50 years ago* last week: “The Sound of Music” premiers.

* March 2, 1965

There is a CSB/SJU historical connection!

1979-10-26, The Cable, p. 1
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/896
Maria’s “Four Freedoms”

- Freedom of speech
- Freedom of religion
- Freedom from want
- Freedom from fear


1979 Warner Lecture ad Maria Von Trapp AC18.02.F02 Bx1
The audience was well represented by members from the Convent, Abbey, CSB/SJU student body, as well as several central Minnesotans. They filled the chairs and lined aisles in the auditorium.

World traveler and lecturer, author of six spiritual and autobiographical books, inspiration for the famed movie, “The Sound of Music,” Baroness Maria von Trapp is living “happily and family ever after” in her chalet in Stowe, Vermont.

Maria Von Trapp Stresses Four Freedoms

by Jane Byers

Maria von Trapp spoke to a large crowd at the BAC on October 15. When she lectured on, “The Four Freedoms,” sponsored by the Warmer Lecture Series, the audience gave her a standing ovation. This event concluded the presidential inaugural festivities. The audience was well represented by members from the Convent, Abbey, CSB/SJU student body, and several central Minnesotans. They filled the chairs and lined aisles in the auditorium. In the past, the BAC has suffered from a declining attendance in those events held there. Some were even her golden years of maturity gone. Throughout the speech, her infinite capacity for humor was matched with her sincerity, faith, and deep love for God. She sees everything in a spiritual light, and that shines upon everyone. “I am an optimist; I try to live my faith in the will of God. If you do, you'll always be at peace and everything will turn out all right.” This faith earned the Trapp family in their desperate flight through Nazi Germany, and it continues to all parts of the world bringing music to all. Baroness Maria von Trapp stressed to her audience that, “Our four freedoms; those of freedom of speech, religion, press and from fear and want would all be lost if we do not hold them dear.”

One CSB student remarked, “We are a cross between the audience and the Trapps. I think the Trapp family is really special.”
72 years ago last fall:

The Record

Thursday, October 22, 1942

Von Trapps, Renowned Coral Singers Pay Surprise Visit To Johnny Campus

http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/29468
Von Trapps, Renowned Coral Singers Pay Surprise Visit To Johnny Campus

Last Wednesday afternoon and evening St. John’s university was the surprised host to the Baron Georg Von Trapp family, world-famous Austrian a cappella group. The singing von Trapps, now on concert tour in this country, stopped to renew fraternal acquaintances with Father Anthony Unterhofer, O.S.B. and Father Blase Schlümann, O.S.B., former professors of Baron von Trapp’s two sons at Seitenstetten Abbey, in Austria, and now of St. John’s Abbey.

The family, living in Austrian Tyrol until the invasion of Austria by the Nazis when their home was confiscated. They took refuge in Italy temporarily, and then came to America. On Dec. 10, 1938, they gave their first American concert in Town Hall, New York City. During the past three years the Trapps have been in the United States, living in Pennsylvania when not touring the country with their picturesque musical presentations. Everywhere their spontaneity and youthful exuberance are received with enthusiasm.

As the Baroness von Trapp, her children, and Father Wasner were shown about campus and monastic grounds, they paused momentarily in the Chapel to sing a Sanctus composed by Father Wasner and “Ave
Von Trapps, Renowned Singers, Pay Surprise Visit To Campus

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In 1939 two monks arrived at St. John’s from Seitenstetten Abbey in Austria. They were the Reverends Anthony Unterhofer, O.S.B., and Blaise Schmimmel, O.S.B., who were forced to leave their country because of the Nazi occupation. Father Blaise had held the post of music critic for an Austrian newspaper. Mr. Faith induced him to conduct the orchestra, for he was capable and wartime conscription had left many vacancies, particularly in the violin section.
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For story where Father Anthony has a full of the famous singing family begins at Seitenstetten Abbey some years ago when the Baron’s sons, Rupert and Werner, were studying music under Father Blaise, and art under Father Anthony. Later, in their Tyrolean castle near Salzburg, Austria, the family of the aristocratic Baron von Trapp first learned how to make music for their own pleasure. Then came the opportunity to broadcast a program of Christmas carols from a local radio station.
A 1947 appearance in St. Cloud was noted in CSB’s alumnae publication.

Following recent appearances in Los Angeles and other west coast cities, the famous Trapp family singers, America’s most heavily booked single concert attraction, will appear in St. Cloud April 26. At this program, sponsored by the Civic Music association, will appear the Baroness Marie von Trapp, her 11 daughters, a son, and their conductor, Reverend Franz Waerner.
20-page booklet in the SJU Archives, 1768:6.
Inset photos from 20-page booklet in the SJU Archives, 1768:6.
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After its U.S. release, *The Sound of Music* opened overseas, the first American movie to be completely dubbed in a foreign language, both dialogue and music, in German, French, Italian, and Spanish.

It was a popular success in every country—except the two countries where the story originated, Austria and Germany.

There, it was compared to a much-loved 1956 film, *Die Trapp-Familie*, which provided the original inspiration for the Broadway musical, and its 1958 sequel, *Die Trapp-Familie in Amerika*—both films regarded in German-speaking Europe as the authoritative story.

Its "Nazi overtones brought about the unauthorized cutting of the entire third act," i.e. everything after Maria's wedding to the Captain. The shortened version, ending at the church altar, did passably well, but when the American studio forced the third act to be restored to the German release, audience attendance plummeted.

Objections included:
- the way Naziism in their country was depicted.
- the way the family's kindly manager, Father Wasner, was transformed into a sleazy huckster, Max
- changing the family's genre of music into show tunes
- a contrived (and fictional) climactic flight over the mountains to Switzerland, which does not border Salzburg. (In fact, they openly took a train to go to Switzerland.)

Von Trapps, Renowned Coral Singers Pay Surprise Visit To Johnny Campus

"I am especially proud of the Baron's sons," says Father Anthony, "they are good boys and they have not forgotten their old professors!"

As the Baroness von Trapp, her children, and Father Wasner were shown about campus and monastic grounds, they paused momentarily in the Chapel to sing a Sanctus composed by Father Wasner and "Ave Verum" by Mozart—music of praise and thanksgiving.

Something to think about the next time you visit the Chapel!