

## 100 Years Magister Ludi Musici

Master of Musical Games

## Wilhelm Keller

1920 - 2008



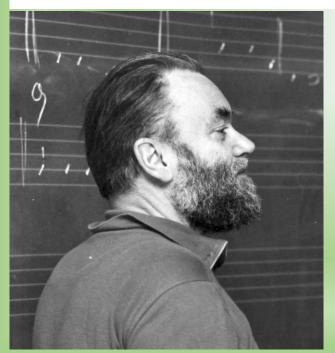
Artist
Inquiring Mind
Educator
Humanist
Pacifist
Visionary

A daughter's attempt to outline his rich and intensely committed life





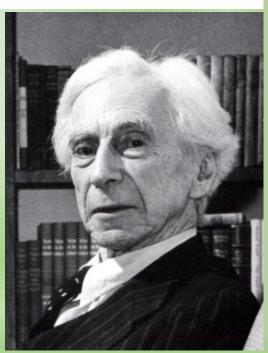




Good life is moved by love and guided by knowledge

Wilhelm Keller

**Bertrand Russell** 

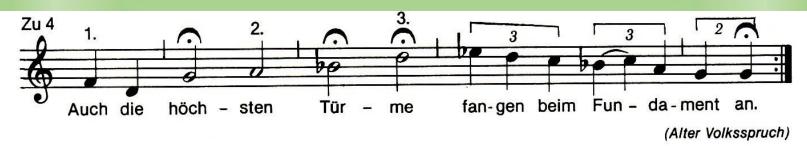


## What I want to talk about and let Wilhelm Keller tell ...

- ...childhood and youth
- ...war experience and university
- ...professional background
- ...pacifist engagement
- ...encounter with Carl Orff and Orff-Schulwerk
- ...work at the Orff-Institute
- ...socio-political engagement
- ...what remains?

## Childhood and Youth (1920 - 1939)







Even the tallest towers start with the foundation.

#### Born on Sonntag, August 8, 1920 in Wels...







...grew up in Salzburg





Dr. Manuela Widmer-100 Jahre Wilhelm Keller

#### Music lessons



### **Sports**



Dr. Manuela Widmer-100 Jahre Wilhelm Keller



### Song dei Sampflokomotive











Song of the steam locomotive

Two siblings— sister Erika, brother Harald - and Bobby, the dog



A happy childhood in "Little Garden of Paradise"!



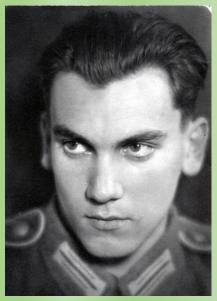


#### End of a carefree childhood- breakup of the family





- From 1934 National Socialists' influence in Austria increases
- In 1935, the "Nürnberg Race Laws" are enacted
- Willi's father is a "full Jew", all three of his children are "half-Jews"
- His father loses his job and is arrested
- His parents divorce for appearances
- The father lives alone in Vienna the mother and children are in Salzburg





### War Experiences

- 1938: the annexation of Austria into Nazi Germany
- 1939: the outbreak of World War II. 19 year old Wilhelm Keller is drafted and reports to the medical corps
- 1940: He is wounded and loses his leg; he is 20 years old.

### Interim Summary

- Encouragment of his interests
- Childhood as a "Little Garden of Paradise"
- Exclusion in youth as a half-Jew
- An opponent of war from the beginning – "dishonorable war"
- The way out: sign up for the medical corps
- Instead of killing finding ways to help





Holy Spirit of Peace, come!

### Studies and professional career





 Studies in Salzburg in 1941 and in Leipzig from 1943

(first encounters with and participation in works of Carl Orff)

- 1945 1949 Music Theory teacher at the Mozarteum
- 1947 First encounter with Carl Orff personally (...and in 1949 participation in the premiere of "Antigone" at the Salzburg Festival)
- 1950 Move to Germany
- 1962 Return to Salzburg and the Orff-Institute
- 1980 Retirement

