

## Composer Study, April 22-24, 2020

Narrate what you know about Rodgers and Hammerstein and three musicals we have studied—*Oklahoma*, *South Pacific*, and *The King and I*.

We are now studying *The Sound of Music*. Try to remember when and where the musical set and who the story is about. In the first song [“Sixteen Going on Seventeen,”](#) we met the eldest daughter who thinks she is too old to need a governess because she is sixteen years old. When Liesl sneaks back into her bedroom, she and Maria have a heart-to-heart talk.

Last week and last night, we had some storms. Some of you might have

been scared like the von Trapp children. Maria shares her trick which is to change her thoughts in [“My Favorite Things.”](#) Later, when Maria leaves, [they sing it](#) to cheer themselves up. How does changing the tempo and volume create a different mood?

In the final song, Maria teaches the children how to sing. They have hard time since their mother died. Their father, a submarine captain, is depressed. He runs the family like a military operation. The children are dressed in sailor uniforms. They answer to a bosun’s whistle, stand at attention, and march. He allows no fun or music in the house because it reminds him of his beloved wife.

In the last song “Do-Re-Mi,” Maria teaches the children to sing using solfege. Each note has a name and children were taught to sing by knowing the names. Being able to sing becomes an important part of the plot. Why? Hitler invades Austria and Captain von Trapp does not want to work for a madman. But, how can music help them escape?

Listen to all three songs and pick your favorite. Narrate why it is your favorite and, if you can, tell about its mood (feeling), tempo (speed), and other musical elements.