

above this are two large French windows, opening on a terrace. Through these windows can be seen a mountain not too far in the distance. Between the two windows is a magnificent porcelain stove. D.R. is a door to the CAPTAIN'S library. Upstage of this door a circular stairway curves to a second-floor landing, which forms a small balcony over the back of the living room. There is an exit, R., on the balcony, presumably leading to the other rooms on this floor. On the left of the balcony we see the first few steps of a curved staircase to the third floor. On the ground floor, upstage under the balcony, are double doors opening on the hallway which leads to the outer door of the house, off R. In the curve of the staircase are a small table and a side chair. Stage Left there is a sofa with a single chair at its right. A moment after the curtain has risen CAPTAIN GEORG VON TRAPP enters on the balcony from the R. He is dressed informally and is scanning a letter which he is holding in his hand. He stops at the railing of the balcony, takes a silver boatswain's whistle from his pocket and blows a distinctive signal on it. He waits a few seconds and, as no one answers, he repeats the signal. Then he starts down the stairs. Halfway down, seeing no one has appeared, he blows a different signal. Almost immediately, FRANZ, the butler, enters D.L. He is a man of middle-age who was previously the CAPTAIN'S orderly in the Imperial Navy. He is dressed in a butler's working apron, is wearing gloves and is carrying a metal tray and a polishing cloth.

FRANZ: Yes, sir?

CAPTAIN: I was calling the housekeeper and she didn't answer. Do you know why?

FRANZ: Sometimes she doesn't hear, sir.

FRAU SCHMIDT: (*Entering D.R.*) I'm sorry, sir, I was an

swering the telephone. Good day, sir. We're happy to have you home again.

CAPTAIN: Why did the last governess leave?

FRAU SCHMIDT: Who knows? She just said, "I've had enough of this," and walked out.

CAPTAIN: Why? Was Louisa playing tricks again?— Putting toads in her bed?

FRAU SCHMIDT: She didn't complain of that, sir.

CAPTAIN: (*Crosses L., reading letter*) Well, there's another one coming today. And this one can't walk out.

FRAU SCHMIDT: Oh?

CAPTAIN: She's coming from Nonnberg Abbey with orders to stay until September.

FRAU SCHMIDT: I hope you'll be at home for a time, sir.

CAPTAIN: Just until tomorrow. The telephone call—was it for me?

FRAU SCHMIDT: No, sir, it was for Franz. Before you arrived there was a call from Vienna—a Frau Schraeder. I have the number in the pantry.

CAPTAIN: (*Crosses D.R.*) I know the number. Oh, I shall be back in about a month with some guests.

FRAU SCHMIDT: Yes, sir. Do you know how many, sir?

CAPTAIN: Just two. Herr Detweiler—

FRANZ: Ah, Herr Detweiler.

CAPTAIN: And Frau Schraeder. (*He exits D.R.*)

FRANZ: Who wanted me on the telephone?

FRAU SCHMIDT: It was the post office. They've got a telegram for you. It will be delivered at seven o'clock.

FRANZ: Seven o'clock? That gives me five hours to be nervous.

FRAU SCHMIDT: (*Going up stairs*) With that scatter-brained boy delivering telegrams—

FRANZ: Well, that's one thing people are saying—if the Germans did take over Austria, we'd have efficiency.

FRAU SCHMIDT: Don't let the Captain hear you say that.
(The CAPTAIN whistles offstage. FRAU SCHMIDT stops short, bristling.) He didn't whistle for us when his wife was alive.

FRANZ: He's being the captain of a ship again.
(The CAPTAIN whistles again.)

FRAU SCHMIDT: I can't bear being whistled for—it's humiliating.

FRANZ: In the Imperial Navy, the bo's'un always whistled for us. *(We hear the doorbell.)*

FRAU SCHMIDT: But I wasn't in the Imperial Navy.

FRANZ: Too bad. You could have made a fortune. *(He exits into the hallway toward the outer door. FRAU SCHMIDT comes down the stairs and exits into the library D.R. FRANZ re-enters, followed by MARIA.)* You will wait here. *(He exits D.R. MARIA is wearing a dress that has been designed by an enemy of the female sex, and an unbecoming hat. She is carrying a small carpet bag and a guitar in its case. She comes down into the room timidly and looks around in awe at the handsome embellishments. She puts the guitar case down on the floor and starts toward the windows, touching the porcelain stove admiringly as she passes it. In the distance we hear the Abbey bells. She kneels and bows her head in a brief prayer. The CAPTAIN enters from the library D.R., the letter still in his hand. As he sees MARIA in prayer, he stops. MARIA crosses herself and rises.)*

CAPTAIN: I'm Captain von Trapp. You are Fraulein. . .

MARIA: Maria—Maria Rainer.

CAPTAIN: Now, Fraulein, as to your duties here—*(He suddenly becomes aware of her dress.)* Would you mind stepping over there? *(He indicates a spot in the center*