## Excursus: family pictures

1946: Marriage to Bärbel

1947: Birth of their daughter Johanna

1949: Bärbel dies



1951: Marriage to Brigitte

1952: Birth of their daughter Manuela

1956: Birth of their son Florian

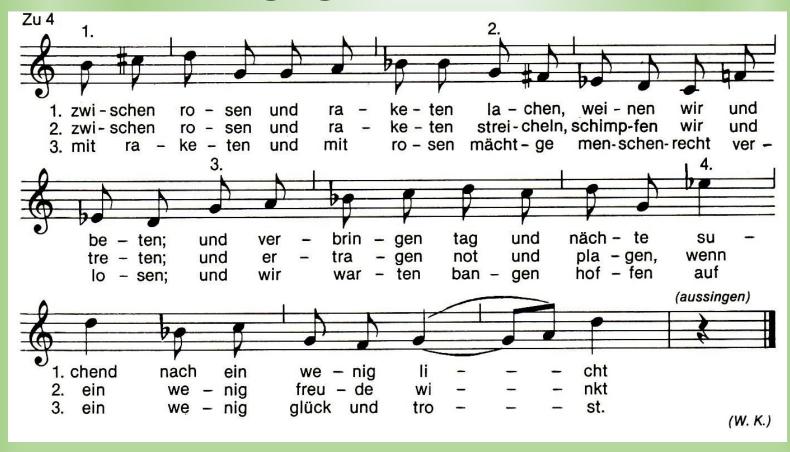
1960: Birth of their daughter Judith





### Pacifist Engagement





between roses and rockets we laugh, we cry and pray; and spend day and night looking for a little light

## Encounter with Carl Orff and the Orff-Schulwerk (OSW)

- First "work" encounter in 1943
- First personal meeting in 1947
- First OSW-Presentation in 1950
- Courses, courses, courses...
- First OSW publications
- First publications of his own works
- Courses, courses, courses...
- Participation in the Orff-Institute from 1962
- Continuing work on his own compositions and books







## Work at the Orff-Institute







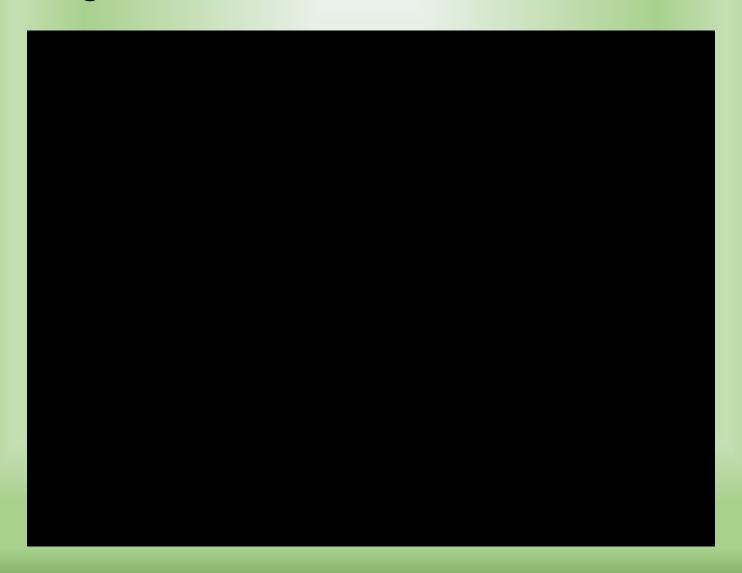
Wilhelm

Ludi

# Under the umbrella of the Orff-Institute – creative work and initiating ideas

- Composing, having others compose, and teaching
- Developing materials and adapting them to practical requirements
- The series "Ludi musici" is published
- In 1973 Keller takes over the management of his own research institute for Music in Social Work and Special Education
  - A project dear to his heart: Integrative week on Elemental Music Theater with "König Hupf" (1988) ("King Hop")

### Integrative week on Elemental Music Theatre

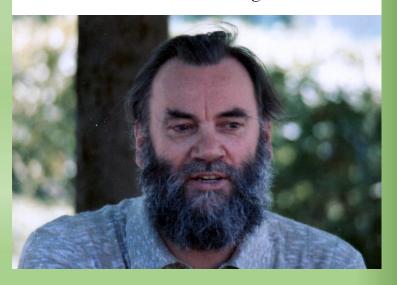


#### Social Commitment

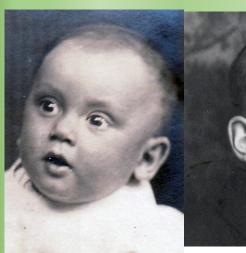
- Encounter with Montessoripedagogy
- 1969: Implementation of an alternative grading and assessment system at the Orff-Institute
- 1973: Initiation of a 3-country campaign (Austria, Germany, Switzerland) "Anxiety-free Schools"
- Honors and awards

