

Pressemitteilung

Berlin, 9th November 2019

100,000 people gather at the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin to celebrate the fall of the Wall

The emotional highpoint of the week-long festival marking the “**30th Anniversary of the Peaceful Revolution – Fall of the Berlin Wall**” took place this evening at a stage set up at the Brandenburg Gate. Over the evening more than **100,000 visitors** gathered at the symbolic Berlin landmark – joined by **millions of viewers watching on screens** around the world – to commemorate the fall of the Wall, one of the most important events in the history of the capital, but also for Germany and Europe. The two-hour multi-media spectacle featured musical acts, theatre performances, a light show as well as testimonies from witnesses to the historical events themselves. The event told the dramatic story of the quest for freedom during the Peaceful Revolution as well as a number of artistic contributions and statements on the themes of courage and the yearning for liberty, thereby taking up a contemporary perspective on the events.

Berlin's Governing Mayor, **Michael Müller**, Federal President **Frank-Walter Steinmeier** and **Marianne Birthler** gave welcome speeches. The GDR-born musicians **Dirk Michaelis** and **Die Zöllner** got the programme underway, and the **orchestra of the Berlin State Opera - Staatskapelle Berlin** under the baton of Daniel Barenboim played Beethoven's 5th symphony accompanied by historical images and film footage extending from the building of the Wall and the era of East vs. West Germany all the way to the fall of the Wall in 1989. **Anna Loos**, **Trettmann** and **Zugezogen Maskulin** were among the other musical artists who performed against the backdrop of the massive video dome projection space. For the finale, “*Stimmen von heute*” (Voices of today) drew a direct connection to contemporary global challenges: for example, **activist Peter Steudtner** spoke about solidarity, **refugee aid worker Sarah Mardini**, who herself came to Europe as a Syrian refugee in 2015, also sent out a strong call for social cohesion, and 16-year-old Potsdam-based **climate activist Jaro Abraham** called for more community spirit in the service of protecting the planet. The activists appeared with more than 100 people who carried their messages of freedom on banners.

Anna Loos and **Jochen Breyer** acted as hosts throughout the stage show, which was broadcast live on Germany's public channel ZDF. Tens of thousands of visitors made their way to Berlin's six other festival sites to celebrate and remember that historic day thirty years ago. At Alexanderplatz and Schlossplatz, for example, visitors were treated to stunning 3D video projections.

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