## from The Sound of Music Words by Oscar Hammerstein II Music by Richard Rodgers

Maria Rainer, studying to be a nun in an Austrian abbey before World War II, seemed miscast in the stern religious setting. A wise Mother Abbess instead assigned her to serve temporarily as governess for the seven motherless children of Baron von Trapp. Maria, as the world now knows — thanks to Rodgers and Hammerstein's The Sound of Music — married the Baron and imbued the entire family with her love of life and of music. When the Nazis forced the Trapps to flee Austria, they came eventually to America, and for years, as The Trapp Family Singers, performed their songs for audiences, until the children married and settled down in many different places. In the show, Maria (first played on Broadway by Mary Martin and by Julie Andrews in the movie) uses "Do-Re-Mi" to teach the children the musical scale. It's easy to see why it has become one of the most popular "lessons" in musical history!



