

# POPULAR MUSIC & CHILDREN'S MUSIC

## GERMANY

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### DIE BLAUE GROTTE

#### SONG BACKGROUND:

The lyrics clearly state that this is – “Die blaue Grotte auf der Insel Capri” – indicating that they are referring to none other than the Blue Grotto of Capri.

Be forewarned this is a very sentimental, sugary song commonly called “schmaltz.” But one needs to keep in mind that during the Romantic Period at the start of the 19<sup>th</sup> century there was a



tremendous fascination among Germans for Italy due to the great poet Goethe's stay there a few decades earlier. Being an island Capri was especially interesting and when the Blue Grotto was “rediscovered” in 1826 by the German poet August Kopisch and the painter Ernst Fries it was described by Kopisch and thus also became very celebrated among German romantics. (For the true history of the discovery of the Grotta Azzurra see under World Music – Italy – [WD-IT1](#))

Felix Mendelssohn visited it in May 1831 and described it in a letter to his sisters. (Mendelssohn 1831) These romantic sentiments carried over into popular music and song and

have continued right through to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The chorus of this song is a good example –

Zu dieser Grotte auf der Insel Capri  
zieht mich die Sehnsucht bei Tag und Nacht.  
Die Blaue Grotte auf der Insel Capri  
hat schon die schönsten Märchen wahrgemacht.

At this cave on the island of Capri  
the desire pulls me by day and night.  
The Blue Grotto on the Isle of Capri  
has already made the most beautiful fair tale come true.

The oil painting here, entitled, *Die Blaue Grotte auf Capri*, (1860) is by the German artist, Carl Friedrich Seiffert, and is at the Nationalgalerie in Berlin.

Regarding the composer and lyric writer –

“Während ihrer Zeit bei Radio München schrieb sie Texte für René Carol (*Die blaue Grotte*; Decca F 43 030; 1950) ihre erste Komposition mit dem Komponisten Werner Scharfenberger und gecovernt von Friedel Hensch und die Cyprys (aufgenommen am 27. September 1950 und veröffentlicht am 6. Oktober 1950).“ (Anon. 2013)

[During their time with Radio Munich they wrote texts for René Carol (*Die blaue Grotte*; Decca F 43,030; 1950); their first composition with the composer Werner Scharfenberger also covered by Friedel Hensch and the Cyprys (recorded on 27 September 1950 and published on 6 October 1950).]

The above use of the word “they” is referring to the partnership Fini Busch had with Hanns Gerd Huber.

*“Frau Fini Huber war, als sie im Dezember 1945 noch unverheiratet als 17 jährige Sekretärin ins Münchner Funkhaus kam, zunächst ohne jeden Autoren-Ehrgeiz, der erst dort geweckt wurde. In dem später zum Tanzmusik-Team des Münchner Senders gestoßenen Hans Ger (sic) Huber gewann so die Texterin Fini einen branchekundigen Berater, anfangs als Freund, später als Ehemann.*

*“Ihre Texte setzten sich immer mehr durch, womit eigentlich gerechnet werden konnte, nachdem neben diesen günstigen Voraussetzungen auch noch Komponisten wie Gerhard Winkler, Werner Bochmann, Ernst Fischer, Benny de Weille, Werner Scharfenberger und Max Greger die Musik dazu machten. Die Texte solcher Publikumserfolge wie "Schützenliesel", "Die blaue Grotte", "Mein Herz ruft nach dir" oder "Märchenbummlerpolka" stammen alle von Fini Huber.” (Anon. 1954)*



Fini BUSCH-HUBER

[In December 1945, when Mrs. Fini Huber came to the Munich broadcasting center as 17-year old secretary, she was still unmarried and without any author’s ambition, which was only awakened there. Later pushed into the dance music team of the Munich transmitter, Hanns Gerd Huber thus obtained the copywriter Fini as an affiliated expert assistant, at first as a friend and later as her husband.

Their texts became generally more and more accepted, which actually could be reckoned. Subsequently, apart from these favorable preconditions, such composers as Gerhard Winkler, Werner Bochmann, Ernst Fischer, Benny de Weille, Werner Scharfenberger and Max Greger also made music. The texts of such crowd-pleasers as “Schützenliesel”, “Die blaue Grotte”, “Mein Herz ruft nach dir” or “Märchenbummlerpolka” all came from Fini Huber.]

