

CLARA SCHUMANN 200TH ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL

Fri 22 – Sun 24 Feb 2019



ST JOHN'S SMITH SQUARE

Patron HRH The Duchess of Cornwall

CLARA SCHUMANN AT 200

Join us for a weekend of music and discussion on Clara Schumann – pianist, composer, wife, mother, friend, and muse.

To celebrate the 200th anniversary of her birth year, this festival juxtaposes Clara's music with that written by her husband Robert, their family friends Felix Mendelssohn, Johannes Brahms, and Chopin, and also Beethoven and Bach whose works resonated with and inspired her.

With a particular focus on Lieder, this festival opens with a recital of Clara's complete published songs. The weekend also includes a Lieder masterclass with emerging singer-pianist duos from Oxford Lieder, and a pre-concert talk with musicologist Natasha Loges. We hope you will join us!



Clara Schumann © Andreas Staub

Beverley Vong
Festival Curator

#ClaraSchumann200

Media Partner: CLASSIC *f*M

TICKETS

Festival Pass £45

Single Concert £18 (£15), £5 YF

BOX OFFICE 020 7222 1061

(Mon–Fri 10.00am–5.00pm)

sjss.org.uk

Booking fees per transaction:
£2.75 phone / £1.75 online

St John's Smith Square Charitable Trust
Smith Square, London SW1P 3HA

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CONCERT 1: THE COMPLETE SONGS OF CLARA SCHUMANN

Sophie Karthäuser SOPRANO

Alessandro Fisher TENOR

Eugene Asti PIANO

C Schumann *From Zwölf Gedichte aus Friedrich Rückerts 'Liebesfrühling' Op. 12:*
'Er is gekommen in Sturm und Regen Op. 12 No. 2'
'Liebst du um Schönheit Op. 12 No. 4'
'Warum willst du and're fragen Op. 12 No. 11'
Sechs Lieder Op. 13:
'Ich stand in dunklen Träumen'
'Sie liebten sich beide'
'Liebeszauber'
'Der Mond kommt still gegangen'
'Ich hab' in deinem Auge'
'Die stille Lotosblume'
Sechs Lieder aus 'Jucunde' Op. 23:
'Was weinst du, Blümlein'
'An einem lichten Morgen'
'Geheimes Flüstern hier und dort'
'Auf einem grünen Hügel'
'Das ist ein Tag, der klingen mag'
'Lust, o Lust'
Walzer
Das Veilchen
Der Abendstern
Am Strande
Volkslied
Ihr Bildnis
Sie liebten sich beide (original version)
Lorelei
Der Wanderer
Der Wanderer an der Sägemühle
Mein Stern
Beim Abschied
O weh des Scheidens, das er tat
Die gute Nacht, die ich dir sag

A very rare opportunity to hear Clara's complete published songs, 29 settings in total.

Fri 22 February 7.30pm

£18 (£15), YF



Sophie Karthäuser © Alvaro Yanez



Alessandro Fisher

LIEDER MASTERCLASS WITH EUGENE ASTI

Peter Harris TENOR

Hamish Brown PIANO

Harriet Burns SOPRANO

Michael Pandya PIANO

Emma Nikolovska MEZZO SOPRANO

Nathan Tinker PIANO

We welcome three emerging singer-pianist duos from Oxford Lieder Young Artists, each of whom will explore at least one piece by Clara Schumann.

Sat 23 February 11.00am-1.00pm

£10 (YF)



Eugene Asti

CONCERT 2: THE OLD MASTERS

Mishka Rushdie Momen PIANO

Gamal Khamis PIANO

Bach Prelude & Fugue No. 3 in C# BWV848

C Schumann 3 Preludes & Fugues Op. 16

Brahms Handel Variations Op. 24

In their early years of marriage, Robert and Clara spent a lot of time studying fugue and counterpoint together, notably Bach's complete *Well-Tempered Clavier* which Robert referred to as his "daily bread". This one-hour concert pairs a staple Bach prelude and fugue from Clara's recital repertoire with three of her own from 1845. Dedicated to Clara, Brahms' *Handel Variations Op. 24* concludes this Baroque-themed programme.

Sat 23 February 3.30pm

£18 (£15), YF



Gamal Khamis © Alex Ralph

CONCERT 3: CLARA & ROBERT

Mhairi Lawson SOPRANO

James Newby BARITONE

Eugene Asti PIANO

Mishka Rushdie Momen PIANO

Gamal Khamis PIANO

R Schumann *From 'Myrthen' Op. 25:*

'Widmung Op. 25 No. 1'

'Der Nussbaum Op. 25 No. 3'

'Die Lotosblume Op. 25 No. 7'

'Lied der Braut I Op. 25 No. 11'

'Lied der Braut II Op. 25 No. 12'

'Aus den östlichen Rosen Op. 25 No. 25'

'Zum Schluss (Rückert) Op. 25 No. 26'

R Schumann *6 Gedichte aus Rückerts*

'Liebesfrühling' Op. 37:

'Der Himmel hat eine Träne geweint'

'O ihr Herren'

'Ich hab' in mich gesogen'

'Liebste(r), was kann uns denn scheiden?'

