

LIESL, GROUP 2

HODL LAY-EE

MARIA, GROUP 1

HODL LAY-EE

LIESL, GROUP 2

HODL LAY-EE

ALL

HODL LAY-EE ODL, LAY-EE ODL AY!

By the last note of music the GOAT, the GIRL IN THE PALE PINK COAT, MAMA and FOLKS IN THE TOWN exit. Thunder and Blackout.

TRACK 23: THE LONELY GOATHERD (PLAYOFF)

**SCENE 6: THE TERRACE OF THE VILLA
A FEW WEEKS LATER**

CAPTAIN

(to FRAU SCHMIDT)

Still no sign of Fräulein Maria and the children?

FRAU SCHMIDT

No, sir, but I'm sure they'll return shortly. They'll be delighted that you're home.

MAX DETWEILER enters as FRAU SCHMIDT exits. MAX is charming and vital. He carries a small notebook and pencil.

MAX

How would you like this for the Salzburg Festival? The finest choral group in Austria, the greatest mixed quartet in all Europe, and the best soprano in the world?

CAPTAIN

(preoccupied)

It sounds wonderful, Max.

MAX

Doesn't it though? Unfortunately all I've got is a basso who isn't even profundo.

CAPTAIN

Max, you always come up with a good festival concert.

MAX

And why? Because my motto is: "Never start out looking for the people you wind up getting." That's why I've been telephoning Paris, Rome, Stockholm, London...

CAPTAIN

On my telephone?

MAX

How else could I afford it? Me, the lowly Third Secretary of the Ministry of Education and Culture.

We hear the Abbey bells.

TRACK 24: ABBEY BELLS IN THE DISTANCE

Georg, is there a cathedral around here?

CAPTAIN

Nonnberg Abbey.

MAX

Do they have a choir?

CAPTAIN

A beautiful one.

MAX

Good! I'll have to pay them a visit.

ROLF enters, looking for LIESL. ROLF doesn't see the CAPTAIN and MAX.

CAPTAIN

(to ROLF)

What do you want?

ROLF turns, startled.

ROLF

Oh, Captain – I don't see ... I mean, I didn't know... er, uh...

ROLF holds his hand up in salute.

Heil!

CAPTAIN

(icily, taking a step toward ROLF)

Who are you?

ROLF

I have a telegram for Herr Detweiler.

MAX

I am Herr Detweiler.

ROLF hands MAX the telegram.

CAPTAIN

You've delivered your telegram, now get out!

ROLF exits flustered.

MAX

Georg, he's just a boy.

CAPTAIN

I am an Austrian – I will not be heiled!

MAX

Georg, why don't you look at things the way I do? What's going to happen is going to happen. Just be sure it doesn't happen to you.

FRANZ enters.

FRANZ

Herr Detweiler, there's a call for you from ...

MAX

Thank you, Franz.

FRANZ exits.

Excuse me, Georg.

MAX exits as GRETL runs on and stoops over. Next we see MARTA leapfrog over GRETL and stoop. MARTA is followed by BRIGITTA, KURT, LOUISA, FRIEDRICH and LIESL, all leapfrogging and keeping their heads down. The CHILDREN are dressed in play clothes made from the old curtains from Maria's bedroom. The last one on is MARIA. Her leapfrogging takes her to the feet of the CAPTAIN. MARIA straightens up in pleased surprise.

MARIA

Oh, Captain – you're home!

CHILDREN

(looking up, joyfully)

Father! Father, you're home!

The CAPTAIN takes his whistle from his pocket and blows a preemptory blast. The CHILDREN, dismayed, line up in military fashion.

CAPTAIN

Straight line!