For other recorded music inspired by the Grotta Azzurra, Capri see under World Music – Italy; under Jazz Music – Swing – *Blue Grotto in Capri*; and under Popular Music – Italy & United Kingdom.

**Ref:** Anon. 1954, Dreimal hat's gekracht, *Der Spiegel*, Feb. 1954, [spiegel.de](http://spiegel.de)

Anon. 2013, Fini Busch, Bio (in German), [Wikipedia](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fini_Busch)

Blue Grotto (Capri), [Wikipedia](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blau%C3%A4ule)

Grotta Azzurra, Capri, Photos, [Capri](http://www.capri.com)

Kopisch, August ca.1829 (1997), *Entdeckung der Blauen Grotte auf der Insel Capri*, Reprinted by Verlag Klaus Wagenback, Berlin, (Cover painting)

Lindenmayr, Franz 2013, Transcription of German lyrics, eMail dated Sept; 24, 2013

Lindenmayr, Franz 2014, Die Blaue Grotte (in German), [lochstein.de](http://www.lochstein.de)

Mendelssohn, Felix 1831 (2012) & Lady Wallace (Translator) (2012), *Letters of Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy from Italy & Switzerland*, Oliver Ditson, Boston, p. 158, [gutenberg](http://www.gutenberg.org)

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VARIOUS VERSIONS OF  
**DIE BLAUE GROTTE**  
In chronological order

**PO-DE1** West Germany 1950

**DIE BLAUE GROTTE \***

Popular – Easy Listening – Beguine – Vocal & Instrumental

**Mus:** Werner SCHARFENBERGER

**Lyr:** Fini BUSCH [aka. Josefina BUSCH-HUBER] ([LY-PO8](#))

**Perf:** René **CAROL** [aka. Gerhard Tschierschnitz]

**Prod. Co:** Decca

**Time:** (?)

**Label:** Decca F 43 030

**Flip Sd:** Bim Bam Gute Nacht

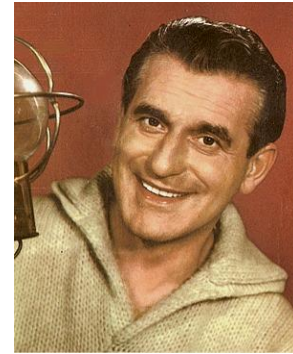
**Spec:** 10" 78rpm

**Notes:** The original version of this "schlager" song, which was written for this very popular German singer. René Carol usually recorded for Polydor, but for this song, he went to another record company.

Nothing further is known about this original version.

**Ref:** René Carol, Biography (in German), [Wikipedia](#)

René Carol, Tonträger, Schellack, Decca, [fuenfzigerjahresaenger](#)



**PO-DE2** West Germany 1950

## **DIE BLAUE GROTTE \***

Popular – Easy Listening – Beguine – Vocal & Instrumental

**Mus:** Werner SCHARFENBERGER

**Lyr:** Fini BUSCH [aka. Josefine BUSCH-HUBER] (LY-PO8)

**Rts:** (BIEM)

**Perf:** Friedel **HENSCH & DIE CYPRYS**  
& Horst Wende Quartett

Friedel Hensch (vocal)

Werner Cyprys, Karl Geithner, & Kurt Grysok (vocals)

Gerhard Gregor (organ)

(with piano & drums)

**Prod:** Sigrid Hesse

**Prod. Co:** (78) Polydor Schallplatten

(CD) Bear Family Records GmbH

**Rec. Co:** Sagebiel's Etablissement; Valentinskamp, Hamburg

**Rec. Date:** Sept. 27, 1950

**Matrix:** 2056 KK

**Liner Notes:** Horst-Dieter Czembor (CD) (28-page Booklet)

**Time:** 3:20

1. Original **78:** Polydor 48395 (Maroon label)  
or Polydor X 48395 (Lime green label)

**Flip Sd:** Holdrio – liebes Echo  
10" 78rpm

2. Original **45:** Polydor 22 141

**Flip Sd:** Holdrio – liebes Echo  
7" 45rpm

3. Reissue on **CD:** MEIN KAUGUMMI (2004)  
Bear Family BCD 16514 (Tk 20)



**Notes:** This was a "schlagerband," meaning a German popular hit song band. The liner notes tell us – "Die blaue Grotte heißt ihr Italienlied auf der A-Seite, zu dem der unbekannte Musiker Werner Scharfenberger die Melodie geschrieben hat. Doch trotz der gerade erwachenden Sehnsucht der Deutschen nach dem Land, wo die Zitronen blühen, fristet Die blaue Grotte ein Schattendasein am Schlagerhimmel. Es hilft auch nicht weiter, daß René Carol das Lied zusätzlich für eine andere Hamburger Plattenfirma aufnimmt." (Czembor 2004)

