



COMPOSER SPOTLIGHT



CLARA SCHUMANN

1819–1896

Style: Romantic

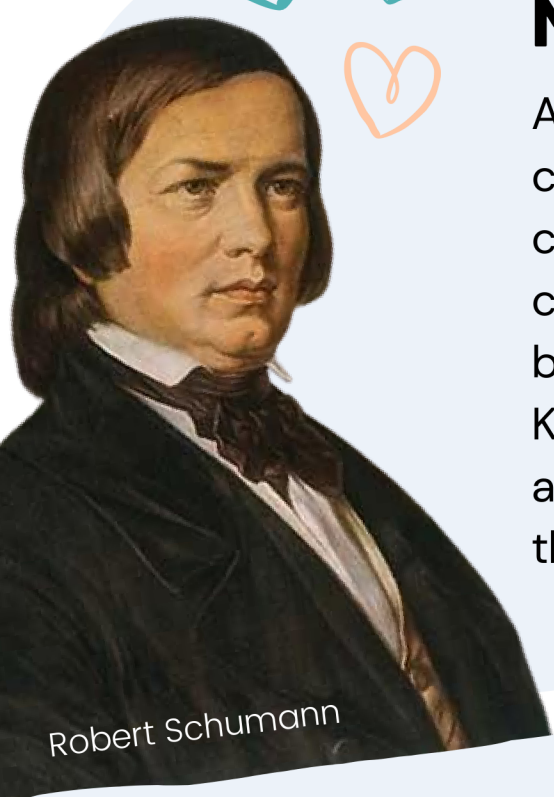
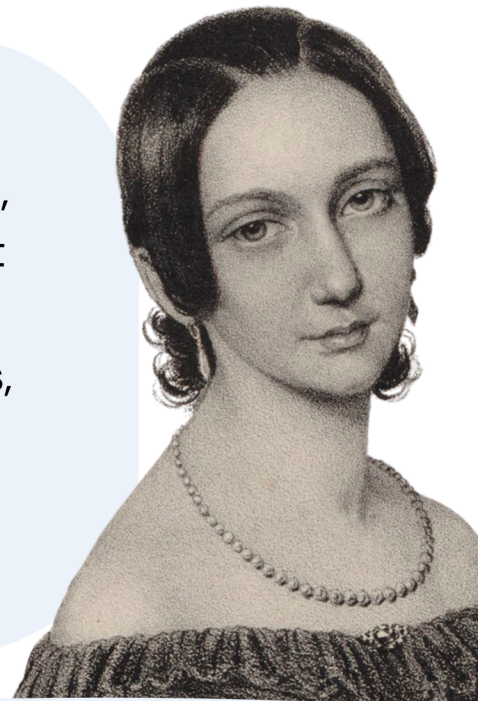


Early Life

Clara Schumann was born in Leipzig, Germany to her father, Friedrich Wieck, a pianist and teacher, and to her mother, Mariane, who was also a singer and pianist. She began receiving basic piano instruction from her mother at the age of four, and then she took daily lessons with her father. Friedrich promoted Clara as a prodigy and took her on trips to perform. He made sure she practiced and studied music many hours a day!

Early Career

Clara's concert career spanned an amazing 61 years, and she is often credited with expanding the format and repertoire of the piano recital from simple virtuosic displays to programs that included serious, introspective works. She toured frequently and became well-known as an artist.



Robert Schumann

Marriage and Later Years

Against her father's wishes, Clara married the composer Robert Schumann, and they had eight children. After Robert's death, she continued her concert tours for decades, and starting in 1878, became an important teacher at Dr. Hoch's Konservatorium in Frankfurt, where she attracted international students. She also edited the publication of her husband's works.

Significant Works

- Piano Concerto in A minor, Op. 7
- Piano Trio in G minor, Op. 17
- 6 Lieder, Op. 13
- Variations on a Theme by Robert Schumann, Op. 20
- Drei Romanzen, Op. 21

