



Werner Thuswaldner

# SILENT NIGHT. HOLY NIGHT.

The Story of a Song.

With numerous illustrations

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„Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht!“ erklang erstmals am Heiligen Abend 1818 und ist heute das bekannteste Weihnachtslied der Welt.

Written by curate Joseph Mohr in 1816 and set to music by village school teacher and organist Franz Xaver Gruber in 1818, this song has been translated into more than 300 languages. It is sung on every continent and is shared by all the large Christian churches. Silent Night was included in the UNESCO list of Austria's intangible cultural heritage in 2011 and was, in its time, also an enormous commercial hit. To celebrate the 200 year anniversary, cultural historian Werner Thuswaldner tells the story of a song that has brought together people of different nations and has enjoyed global success. Historical background, previously unknown details of musical and religious history, as well as many personal insights make this book a treasure trove for all those for whom "Silent Night. Holy Night..."

## WERNER THUSWALDNER

was born in Carinthia in 1942. A trained technician, he studied literature and history in Salzburg and was head of cultural affairs at "Salzburger Nachrichten" for many years. He has written for theatre and radio, and is the author of several non-fiction books, novels and children's books.