

My Favorite Songs

MARIA
VON TRAPP'S
CHILDHOOD FOLK SONGS



Austrian Folk Songs Translated by Maria von Trapp
with Photos and Stories from her Life

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*Most of the members of the von Trapp Family
were not only endowed with the gift of music but were also talented in the arts.
The family's creativity runs the gamut from sculpting, painting, weaving, illuminated
manuscripts and photography to book illustration, as is demonstrated
by the drawings in this book by Maria's niece, Georgia von Trapp.*



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Dedication

To "God from whom all Blessings flow"

*To our Father, our two Mothers, our Teachers
and all of my Sisters and Brothers*

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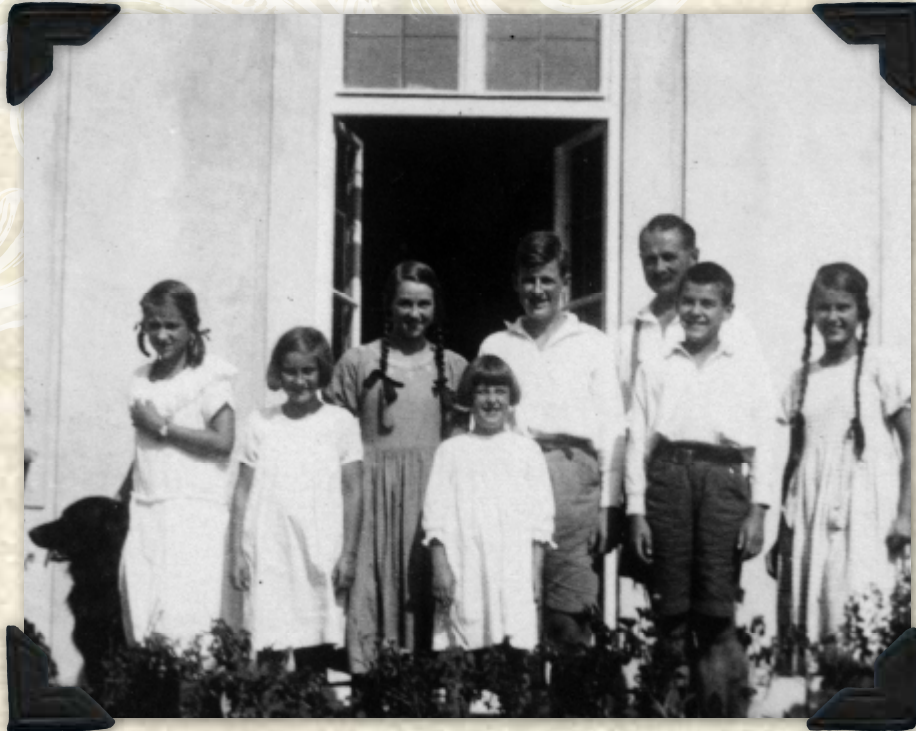


Prelude

"A Song is not a song until you sing it"

—Rogers and Hammerstein

Our father, Baron von Trapp, once wrote to his cousin in America, "My children sing all day long!" That was certainly true. We loved to sing simple Austrian folk songs and add second parts to them. They usually began with one person inventing a verse, then another person would pick up the story. Austrian folksongs are very melodious. Some of the songs are silly and some are soothing. I hope you and your family enjoy these tunes and stories from my life.

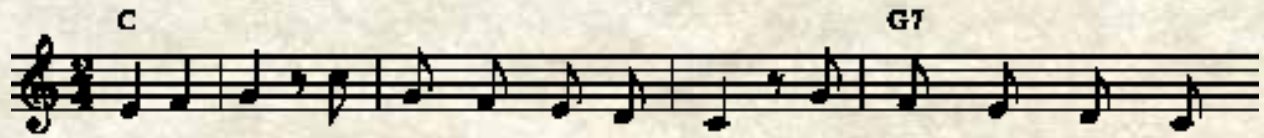


A, A, A THE CAT
WENT ON HER WAY

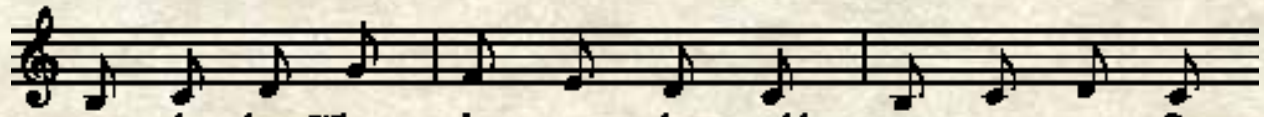
The text of this song is designed to teach young children their vowels—A, E, I, O, U and sometimes Y! Singing a song has always helped us to remember, and for this purpose I chose a very mischievous cat. You can see from this photograph that we loved to wear braids in our hair. When we became eighteen years of age we had to wear our braids up. This was a sign that we were no longer young mischievous girls but were now young ladies.

A, A, A, the Cat Went on Her Way

C G7




A, a, a, the cat went on her way, But then re - turned with -
E, e, e, oh, cat where is my key? May - be you took it



out de - lay, Where she went she could nev - er say, O,
se - cret - ly and put it where I can - not see? Oh,

F C/B F C F G C



what a day, oh what a day, the cat went on her way,
what will be, oh what will be, Oh, cat where is my key?





BLUE JEANS

This photo of us dressed up like U-boat sailors was taken on the day my father's submarine sank the *Leon Gambetta*—making him a famous war hero. At the end of the war our father was even made a knight! This song is from that time when Austria was still a monarchy and had a navy. Back then the men of our country wore *lederhosen* (leather shorts) and it seemed that the creator of this song wanted pants like the sailors wore.

Originally the song says: "I have to have myself made some blue pants, too." In those days you could not buy ready-made trousers or shirts, you had to go to a tailor to have them made. I changed the idea of sailor trousers to "blue jeans" as everyone nowadays wants to have blue jeans.

Blue Jeans

C

I want to have, I've got to have, I must have

G G7 C G7

blue jeans like ev-'ry-one else. Faded blue jeans, they look

C G7 C

real - ly cool and when wet from rain al - so feel cool. I want to

G G7 C

have, I've got to have, I must have blue jeans like ev-'ry-one else.





GOOD OLD STORK

This photo was taken in Klosterneuburg in 1922. In the back from left to right are Rupert, myself, Agathe, and Werner. Sitting in the front are Johanna, Martina, and Hedwig. When our mother expected a new baby she told us, "Children, the Stork will bring us another baby soon and we are all looking forward to it." Can you imagine how busy the Stork was in our family since we eventually had ten children in it? He must have earned a lot of "frequent flier" mileage! We never questioned the fact that the Stork brings babies to families. We loved to sing the "Good Old Stork" song about the Stork bringing a new baby to a waiting mom.

Good Old Stork

B \flat *B \flat 7* *Fmin* *B \flat 7* *Fmin*

The good old stork on one long leg looks in the mea - ow

B \flat *Fmin*

for a babe and when at last he finds one, he

B \flat 7 *B \flat*

takes it quick - ly to a wait - ing mom.

