S: “Even if music is not individually adapted to a station’s character, it has the power to evoke associations. When I listen to classical music, I immediately think of the State Opera House, the Gärtnerplatz Theater, the Prinzregenten Theater or the Gasteig. Cultural architecture from different eras that can never be grand or fabulous enough. This prompts me to overlook the fact that Munich’s subway stations aren’t exactly architectural masterpieces; they seem more beautiful than they actually are because I’m thinking of those other spaces. It’s a cheap way of pimping up the subway stations by association.”

[…]

S: “Another association that music in subway stations evokes in me is a shopping mall. Karlsplatz (Stachus)was once a normal subway and train station while today it is more of a shopping center with music playing in the background. This is Munich’s most extreme example. But to be honest, it’s not only music that transforms stations more into malls but mainly the presence of shops, bakeries and restaurants.”