[Their Italian song on the A-side is called *The Blue Grotto*; the melody was written by an unknown musician Werner Scharfenberger. Nevertheless, despite the just awakening yearning of Germans to the land where the lemon trees bloom, *The Blue Grotto* eked out a shadowy existence in pop

heaven. Moreover it didn't help that; in addition, René Carol took the song to another record company in Hamburg.]

The music is an upbeat beguine piece where the bridge provides solos on piano and Hammond organ.

**Ref:** Friedel Hensch und die Cyprys, Biography (in German), [Wikipedia](#)

Friedel Hensch und die Cyprys, Die blaue Grotte, Stanzas 2 & 3, [Amazon](#) (◀AUDIO SAMPLE)

Friedel Hensch und die Cyprys, Die blaue Grotte, [lastfm](#) (◀AUDIO SAMPLE)

Friedel Hensch und die Cyprys, Liederverzeichnis, Discography, [fuenfzigerjahresaeger](#)

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**PO-DE3** West Germany 1950

## **DIE BLAUE GROTTE \***

Popular – Easy Listening – Rumba – Vocal & Instrumental

**Mus:** Werner SCHARFENBERGER

**Lyr:** Fini BUSCH [aka. Josefina BUSCH-HUBER] (LY-PO8)

**Perf:** **MAX GREGER SEXTET**

**DIE "ALOETS"** (vocals)

**Prod. Co:** Telefunken

**Matrix:** 35976

**Time:** 3:28

**Label:** Telefunken A 10982

**Flip Sd:** Ein Cowboy muß nicht schießen

**Spec:** 10" 78rpm

**Notes:** A third version of this "schlager" hit song where a female lead singer performs backed up by choral singers (barely heard in the mix) and the sextet. For the instrumental bridge we hear the piano followed by the **tenor sax or a clarinet**.

This release can be tentatively dated around the Summer 1950 or slightly later, because we have a date for Telefunken A10973 as June 1950.

**Ref:** Anon. 2013, Max Greger, Bio (in German), [Wikipedia](#)

Collar, Matt 2014, Max Greger, Artist Biography, [Allmusic](#)

Telefunken – Label Discography, [45worlds](#)

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**PO-DE3** West Germany ca.1950

## **DIE BLAUE GROTTE \***

Popular – Easy Listening – Foxtrot – Vocal & Instrumental

**Mus:** Werner SCHARFENBERGER

**Lyr:** Fini BUSCH [aka. Josefina BUSCH-HUBER] (LY-PO8)

**Perf:** **ORCHESTER CEDRIC DUMONT DES SCHWEIZERISHEN  
LANDESENDER BEROMÜNSTER**

**Guido COVA** (vocal)

**Prod. Co:** Elite Special

**Matrix:**

**Time:** (?)

**Label:** Elite Special 4517

**Flip Sd:** Ole Guapa

**Spec:** 10" 78rpm

**Notes:** A fourth version of this "schlager" hit song, this time a foxtrot. Cedric Dumont's orchestra is associated with the Swiss National Transmitter of Beromünster, located southwest of Zürich.

**Ref:** German eBay posting, April 2014

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**PO-DE3** Spain ca.1935



## GRUTA AZUL (BLAUE GROTTE) \*

Popular – Tango – Instrumental

**Comp:** (Wilhelm ?) GROSZ

**Perf:** ORQUESTA ROBERT RENARD

**Prod. Co:** Gramófono Odeon S.A.E.; Barcelona

**Matrix:** BE 10.769

**Time:** 3:03

**Label:** Odeon BE 181.224

**Flip Sd:** Que buscas en España?

**Spec:** 10" 78rpm



**Notes:** A completely different song composed by another German composer and given a subtitle in German, but released in Spain with a Spanish main title.

