which you can access in full on our website or on the membership portal. SVBA Participant Contract for Rehearsal and Performance

www.steel-valley-beacon-arts.co.uk or email steelvalleybeaconarts1@gmail.com