Berlin has gained a reputation for “Hipness.” It hosts, among other things, a vibrant, international music scene that inhabits the 21st-century capital with a history of divisions, borders, and accompanying discourses about divided identities. While marketers of the “creative class” advance the cultural significance of popular musicians and venues, the musicians themselves often articulate the symptoms of urban malaise. “Berlin without Borders” analyzes select cultural scenes and songs; these reflect a process of de- and reterritorialization through which site-specific, local signifiers are integrated into the syntax of cultural globalization. Contemporary anthems acknowledge social realities and recode musical genres to make a claim for Berlin as a more multicultural, creative, and tolerant metropolis—even as a global city. In the anthems that sing of contemporary Berlin, the cadences of “epic peace” become audible.

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