

Clara Schumann

Romantic Trailblazer

- 1819 September 13 Clara Josephine Wieck is born
- 1824 Marianne (mother) leaves Wieck, Clara spends the summer with Mother
- 1828 Robert Schumann begins studies with Wieck, Clara has her debut in Leipzig
- 1831 Clara has first solo concert tour to Paris with father
- 1835 Robert begins courting Clara
- 1837 August 14, Robert and Clara become secretly engaged
- 1839 Clara leaves for Paris without father
- 1840 Clara and Robert receive court permission to marry, August 1st, they marry
September 5th
- 1841 Birth of Marie Schumann
- 1843 Birth of Elise Schumann
- 1844 Robert and Clara tour Russia for concerts
- 1845 Birth of Julie Schumann
- 1846 Birth of Emil Schumann, died 1847
- 1848 Birth of Ludwig
- 1849 May revolution in Dresden, July birth of Ferdinand Schumann
- 1851 Birth of Eugenie Schumann
- 1853 Brahms meets Robert and Clara Schumann
- 1854 Robert Schumann attempts suicide Feb. 27, moved to hospital March 4.
Birth of Felix Schumann June 11.
- 1856 Clara sees Robert for first time on July 27, Robert dies July 29.
- 1869 Julie marries Count Radicati di Marmorito
- 1870 Ludwig is institutionalized in Colditz for insanity, Ferdinand is drafted for
Franco-Prussian War
- 1871 Ferdinand returns home
- 1872 Julie dies

1873 Ferdinand marries Antonie Deutsch

1877 Elise marries Louis Sommerhoff

1878 Clara joins faculty of Hoch Conservatory

1879 Felix dies

1887 Ferdinand hospitalized, so Clara assumes responsibility for his six children

1891 Final public concert, in March

Ferdinand dies in June

1896 Clara suffers a stroke March 26 and dies May 20th

1897 Johannes Brahms dies.

“Art is a beautiful gift. What is more beautiful than to clothe one’s feelings in sounds, what a comfort in sad hours, what a pleasure, what a wonderful feeling, to provide an hour of happiness to others. And what a sublime feeling to pursue art so that one gives one’s life for it.” Clara Wieck, 1838 in a letter to Robert Schumann

Sources:

Clara Schumann: The Artist and the Woman by Nancy B. Reich

Clara Schumann: Romantic Piano Music pub. By Bärenreiter

Complete Works for Piano recorded by Jozef de Beehouwer on YouTube

The Wild Life of Clara Schumann by Hannah Klein on YouTube

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