

ABSTRACT

Title of Dissertation: ROMANCE: SELECTED PIANO MUSIC OF ROBERT
AND CLARA SCHUMANN

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The love story of Robert and Clara Schumann is beautifully reflected in their piano music. Each of them served as important inspiration and supported the other's compositions. Robert would not have written much of his great piano music without Clara. On the other hand, Clara would not have composed more than twenty opuses without Robert's encouragement.

The image of Clara permeated the content of Robert's music. Robert credited Clara for providing the inspiration for several of his piano works. It is noteworthy that some material from Clara's earlier music can be found in later compositions of Robert, and vice versa. Because their lives and music were intertwined, their creative work exists in a constant relationship to each other.

Most importantly, we will discover Clara Wieck Schumann's piano music, which has received little attention until recently. We must understand that Clara Schumann played many important roles simultaneously in her life: a renowned concert pianist, the wife of a great composer, a mother of eight children, a teacher, and an editor of Robert Schumann's work. Clara still managed to continue concertizing and composing. Most of Clara's piano works are character pieces. Among her solo works, the *Variations on a theme by Robert Schumann* Op.20 is the most important and mature work. Based on a theme from the first *Albumblätter* of Robert's *Bunte Blätter* Op.99, she also wove her own childhood *Romance* Op.3 theme into the last variation.

As a performer, this project has encouraged me to investigate Clara Schumann's music in depth. I have been making efforts to introduce her music to a greater public audience and to increase interest in her works. I hope that Clara's music will be performed and studied more frequently with the respect it deserves.

This Dissertation comprises three piano recitals that showcase my selection of piano works by the Schumanns. They were performed in 2011 and 2012 in Gildenhorn Recital Hall of the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center at the University of Maryland. The recordings are documented on compact discs that are housed within the University of Maryland Library System.

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CLARA SCHUMANN

by

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DISC ONE

Recital I (May 7, 2011. Gildenhorn Recital Hall)

1. Robert Schumann: *Arabeske*, Op. 18
2. Robert Schumann: *Kinderszenen*, Op. 15
 1. Von fremden Ländern und Menschen
 2. Curiose Geschichte
 3. Hasche-Mann
 4. Bittendes Kind
 5. Glückes genug
 6. Wichtige Begebenheit
 7. Träumerei
 8. Am Camin
 9. Ritter vom Steckenpferd
 10. Fast zu Ernst
 11. Fürchtenmachen
 12. Kind im Einschlummern
 13. Der Dichter spricht
3. Robert Schumann: *Fantasiestück*, Op. 111 No. 2
4. Robert Schumann: *Romance*, Op. 28 No. 2
5. Clara Schumann: *Quatre Pieces Fugitives*, Op. 15
 1. Larghetto
 2. Un poco agitato
 3. Andante espressivo
 4. Scherzo
6. Clara Schumann: *Romance*, Op. 11 No. 1
7. Clara Schumann: *Romance*, Op. 5 No. 3
8. Clara Schumann: *Scherzo*, Op. 14

DISC TWO

Recital II (September 6, 2011. Gildenhorn Recital Hall)

1. Robert Schumann: *Three Romances*, Op. 94
 1. Nicht schnell
 2. Einfach, innig
 3. Nicht schnell
2. Clara Schumann: *Three Romances for Violin and Piano*, Op.22
 1. Andante molto
 2. Allegretto
 3. Leidenschaftlich schnell
3. Robert Schumann: *Piano Concerto in A Minor*, Op.54
 1. Allegro affettuoso
 2. Intermezzo: Andantino grazioso
 3. Allegro vivace

DISC THREE

Recital III (April 3, 2012. Gildenhorn Recital Hall)

1. Franz Liszt: Transcriptions of Robert and Clara Schumann's Lieder
 1. Widmung (Dedication)
 2. Des Sennen Abschied (The Herdsman's Farewell)
 3. Warum Willst Du And're Fragen (Why Do You Ask Other Girl)
 4. Frühlingsnacht (Spring Night)
2. Robert Schumann: Fantasiestücke, Op.12
 1. Des Abends (In The Evening)
 2. Aufschwung (Soaring)
 3. Traumes Wirren (Dream Visions)
 4. Ende vom Lied (End of The Song)
3. Clara Schumann: Variations On The Theme of Robert Schumann Op. 20
4. Robert Schumann: Faschingsschwank aus Wien, Op. 26
 1. Allegro
 2. Romanze
 3. Scherzino
 4. Intermezzo
 5. Finale