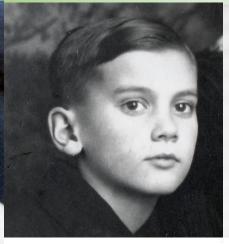


Aufruf zur Aktion für eine angstfreie Schule

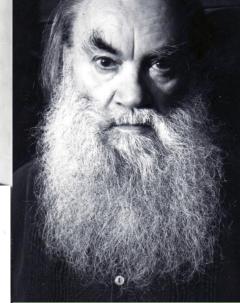


## The End of the Song









[EPITAPH (op. post.)

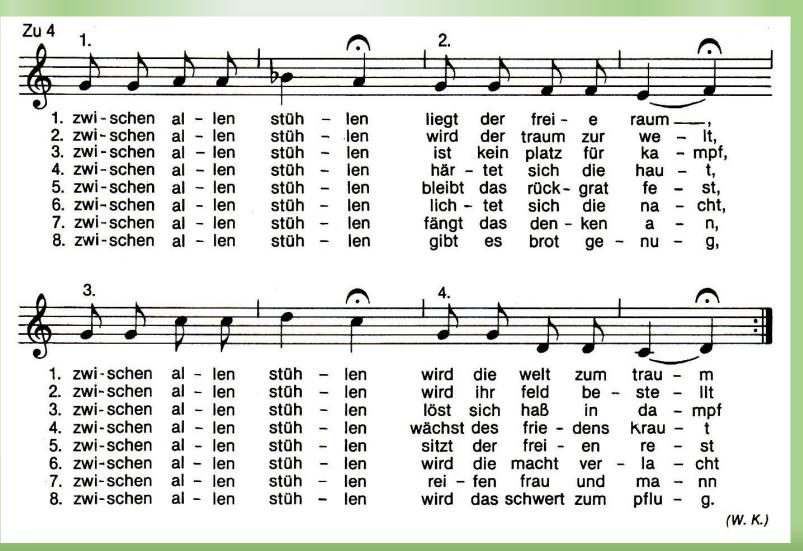
ICH bin gewesen. CORPUS ward staub und asche, ANIMUS GESANG

1(H bin nicht mehr da – doch was ich sagte vud sang, hallt wider in EUCH!

I am no longer here – but what I said and sang echoes in you!

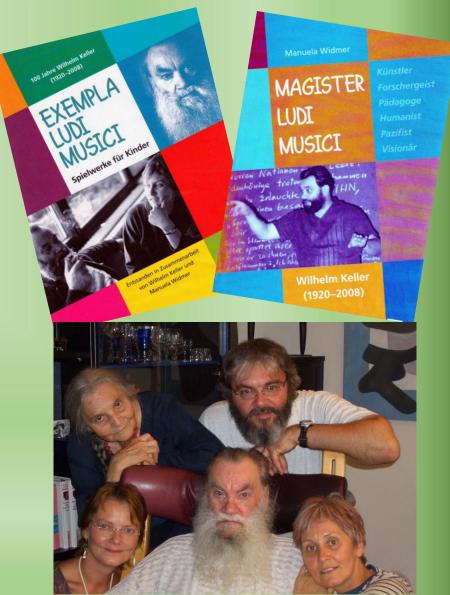
## Zwischen allen Stühlen liegt der freie Raum

Between all the chairs lays the free space



### What remains?

- Teaching material of timeless quality
  - Two new publications on life and album ("Best Of Keller")
- Writings + Compositions
  - A complete catalogue of works can be found on the homepage of the FIDULA Publisher: www.fidula.de
- A Role Model
  - Let us continue to engage and fight for an open society in which Inclusion simply takes place



...with his family

### Literature

- Widmer, Manuela (2020): Exempla Ludi Musici.
   Spielwerke für Kinder. Koblenz: Fidula (+ CD)
- Dies. (2020): Magister Ludi Musici. Wilhelm Keller (1920 – 2008) – Künstler, Forschergeist, Pädagoge, Humanist, Pazifist, Visionär. Koblenz: Fidula (+ CD)
- Dies: (2015): DVD Spring ins Spiel Elementares Musiktheater mit dem Märchen "Die Mäusebraut" (in Zusammenarbeit mit Hannes Valtiner). Koblenz: Fidula.