

children. Liesl, quickly, find the children. Quickly—
(*MARIA exits to third floor. MAX comes downstairs. LIESL exits on balcony. CAPTAIN enters U.C. with VON SCHREIBER and ZELLER. VON SCHREIBER is in the uniform of a German admiral.*)

CAPTAIN: This way, Admiral, we can talk in here. Admiral von Schreiber, may I present Herr Detweiler. . . Max I think you know Herr Zeller. Would you gentlemen care to sit down?

ZELLER: (*U.R.C.*) We are here on business.

VON SCHREIBER: (*L.C.*) Captain von Trapp, a telegram was sent to you three days ago.

CAPTAIN: (*C*) I have just received it. I've been away. I've only been home half an hour.

MAX: Captain von Trapp has just returned from his honeymoon, sir.

VON SCHREIBER: Congratulations, Captain.

CAPTAIN: Thank you, sir.

VON SCHREIBER: Your record in the war is very well remembered by us, Captain.

CAPTAIN: It's good to hear you say that, sir.

ZELLER: Let's get to the point.

VON SCHREIBER: (*To ZELLER*) If you don't mind. (*To CAPTAIN.*) In our Navy we hold you in very high regard. That explains why I am here. Having had no answer to our telegram, the High Command has sent me in person.

CAPTAIN: That's very flattering, Admiral. But I've had no time to consider—

(*MARIA enters on balcony. She is carrying two Festival programs and is in her Concert costume.*)

VON SCHREIBER: I am here to present you with your commission,—

CAPTAIN: I am deeply conscious of the honor, sir, but—

VON SCHREIBER: And your orders are to report immediately to the naval base at Bremerhaven.

MARIA: (*Coming downstairs, with feigned innocence*)
Immediately? Oh, I'm afraid that would be impossible
for you, Georg.

CAPTAIN: (*Crosses D.R.*) Admiral, may I present my wife,
the Baroness von Trapp, Admiral von Schreiber.

VON SCHREIBER: Madame!

MARIA: (*Crosses to VON SCHREIBER*) What I meant sir, is
that we are all singing in the Kaltzberg Festival Friday
night. (*Children start entering on balcony.*) You see—
the Von Trapp Family Singers—here in the program.
(*She hands a program to VON SCHREIBER, then to*
ZELLER.)

MAX: It's been arranged by the Ministry of Education and
Culture.

VON SCHREIBER: Friday night? This is Wednesday. That's
only a matter of two days. It might be possible. You
could report to Bremerhaven by Monday. . .

ZELLER: (*Protesting*) Admiral!

VON SCHREIBER: Is there a telephone I could use?

MAX: This way, Admiral. If there is any question, perhaps
adding the weight of my voice— (*They exit D.L.*)

ZELLER: (*To CAPTAIN*) It gives here only the names of
the children.

CAPTAIN: (*Quickly*) It says the Von Trapp Family Singers.
I'm head of the Von Trapp Family.

ZELLER: It's hard to believe, Captain von Trapp—you
singing in a concert.

CAPTAIN: (*Coolly*) Herr Zeller, you may believe what you
choose.

ZELLER: (*Crosses to CAPTAIN*) It doesn't say here what
you're going to sing. What are you going to sing,
Captain?

CAPTAIN: It's your privilege to come to the concert and
hear us.