

Unterrichtsmaterialien

Dem Komponisten begegnen

Franz Xaver Gruber



**STILLE NACHT  
MUSEUM**  
HALLEIN



Stille Nacht Museum Hallein

Franz-Xaver-Gruber-Platz 1, 5400 Hallein

[www.stillenachtmuseumhallein.at](http://www.stillenachtmuseumhallein.at)

**Nr. 4**

# „PEACE ON EARTH“ FEEL THE SPIRIT OF „SILENT NIGHT“ AND OF THE THIRTIES!

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The composer of the song “Silent Night! Holy Night!” Franz Xaver Gruber spent 28 years of his life in Hallein, where he passed away on June 7, 1863. His grave lies in front of the entrance to his former residence, opposite the parish church, where he worked as organist and choir director. Several of his additional versions of the famous Christmas carol originated here. Now the building is home to the museum.

On December 30, 1854 in Hallein Gruber personally penned a note about the genesis of “Silent Night! Holy Night!” clearly clarifying his authorship and the origin of the song in the province of Salzburg.

The composer's estate initially went to his sons, then came into the possession of the municipality of Hallein via his grandson Felix Gruber (1882-1940). He was a professional singer and a teacher at the University of Music Mozarteum in Salzburg. In 1911 he married the opera singer Ella Kolehnik. They received the Mohr Guitar as a wedding-gift from friends. In 1936 he played the guitar at a memorial ceremony on Christmas Day and portrayed his grandfather in a movie in 1934. On January 1, 1939 he started his civil service job as a registrar in Hallein. Felix Gruber died in 1940 and was buried in the new cemetery in Hallein.

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## BEFOR VISITING THE MUSEUM VISIT

### Source analysis

Which situation is shown in this picture? Which typical icons of the National Socialist Period can you identify? Can you date the picture? Where could it have been taken?



Objektinformation:  
Felix Gruber (1882-  
1940) in Hallein, SW-  
Fotografie  
© Stille Nacht  
Museum Hallein

### Discussion

The title of the Decentralized Provincial Exhibition is “200 Years Silent Night - Austria’s Peace Message to the World”. Which one is the peaceful message of the song? What does peace mean for you? Is the message of „Silent Night“ relevant in actual war zones?

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## Educational input

Prepare worksheet with a timeline displaying the most important political events in Austria in the 1930's and the personal incidents of the Gruber-family. Where should the picture be placed in this timeline? If it is possible, bring your timeline workset along on your visit to the Silent Night Museum Hallein.

## AT THE MUSEUM

### „Peace on Earth“ – Feel the spirit of „Silent Night“

Young people are reflecting on authentic letters from the USA.

Suitable age group: older than 15 years

Duration: 60 min | Costs: 3 Euro per pupil

### Antifaschistischer Stadtrundgang in Hallein (Deutsch)

An Originalschauplätzen werden historische Ereignisse aus der NS-Zeit erläutert.

Ab 15 Jahren

Dauer: 90 min | Kosten: 80 Euro Pauschale

## NACH DEM MUSEUM

Geht mit offenen Augen durch die Stadt und sucht „Stolpersteine“. Sie erinnern an Menschen, die vom NS-Regime verfolgt und ermordet wurden.

Prägt euch die Namen ein und recherchiert auf [www.stolpersteine-hallein.at](http://www.stolpersteine-hallein.at) die Biografie der Personen.

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## **Buchung**

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## ANHANG ZUR BEARBEITUNG