The song composer, Grosz, may well be Wilhelm Grosz (shown here), an Austrian composer, pianist, and conductor. He wrote several popular hit songs; the most relevant here, "Ile of Capri," that was first published in 1934. (Anon. 2014)

As best as could be learned, there was a Robert Renard mit seinem Tango Tanzorchester who recorded for Odeon (Records) in Germany in the 1930s.

Regarding the recording date, a slightly later 78 one-sided master record by the Robert Renard Tango Orchester was pressed by Odeon in

Germany, given the matrix number BE 11133 and dated Oct. 17, 1935. (needleshop24 2014)

For the music a full string dance orchestra bumps along with this fairly ordinary tango where it's hard to see or hear any relation with the Blue Grotto of Capri.

**Ref:** Anon. 2014, Wilhelm Grosz, Bio, [Wikipedia](#)

Ile of Capri (Song), [Wikipedia](#)

needleshop24 2014, Berlin, German eBay posting



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## UND WIR HATTEN KEINE HÖHLE

PO-DE4 West Germany 1979

### UND WIR HATTEN KEINE HÖHLE

Popular – Vocal & Instrumental

**Comp:** Wolf BIERMANN (LY-PO31)

**Rts:** Kiepenheuer & Witsch; Cologne

**Arr:** Toni Stricker

**Perf:** Erika **PLUHAR** (vocal)

Herwig Gratzer (harmonium)

**Prod:** Just Ptach

**Prod. Co:** Teldec; Vienna

**Rec. Co:** Austraphonstudio, Vienna

**Time:** 2:15

**LP:** VOM HIMMEL AUF DIE ERDEN FALLN SICH DIE ENGEL TOT – PLUHAR SINGT BIERMANN

Telefunken 6.24090 AT (stereo) (Gatefold Cover)

12" 33rpm (Sd 2 – Bd 4)

**Notes:** An ominous, dark song, which seems to be about looking for shelter in a dirty hole in the city. The title in English is "And We Have No Cave." It is very difficult to translate the lyrics into English as one suspects that there is a great deal of hidden political and social meaning behind every word. (See LY-PO31)

Pluhar is accompanied by a dirge-like harmonium and throughout the song at regular intervals is heard the heavy labored breathing of someone sleeping. For the chorus she speeds up the tempo then returns to the slow dirge for the next stanza. This was the first performance of this song.

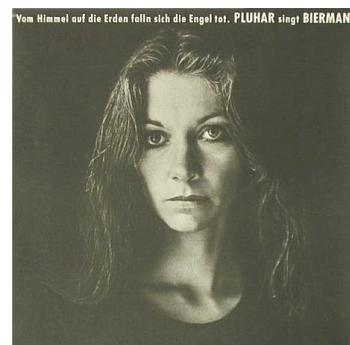


Photo by Christine de Grancy

**Ref:** Erika Pluhar, Biography (in German), [Wikipedia](#)  
Erika Pluhar, Pluhar Singt Biermann, [Discogs](#)  
Erika Pluhar, Pluhar Singt Biermann, [musik-sammler](#)  
Kliebhan, Bernd 1998, Speläo Musik, (Unpublished list of recorded cave music), p. 1

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**PO-DE5** West Germany 1983

## UND WIR HATTEN KEINE HÖHLE

Popular – Jazz – Vocal & Instrumental

**Comp:** Wolf BIERMANN ([LY-PO31](#))

**Rts:** Kiepenheuer & Witsch; Cologne

**Arr:** Dany Deutschmark

**Perf:** Klaus LAGE (vocal)

Dany Deutschmark (keyboards)

Christian Felcke (sax)

Axel Mansico Heilhecker, or Joe Rodius,

or Major Healey (guitars)

Friedel Schwarz, or Rolf Hanekamp, or Werner Kopal (bass)

Herb Quick, or Roland Götz, or Wolf Maahn (drums)

**Prod:** Wolf Maahn

**Prod. Co:** EMI Electrola GmbH

**Time:** 3:36

1. **LP:** STADTSTREICHER

EMI 1C 038 15 7615 1 & Musikant 1C 038 15 7615 1

12" 33rpm (Sd 1 – Bd 1)

2. **Single 45:**

Musikant 46815

**Flip Sd:** Fang neu an

7" 45rpm

3. **LP:** STADTSTREICHER

Musikant 1C 064-46 759 & Musikant 1C 064-46 768

12" 33rpm (Sd 1 – Bd 1)

4. **CD:** STADTSTREICHER

EMI – CDP 564 7 46219 2 (Tk 1)

Musikant – CDP 564 7 46219 2 (Tk 1)

**Notes:** This second version of the Biermann song is given a different treatment with an upbeat, bouncy jazz backup on sax, guitar, and keyboards.

