



COMPOSER SPOTLIGHT



ROBERT SCHUMANN

1810–1856
Romantic

From Law to Music

Schumann was originally supposed to become a lawyer! He started studying law in university but soon realized his true passion was music. He left school to focus on becoming a great pianist. Unfortunately, a hand injury cut his piano career short, so he turned to composing, where he found even greater success.



A Love Story in Music

Schumann married Clara Wieck, a brilliant pianist and composer in her own right. Clara was one of the most respected musicians of her time, and her own compositions are still performed today. Schumann wrote many pieces inspired by Clara, and their love story is one of the most touching in music history. Clara also helped promote his music long after his death.



A Composer with Imagination

Schumann had an incredible imagination, and his music often tells a story or creates a scene. He even had imaginary characters, like "Florestan" and "Eusebius," who represented different sides of his personality. His pieces range from playful and energetic to quiet and dreamy, making them exciting to listen to.



Struggles with Health

Sadly, Schumann struggled with mental health issues throughout his life. Despite these challenges, he continued to compose beautiful and innovative music. His works influenced future composers, like Brahms and Debussy, and remain an essential part of the piano repertoire, admired for their emotional depth and originality.

Significant Works:

- Kinderszenen, Op. 15 (Scenes from Childhood)
- Carnival, Op. 9
- Piano Concerto in A Minor, Op. 54