***THE SOUND OF MUSIC***

**SOARS AT THE FORT**

SALEM, NY — Director Tim Nelson and his adult acting troupe from The Rose Center Theater in Westminster, California, return to Fort Salem Theater for their annual summer outing the weekend of June 24-26 with Rodgers and Hammerstein’s classic musical, *The Sound of Music.* Once a year the group fills the Salem stage with the most popular musicals in the literature, including past productions of *Carousel, Man of La Mancha, Phantom,* and *The Secret Garden.*

*The Sound of Music* is based on the memoir of [Maria von Trapp](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maria_von_Trapp), [The Story of the Trapp Family Singers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Story_of_the_Trapp_Family_Singers). Set in Austria on the eve of the [Anschluss](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anschluss) in 1938, the musical tells the story of Maria, who takes a job as governess to a large family while she struggles with her decision to become a nun. She falls in love with the children, and eventually their widowed father, Captain von Trapp. He is ordered to accept a commission in the German navy, but he opposes the Nazis. He and Maria decide on a plan to flee Austria with the children. Many songs from the musical have become [standards](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Standard_(music)), such as "[Edelweiss](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edelweiss_(song))", "[My Favorite Things](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/My_Favorite_Things_(song))", "[Climb Ev'ry Mountain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climb_Ev%27ry_Mountain)", "[Do-Re-Mi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Do-Re-Mi)", and the title song "[The Sound of Music](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Sound_of_Music_(song))”.

The original [Broadway](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Broadway_theatre) production, starring [Mary Martin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary_Martin) and [Theodore Bikel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theodore_Bikel), opened on November 16, 1959. It won five [Tony Awards](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/14th_Tony_Awards), including Best Musical, out of nine nominations. The show has enjoyed numerous productions and revivals since then. It was adapted as a [1965 film musical](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Sound_of_Music_(film)) starring [Julie Andrews](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Julie_Andrews) and [Christopher Plummer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christopher_Plummer), which won five [Academy Awards](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Academy_Award). The Sound of Music was the last musical written by [Rodgers and Hammerstein](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rodgers_and_Hammerstein); Oscar Hammerstein died of cancer nine months after the Broadway premiere.

Most reviews of the original Broadway production were favorable. [Richard Watts, Jr.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Watts,_Jr.) of the [New York Post](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_Post) stated that the show had "strangely gentle charm that is wonderfully endearing. The Sound of Music strives for nothing in the way of smash effects, substituting instead a kind of gracious and unpretentious simplicity.”The [New York World-Telegram and Sun](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_World-Telegram) pronounced The Sound of Music "the loveliest musical imaginable. It places Rodgers and Hammerstein back in top form as melodist and lyricist.” [Brooks Atkinson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brooks_Atkinson) of [The New York Times](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_New_York_Times) praised Mary Martin's performance, saying "she still has the same … glowing personality that makes music sound intimate and familiar" and stated that "the best of the Sound of Music is Rodgers and Hammerstein in good form.”

In addition to the California actors, Nelson, who also works at Albany’s Park Playhouse, has assembled a cast of some of the region’s most accomplished young actors, including Ariana Papaleo and George Franklin.

*The Sound of Music* plays Friday and Saturday, June 24-25 at 8 PM, and Sunday, June 26, at 2 PM. Discounted tickets are available for seniors and young people twelve and under. More information is available on the theater’s website (*[fortsalemtheater.com](http://fortsalemtheater.com)*) or by calling the theater at (518) 854-9200.