'Rose, Meer und Sonne'

'So wahr die Sonne scheint'

C Schumann *Variations on a theme by Robert*

Schumann Op. 20

Chopin *Ballade No. 1 in G minor Op. 23*

Beethoven *An die ferne Geliebte Op. 98*

R Schumann *Fantasy in C Op. 17*

Hear familiar pieces from Robert's *Myrthen* (a wedding gift to Clara) alongside a selection of Rückert settings from the couple's joint opus, and Clara's early (and seldomly performed) *Variations on a Theme by Robert Schumann Op. 20*. Beethoven's song cycle *An die ferne Geliebte Op. 98*, with its longing for a distant loved one, precedes Robert's *Fantasy in C* which includes a brief quotation from the Beethoven cycle, undoubtedly penned with Clara in mind.

**There will be a pre-concert talk at 6.30pm
with Natasha Loges.**

Sat 23 February 7.30pm

£18 (£15), YF



Mhairi Lawson © Lloyd Smith Photography



James Newby © Ben McKee



Mishka Rushdie Momen © Benjamin Eloevge



The Busch Trio © Kaupo Kikkas

CONCERT 4: CLARA & BRAHMS

Busch Trio

Mathieu van Bellen VIOLIN

Ori Epstein CELLO

Omri Epstein PIANO

Brahms Piano Trio in C minor Op. 101

C Schumann Piano Trio in G minor Op. 17

Considered one of the best works, Clara's *Piano Trio in G minor Op. 17* (her only piano trio) opens the last day of the festival. This one-hour recital, 'Clara & Brahms', pairs Clara's lyrical trio with one of her personal favourites – Brahms' dramatic and turbulent *Piano Trio in C minor Op. 101*. Both works will be performed by the Busch Trio (Winner of 2012 Royal Overseas League Competition, and Prize Winner at the 2013 International Schumann Chamber Music Award), of whom *The Times* wrote: "what impressed most was the group's effortless musicianship and unity of thought and attack. The threesome even seemed to be breathing in synch."

Sun 24 February 11.30am

£18 (£15), YF



CONCERT 5: THE MENDELSSOHN COLLECTION

Mhairi Lawson SOPRANO

Eugene Asti PIANO

Mishka Rushdie Momen PIANO

Gamal Khamis PIANO

Brahms 2 *Junge Lieder* from Op. 63:

'*Meine Liebe ist grün* Op. 63 No. 5'

'*Wenn um den Hollunder* Op. 63 No. 6'

Mendelssohn *Die Liebende schreibt*

Op. posth. 86 No. 3

Mendelssohn *Auf Flügeln des Gesanges*

Op. 34 No. 2

Mendelssohn *Neue Liebe* Op. 19a No. 4

Mendelssohn *Nachtlied* Op. 71 No. 6

Mendelssohn *Lieder ohne Worte* Book 5

Op. 62

Mendelssohn *Piano Four Hands* in A

MWV T 4 '*Allegro Brillant*' Op. 92

This programme reflects upon Felix Mendelssohn's close friendships with the Schumanns and Brahms. We hear two Brahms settings of poetry by Felix Schumann, son of Clara and Robert who named him after Felix Mendelssohn. A selection of *Lieder* follows, both with and without words, including his *Lieder ohne Worte* Book 5 Op. 62 (dedicated to Clara) with its well-known *Ein Frühlingslied*. Mendelssohn's '*Allegro Brillant*' Op. 92 for four hands, which him and Clara played together in Leipzig, concludes this one-hour programme.

Sun 24 February 3.30pm

£18 (£15), YF

CONCERT 6: CLARA & JOACHIM

Stephan Loges BARITONE

Eugene Asti PIANO

Mathieu van Bellen VIOLIN

Omri Epstein PIANO

C Schumann 3 *Romances* Op. 22

Schumann, Brahms, Dietrich *F-A-E Sonata*

Brahms *Vier ernste Gesänge* Op. 121


As a memento of her friendship with the violinist Joseph Joachim, this final one-hour concert features the *F-A-E Sonata*, dedicated to Joseph, as well as Clara's own 3 *Romances*. The festival ends with Brahms' late *Vier ernste Gesänge*, which were first played at a private gathering after Clara's funeral. Brahms sent a copy to Clara's daughter Marie Schumann with the message: "...You will not be able to play through these songs just now because the words would be too affecting. But I beg you to regard them... as a true memorial to your beloved mother." Brahms passed away 11 months after Clara.

Sun 24 February 7.30pm

£18 (£15), YF

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ONLINE**

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