

Heine's alarming prophecy

The protestant, former Jewish atheist, was rediscovered as a political thinker

[...] The Artistic Director of the Festival was in charge of the reading passages. Gregorij von Leitis put some gentle irony into his voice and was thus able to illuminate the ambiguities of Heine's and his contemporaries' poetry and thinking. [...] This time, von Leitis as narrator became political as rarely before: Thunderous with rage he bellowed the orders of the City Council of Heine's "Hicksville", banning all uproar of the citizens against their government. Michael Lahr's selection of texts confronted Heine's contempt of nationalism, war and tyranny with his rejection of poverty. Torn between these two poles, Heine wrote a text about communism, foreboding the communist dictatorships, that would allow intellectual, reflected print works to be only used as paper bags in a grocery store. When Heine's report on the greed at the Paris stock exchange was cited, one felt, as if Heine had predicted the current image of the angry citizens at the Occupy Movement.

In Bernried Heine was rediscovered as a political thinker. The program presented Heine's timeless judgements and warnings in a touching and fruitful way."