

*Written in 1979-80 for Nordiska K rkommitt n (The Nordic Association of Choirs)  
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Per N rg rd

# WIE EIN KIND

for mixed choir

## I.

### WIIGEN-LIED

Text: Adolph W lfli

## II.

### FR HLINGS-LIED

Text: Rainer Maria Rilke

## III.

### TRAUERMARSCH MIT EINEM UNGL CKSFALL

Text: Adolph W lfli

**Second Edition**

**Edited and corrected by Per N rg rd and Ivan Hansen**

This Second Edition (1996) replaces the First Edition (1980, WH 29552)

Total duration: ca. 14 min.



Edition Wilhelm Hansen AS, Copenhagen

## I. WIIGEN-LIED

1)

G'ganggali ging g'gang, g'gung g'gung!

Giigara-Lina Wiyy Rosina.

G'ganggali ging g'gang, g'gung g'gung!

Rittare-Gritta, d'Zittara witta.

G'ganggali ging g'gang, g'gung g'gung.

Giigaralina, siig R a Fina.

G'ganggali ging g'gang, g'gung g'gung!

Fung z'Jung, chung d'Stung.

2)

Kummer fasst uns alle, keiner geht frei, / Sorgen rammer alle, ingen slipper,

beliebig fasst uns der Kummer. / i flæng slår sorgen os ned.

1)

*Adolph Wölfli*

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2)

*Ole Sarvig*

*From SIDDHARTA, opera, music: Per Nørgård, text: Ole Sarvig*

*The original Danish text may be used in b. 65-74, see App. at back.*

## II. FRÜHLINGS-LIED

Frühling ist wiedergekommen. Die Erde

ist wie ein Kind, das Gedichte weiß:

viele, o viele ... Für die Beschwerde

langen Lernens bekommt sie den Preis.

Streng war ihr Lehrer. Wir mochten das Weiße

an dem Barte des alten Manns.

Nun, wie das Grüne, das Blaue heiße,

dürfen wir fragen: sie kanns, sie kanns!

Erde, die frei hat, du glückliche, spiele

nun mit den Kindern. Wir wollen dir fangen,

fröliche Erde. Dem Frohsten gelingt's.

O, was der Lehrer sie lehrte, das Viele,

und was gedruckt steht im Wurzeln and langen

schwierigen Stämmen: sie sings, sie sings.

*Rainer Maria Rilke*

## III. TRAURMARSCH MIT EINEM UNGLÜCKSFALL

G'gangali ging g'ganggali g'gang ga

g'gang g'gang g'

g'g'g'g'g'g'g'

g'g'g'g'g'g'

gang g'gang g'

gang ga g'gang ga g'

ganggali g'ganggali

g'ganggali g'g'ganggali g'

g'ganggalilili ging

g'g'g'g'g'g'g'g'g'gali ging

g'gung g'gung

*Adolph Wölfli*

*Copyright Adolph Wölfli Stiftung Kunstmuseum Bern*

Per Nørgård  
**WIE EIN KIND**  
for mixed choir

## Preface / Programme Note

In the present work I have aimed at a confrontation of two poetic expressions, one rising from the tortured soul of a schizophrenic: *Adolph Wölfli*, the other being that of a highly respected and famous poet: *Rainer Marie Rilke*.

The first movement, *Lullaby* („Wiigen-Lied“, in Adolph Wölfli’s typically sensual spelling) has many psychological aspects, and it is punctuated by strange, distant calls, reminiscent of those of a street vendor or those of a mother calling from way up in a tower block to her child way down in a narrow courtyard.

The second movement, *Spring Song* („Frühlings-Lied“, by Rilke) is the song of the happy child, the child in vital harmony: open, playful, sensually aware.

*Funeral March with Attendant Minor Accident* („Trauermarsch mit einem Unglücksfall“, by Wölfli), the third movement, repeats the musical themes of the first movement, but a male soloist, who does his best to sing after the fashion of his fellow singers, suffers some embarrassing frustrations.

### Adolph Wölfli

Adolph Wölfli was born in 1864 in Switzerland. His parents were very poor (his father was a drunkard who would spend his earnings in local inns), and the five children who survived early childhood (Adolph and four brothers) were in fact brought up in parish child care. The unhappiness of his youth - he was lonely, poor, and an abomination to the fathers of any girls he might fall in love with - came to its sad climax when he was twice caught in (vain) attempts at sexual crime.

From 1895 until his death in 1930, Wölfli was detained in Waldau, an asylum for the mentally disturbed. He developed here a unique artistic ability, the intensity of which has impressed an increasing number of people. He drew, wrote, and decorated more than 20.000 pages, many of them of considerable size. As early as 1921, Walter Morgenthaler (psychiatrist and doctor, tending Wölfli the patient) published the volume „Ein Geisteskranker als Künstler“ („A Lunatic as an Artist“), dealing with the paintings and writings of Wölfli, and Rainer Maria Rilke, the eminent poet, was deeply moved by the artistic quality of the Wölfli works thus published.

*Per Nørgård*

WIE EIN KIND was the first work by Per Nørgård inspired by Adolph Wölfli. Other major works inspired by Wölfli are SYMPHONY NO. 4 (Indischer Roosengaarten und Chinesischer Hexensee) (1981-82), the chamber opera THE DIVINE CIRCUS (1982) and the choral work D'MONSTRANTZ VÖÖGELI (1985), for chamber choir and tape of birdsongs.

*Ivan Hansen*

**Recordings of**  
Per Nørgård  
**WIE EIN KIND**

Vocal group ARS NOVA  
conducted by Ivan Hansen  
KONTRAPUNKT CD 32016

DANISH RADIO CHAMBER CHOIR  
conducted by Stefan Parkman  
CHANDOS CD 8963

CARMINA CHAMBER CHOIR  
conducted by Peter Hanke  
DANICA CD 8151

# WIE EIN KIND

## I. Wiigen-Lied

Music: Per Nørgård  
Text: Adolph Wölfli

Moderato (♩ = ca. 96)

Sopr. *p* 1) G' - gang - ga-li ging *pp* g' - gung g' -  
Alt *p* 1) G' - gang - ga-li *mp* ging g'-gang *pp* g' - gung g' -  
Ten. *p* 1) G' - gang - ga-li ging *pp* g' - gung g' -  
Bas *p* 1) G' - gang - ga-li ging *pp* g' - gung g' -

1) G' = gutturale. Gang, ging, etc.: sing on ng

5  
Sopr. *p* gung! G' gang - ga-li ging *mf* g' - gung g' - gung! G' - *p*  
Alt *p* gung! G' - gang - ga-li *mp* ging g'-gang *mf* g' - gung g' - gung! G' - *p*  
Ten. *p* gung! G' - gang - ga-li ging *mf* g' - gung g' - gung! G' - *p*  
Bas *p* gung! G' - gang - ga-li ging *mf* g' - gung g' - gung! G' - *p*

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