

# Kindelein zart

Franz Wüllner (1832-1902)

## Kindelein Zart

*Kindelein zart, von guter Art*, was first published in 1915, thirteen years after Wüllner's death. It was included in a compendium of some 610 songs called *Folk Song Book for Men's Choir*, published at the instigation of Kaiser Wilhelm II. Interesting that the Kaiser could spend some effort on this while he was also directing the early stages of WWI.

The piece is just an extremely sweet Christmas-y lullaby in an immediately recognizable tradition. No surprises, no jarring chromatics, no fugues, no swelling fortes, just -

“Schlafe, mein Herzchen, schlafe“ (*sleep my darling, sleep*).



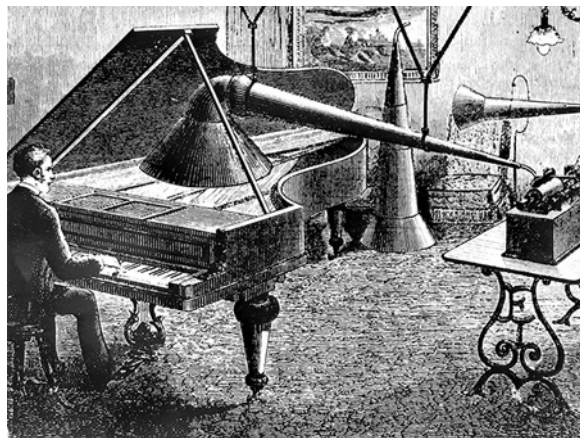
Franz Wüllner: *It's like you asked Chat GPT to create a German composer from the Nineteenth Century.*

## Franz Wüllner

While certainly an accomplished German pianist, conductor, and composer, Wüllner isn't particularly remarkable. If you start looking around, most people mention that Richard Wagner didn't like him much (*Wagner didn't like people much in general*) and openly criticized his conducting of the first performance of *Rheingold* in 1869, even after he had the original conductor, **Hans Richter**, sacked after a dress rehearsal.

English music critic **John Shedlock** reviewed the premiere of Wüllner's *Te Deum*, saying: "a work of great merit, though certainly not epoch-making: it shows a trained and skilful hand, also earnestness of purpose; but it lacks individuality, and, moreover, it has anti-climacteric effects which weaken it."

Nevertheless, Wüllner's work is accessible, competent, and in his *Kindelein Zart*, we hear some deftly-constructed and definitively *Weihnachten* sentimentality.



## Mildly interesting random factoid from Wikipedia:

*There is a recording fragment in the Thomas Edison National Historical Park archive from 1890 featuring Wüllner at the piano accompanying the singer Karl Mayer in Schubert's 'Wohin?'. This makes Wüllner the earliest-born person whose piano playing has been recorded acoustically.*

## Further Reading

*If you can find something of interest other than the boilerplate stuff we came across, please tell us about it.*

## Watch & Listen

[Kindelein zart - Guitarclaus](#)

[Kindelein zart - Dresdner Kammerchor](#)

[Franz Wüllner - Te Deum \(the only Youtube recording we could find, and it didn't name the performers\)](#)