

Christian Morgenstern (1871 - 1914) was one of the literary forefathers of the German cabaret. His "Gallows Songs" and dramatic parodies are among the most widely performed texts of the years before the First World War, and his texts have become classics of the cabaret stage: "On earth there roams a lonely knee," and "The seagulls by their looks suggest / that Emma is their name." (English versions: Max Knight) The cabaret Sound and Smoke (Schall und Rauch) was founded by Max Reinhardt in January 1901 as a benefit for this master of profound grotesques and nonsense poetry, who was suffering from tuberculosis. His texts are still performed today, above all by Gert Fröbe, Günther Lüders and Otto Sander.

Christian Morgenstern.

"The younger generation goes into hysterics over the stories of Palmstroem, Korf and Cousin Kunkel like never before. ... They laugh themselves silly and then are amazed by the profound poetry that turns funny only at the last moment—and not until the very end do they notice that they've learned a philosophical motto. Kant-like mottos in poetic form." (Kurt Tucholsky, 1919)

