

## For Immediate Release

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## **The Rose is alive with *The Sound of Music*** ***Beloved musical takes the stage at Omaha's Rose Theater***

(OMAHA, Nebr.) The world's most beloved musical bursts onto The Rose stage, alive with ***The Sound of Music***. Most recently staged by The Rose in 2011, *The Sound of Music* tells the spirited romantic musical story of Maria and the von Trapp Family. The popular musical features award-winning music by Richard Rodgers, lyrics by Oscar Hammerstien II, including "My Favority Things," "Do-Re-Mi," "Climb Ev'ry Mountain," "Edelweiss," and the title song, "The Sound of Music."

"We are very excited about this piece, not only because of the classic and very, very beautiful music that we are all familiar with, but also, I think that ***The Sound of Music*** has a really important message about the power of family and how we show up for one another, particularly during difficult times," says Rose artistic director and Matthew Gutschick, who also directs the production.

Veteran Rose actor Lauren Krupski will play the endearing role of Maria, the young nun struggling to find her place in the convent before being sent to serve as governess for the von Trapp children. Krupski has noted that the role of Maria is one that she has dreamed of playing for most of her career. "I grew up with the movie musical, and it's just always been my dream to play Maria," she says. Jay Srygley makes his Rose debut in the role of Captain von Trapp. Other notable cast members include Jennifer Gilg as Baroness Elsa Schraeder and Dave Wingert as Max Detweile. Gammy Watkins provides her lofty vocal talents as the inspirational Mother Abbess.

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Thirteen youth actors take on the roles of the von Trapp children. Most of the children have been double-cast as the mischievous musical family. The cast has been rehearsing since early May in preparation for the June 3 opening.

The cast will be accompanied by a live orchestra led by music director Jerry Brabec. The 18-piece ensemble is one of the largest The Rose has engaged in recent years and features brass, woodwinds, percussion and strings -- including a harp.

***The Sound of Music*** was the final collaboration of Rodgers and Hammerstein, and has won the hearts of audiences worldwide. When Maria is dispatched from the convent to serve as governess to the seven children of the von Trapp family, her arrival is met with resistance. But Maria's soaring spirit and love for music is a winning combination that helps the family unite as they face the threat of a Nazi-occupied Austria.

"It is easy to forget that when we meet the von Trapp children and Captain von Trapp, they are still suffering from the loss of their mother," Gutschick explains. "This is a piece that I think, while it is celebratory and wonderful, there are some things about it that I think are deeply rooted in pain. How we navigate that with authenticity and with courage -- presenting this show at this moment in time as our community is coming out of this pandemic that paused all of our lives -- that's the message that I think will resonate with audiences."

"I think a big musical like this that is very clear-eyed about the fact that the world isn't perfect, but that we each can bring our own moments of perfection and generosity and love to the improvement of that world, that's something that I think is a really important message," says Gutschick.

The enduring story set to a stirring musical score make *The Sound of Music* the perfect family outing for audiences of all ages. The 2-1/2 hour show will include an intermission. ***The Sound of Music*** will be presented June 3 - 19, 2022, with performances Fridays at 7 pm, Saturdays at 2 pm, and Sundays at 2 pm. Interpretation and captioning for the hearing impaired and audio description services will be offered at the 2 pm show on Saturday, June 11. Tickets are \$27 main floor, \$22 balcony. Rose members receive discounted tickets.

***The Sound of Music*** is sponsored by Children's Hospital & Medical Center, Nebraska Furniture Mart, Runza, Mutual of Omaha, the Nebraska Arts Council, and the Nebraska Cultural Endowment.

Tickets are available at [www.rosetheater.org](http://www.rosetheater.org) or by calling The Rose Box Office at (402) 345-4849.

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**About The Rose**

The Rose Theater is one of the largest and most accomplished children's theaters in the nation, with a reputation for enriching the lives of children and families through top-quality professional productions and arts education. The Rose is committed to making the arts accessible to all children, providing opportunities for thousands of children throughout the community to attend shows and participate in classes each year.

The theater strives to introduce young people to a mix of both traditional favorites and ground-breaking original productions. A number of plays and musicals have made their world premiere on The Rose stage, including *Van Gogh & Me*, *The Meaning of Maggie*, *Pete the Cat: The Musical*, *Sherlock Holmes & the First Baker Street Irregular*, *Buffalo Bill's Cowboy Band*, and *The Grocer's Goblin & The Little Mermaid*.

We take pride knowing that The Rose is the place where children of all ages experience theater for the first time, and we are dedicated to helping them appreciate theater for a lifetime. It is The Rose's goal to inspire young people to discover the magic of theater, to find their voices and enrich their communities.

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