The Discogs site gives two additional catalog numbers for the Musikant (a subsidiary of EMI) LP releases.

**Ref:** Klaus Lage, Biography (in German), [Wikipedia](#)

Klaus Lage, Stadtstreicher, [Discogs](#) & [Discogs](#)

Klaus Lage, Stadtstreicher, Stanza 2 & Chorus, [CDUniverse](#) (◀AUDIO SAMPLE)

Klaus Lage, Und Wir hatten keine Höhle, Chorus & Stanza 2, [Amazon.de](#) (◀AUDIO SAMPLE)

Klaus Lage, Und Wir hatten keine Höhle, Lyrics, [wolf-alexander](#)



**PO-DE6** West Germany 1985

## UND WIR HATTEN KEINE HÖHLE

Popular – Vocal & Instrumental

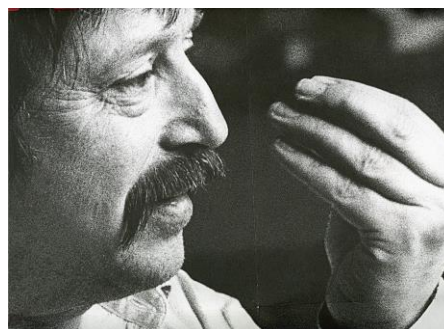
**Comp:** Wolf BIERMANN ([LY-PO31](#))

**Rts:** (GEMA)

**Perf:** Wolf BIERMANN (vocal)

Eva-Maria Hagen (vocal)

Jakob Lichtman (fiddle)



Boris Lichtman (bass)

**Prod. Co:** Musikant

**Liner Notes:** (Booklet with lyrics)

**Time:** 2:55

**LP:** DIE WELT IST SCHÖN

Musikant 1C 066 24 0445 1 (stereo)

12" 33rpm (Sd 2 – Bd 4)

**Notes:** This dark, foreboding song performed by the songwriter himself this time accompanied by Eva-Maria Hagen humming along and also coming in to sing the last two verses of the second stanza followed by the chorus. Eva-Maria Hagen was Wolf Biermann's wife and the mother of the East Berlin singer Nina Hagen.

The enclosed foldout poster gives the lyrics of all the songs and for this one it adds a handwritten note referring directly to these lyrics – "*Ein Pünker soup ohne punk – schöne nicht – überein-Stimmung von Kunst [unt Läbn?]: Tine singt wieder mit oder wieder mal nicht.*" [A punk soup without punk – nice, no – agreeable atmosphere with talent (.....?): Tine sings again, or not once again.] The third verse in the third stanza is underlined here – Und was fest war, das is lose And what was solid, that is loose – and an arrow with the pointer ends curled up in the shape of a woman's breasts is designating the handwritten line – *Tine singt wieder* .

**Ref:** Wolf Biermann, Biography (in German), [Wikipedia](#)

Wolf Biermann, Die Welt ist Schon, [Discogs](#)

Wolf Biermann, Die Welt ist Schon, [Weltbild.de](#) (◀AUDIO SAMPLE)

## CHILDREN'S SONGS IN GERMAN

**PO-DE7** Germany 2005

### FLEDERMAUS

Popular – Rock – Children's – Vocal & Instrumental

**Comp:** Andreas DONAUER

**Perf:** DONIKKL [aka. Andreas Donauer] (guitar)

Tom Palme

Rodscha aus Kambodscha

**Prod. Co:** Donikkl Productions

**Time:** 2:29

**CD:** GRASHÜPFER

Cargo (?) (Tk 12)

**Notes:** A cheerful kids' pop-rock kooky song about a bat.

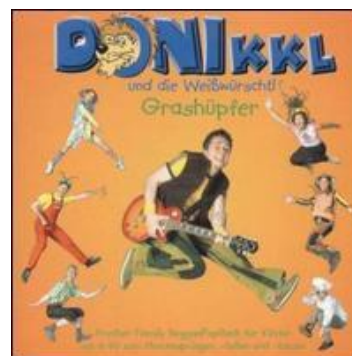
Donikkl is a seven-piece German band from Regensburg that formed in 2001. (Anon. n.d.)

