



Western
Music

Don Wright Faculty of Music

**FRIDAYS AT 12:30 SERIES
A CYCLE FOR CLARA
'VON EWIGER LIEBE'**

Friday, February 2, 2024

12:30 p.m., von Kuster Hall and [via livestream](#)

Jane Archibald, *soprano*

Liz Upchurch, *piano*

Am Strande

Clara Schumann
(1819-1896)

Er, der herrlichste von Allen, Op 42, no. 2
Du bist wie eine Blume, Op 25, no. 24
Widmung, Op 25, no. 1

Robert Schumann
(1810-1856)

Mein Stern

Clara Schumann
(1819-1896)

Mondnacht Op 39, no. 5
Süßer Freund, du blickest Op 42, no.6
Zwielicht, Op 39, no. 10

Robert Schumann
(1810-1856)

Die gute Nacht, die ich dir sage

Clara Schumann
(1819-1896)

Immer leise Op 105, no. 2
Dein blaues Auge Op 59, no. 8
Wie Melodien Op 105, no. 1
Feldeindsamkeit Op 86, no. 2
Von ewiger Liebe Op 43, no. 1

Johannes Brahms
(1833-1897)

PROGRAM NOTES

This compilation of songs is a musical journey through the lives of three of the greatest musicians and composers from the Romantic Era: Clara and Robert Schumann, and Johannes Brahms. The songs you hear today will not only showcase their exceptional artistry and love of poetry but will also reflect the journey of Clara and Robert's passionate relationship, from young lovers to newlyweds, to parents, and to the sad demise of Robert's mental health and eventual death.

As we delve into their musical narrative, we also explore the significant role that Johannes Brahms played in their lives. The Schumanns had been mentoring the young Brahms for just a few months before Robert's mental breakdown and subsequent attempt on his life. Johannes was already a close friend and confidant. His songs not only pay homage to the enormous impact Clara and Robert had on his artistic development but also serve as a testament to the enduring legacy of their combined relationships.

Johannes Brahms was deeply influenced by the Schumanns in every conceivable way. In fact, the last part of this cycle are exclusively his songs. In the last section of this program, they take over the Schumann story after Robert's death.

Johannes was just 20 years old when he moved into the Schumanns' house to be mentored by them both. Robert suffered a mental breakdown and suicide attempt just a few short months later. Robert then entered a private mental asylum where he remained until his death 2 years later. Clara was pregnant with their youngest of 8 children when Robert was admitted. Brahms put his own life on hold to help their family, deepening his relationship to Clara. They were the closest and most intimate of friends from this time until the end of their lives over 40 years later. They purposely burned their intimate letters to each other.

Clara always showcased Robert's and Johannes' works in every program that she played. Over 1,500 concert programs are documented after Robert's death.

Johannes never married, and he died just a few months after Clara.

'Our love cannot be severed!

Steel is strong, and so is iron,
Our love is even stronger still:

Iron and steel can both be reforged,
But our love, who shall change it?

Iron and steel can be melted down,
Our love must endure for ever!

THE ARTISTS

From San Francisco to the Vienna State Opera, from Zerbinetta to Salome, Canadian soprano **Jane Archibald** is known for mastering the most relentless of tessituras with ease, grace, and breathtaking artistry in roles such as Daphne, Mathilde, Donna Anna, Lucia and Konstanze to name just a few. After beginning her career in her native Canada, she became an Adler Fellow with the San Francisco Opera. She then joined the ensemble of the Vienna State Opera, debuting many coloratura roles. She has since gone on to perform regularly in the celebrated opera houses and concert halls of the world. In 2023, she was awarded an honorary doctorate from her alma mater, Wilfrid Laurier University.

Her career thus far has taken her to the Metropolitan Opera, Bavarian State Opera, Paris Opera, La Scala Milan, Teatro San Carlo, Carnegie Hall, Barbican London, Royal Opera Covent Garden, Zurich Opera, Frankfurt Opera, Deutsche Oper Berlin, Berlin Philharmonic, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Canadian Opera Company, major orchestras in London, Atlanta, San Francisco, Seattle, Toronto, Madrid, Hamburg, Tel Aviv, Cincinnati, Salzburg and opera houses and festivals in Lyon, Glyndebourne, Geneva, Hyogo, Copenhagen, Toulouse, Baden-Baden, Aix-en-Provence and Santa Fe, among others.

Jane is a Juno-award winner who appears on numerous CD and DVD recordings, most recently in the celebrated release of Bernstein's *Candide*, with Marin Alsop and the London Symphony Orchestra. More information can be found at www.janearchibald.com Jane is based in Halifax, Nova Scotia, with her husband, tenor Kurt Streit and their family.

Pianist, vocal coach and educator **Liz Upchurch** celebrates her 25th season as Head of the Ensemble Studio at the Canadian Opera Company. In 2019 she was awarded the prestigious Ruby Mercer Award for her exemplary contribution to the operatic industry. In her role as Ensemble Head she has now helped to train and develop an entire generation of Canadian singers and pianists.

Born and educated in Britain Liz is a graduate prize-winning soloist of the Royal Academy of Music where she studied with Roger Vignoles and Martin Isepp. She has performed and broadcast chamber music and song recitals throughout Europe and North America as well as having an extensive career as a répétiteur, vocal coach and teacher. Last year she recorded Clara Schumann Lieder with the Canadian soprano Adrienne Pieczonka in collaboration with the NAC. This CD was nominated for a Juno award.

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