

# Rhapsode

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**Rhapsoden** (griech. ῥαψωδία „Gesang“) waren wandernde Sänger im antiken Griechenland, die bei Festen und feierlichen Anlässen epische Dichtungen wie die von Homer zur Begleitung einer Phorminx (Saiteninstrument) vortrugen. Sie bildeten einen Teil der Nachfolge der homerischen Aöde (Sänger und Dichter volkstümlicher Epen), während die Kitharöden den lyrischen Gesang fortführten.

Die Rhapsoden waren in Zünften, den Rhapsodenschulen, organisiert. In der Spätantike verloren die Rhapsoden an Bedeutung.

Im klassischen Griechenland, etwa im 4. und 5. Jahrhundert v. Chr., vielleicht sogar noch früher, bezeichnete man mit Rhapsode einen professionellen Darbieter von Gedichten, insbesondere von epischen Gedichten (vor allem der Gedichte von Homer).

Von den Rhapsoden wurde der Begriff „Rhapsodie“ abgeleitet.

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