It was not possible to obtain the lyrics of this song.

**Ref:** Anon. n.d., Donikkl und die Weißwürschtl, Biography (in German), [Wikipedia](#)

Donikkl , Grashüpfer, [Amazon](#) (◀AUDIO SAMPLE)

Donikkl, Fledermaus, (1:30) [Musicload](#) (◀AUDIO SAMPLE)



**PO-DE8** Germany 2003

### HÖHLENNACHT

Popular – Musical – Lullaby – Children's – Vocal & Instrumental

**Comp:** (?)

**Perf:** FÜENF (vocal & keyboards)

**Prod:** Füenf

**Prod. Co:** Gugubo Verlag

**Liner Notes:** (Booklet with lyrics)

**Time:** 1:39

**CD:** EIN FEST FÜR KÖNIG GUGUBO – DAS STEINZEIT MUSICAL  
FV (?) (Tk 26)

**Notes:** A Stone Age musical with “*Urgeschichten und Höhlensongs*” (prehistoric tales and humorous cave songs) for children from 5 to 10 years old. In the valley of the Gugus, King Gugubo has invited all the neighboring wild tribes, creatures, and Stone Age monsters to a feast to celebrate his birthday. One song (Tk 11), “Ich bin der Wolz” (2:53) is about Behomot in Grotto No. 4.

The musical concludes with this lullaby, “Höhlennacht” (Cave Night), where the word “höhlennacht” is repeated over a slow languorous melody. The rest of the lyrics were not available.

The group Füenf, consists of five men, who sing acapela and perform here with help from a few children.

**Ref:** Füenf, Ein Fest für König Gugubo, [buchhandel](#)

Füenf, Ein Fest für König Gugubo, [kindermusikkaufhaus](#)

Füenf, Ein Fest für König Gugubo, [nserver.de](#)

Füenf, Ein Fest für König Gugubo, Höhlennacht, [weltbild.de](#) (◀AUDIO SAMPLE)



**PO-DE9** Germany 1986

## ICH BAU MIR EINE HÖHLE

Popular – Rock – Children’s – Vocal & Instrumental

**Comp:** Rolf ZUCKOWSKI (LY-PO21)

**Perf:** Rolf ZUCKOWSKI und seine Freunde

Rolf Zuckowski (keyboards)

**Prod. Co:** Polydor Records

**Time:** 2:56

1. **CD:** FRAG’ MIR DOCH KEIN LOCH IN’N BAUCH  
Polydor 829452 (Tk 3)
2. Compilation **CD:** ROLFS LIEDERKALENDER (1993)  
Polydor 5211342 (Tk 22)
3. Reissue on **CD:** IM KINDERGARTEN (1994)  
Polydor 4313942 (Tk 4)

**Notes:** A sing-song-type ditty written by a well-known German composer of children’s songs and performed by Rolf’s daughter with his keyboard accompaniment and a heavy beat.

The title translates as, “I Build Myself a Cave,” and the lyrics talk about building an artificial cave out of pillows and blankets where a pocket torchlight can shine. She will invite guests for ice cream and chocolate and there will be wild games. Then in the evening the child will lie down with her teddy bear and sleep peacefully.

**Ref:** Rolf Zuckowski, Biography (in German), [Wikipedia](#)

Rolf Zuckowski, Frag’ mir doch kein Loch in’n Bauch, Ich bau mir eine Höhle, [musik-fuer-dich](#) (◀AUDIO SAMPLE)

Rolf Zuckowski, Ich bau mir eine Höhle, Lyrics pdf, [music-fuer-dich](#)

Rolf Zuckowski, Im Kindergarten, [music-fuer-dich](#) (◀AUDIO SAMPLE)



[caveinspiredmusic.com](http://caveinspiredmusic.com)