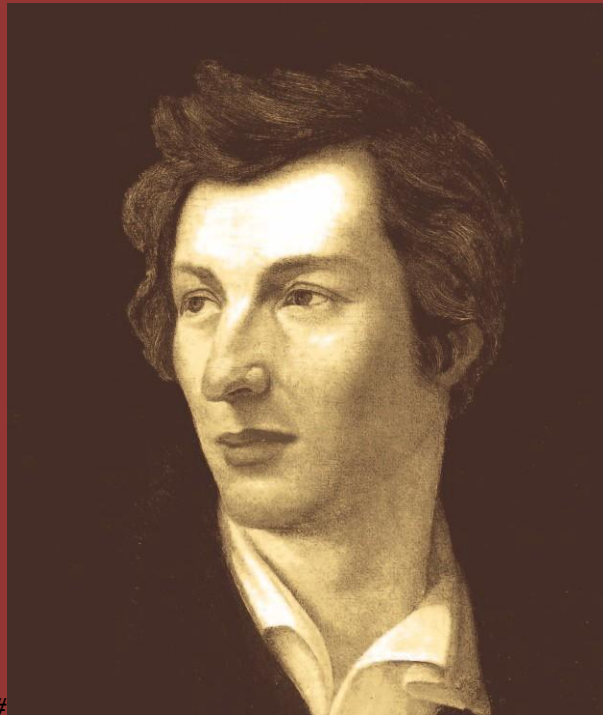


Heinrich Heine (1797 - 1856) is the greatest forefather of the German cabaret—a poet of freedom, the creator of political feature journalism, and a democratic visionary. His works uniting sentimentality and radicalism were in the repertoire of the first German cabarets, and they inspire the poets of the cabaret to the present day. Heine’s virtuosic use of everyday language is characteristic for his style as well as his blend of personal reflections and topical criticism, for instance in the 1844 verse epos “Germany: A Winter’s Tale.” This poetic cosmopolitan and “runaway romantic” lived in post-revolutionary Paris from the 1830s on; a satirical chronicler of the Biedermeier age, the “first truly modern German author” (according to Stefan Heym) was banned throughout the German Confederation in 1835.

Heinrich Heine

“Heine was an passionate skeptic and a skeptical agitator. ... He was the first great German poet to dare to make humor a completely natural and self-evident component of his poetry and his prose. His verses are sensitive and yet sarcastic, passionate and at the same time ironic, often sad and nonetheless funny.” (Marcel Reich-Ranicki)



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