

Robert Schumann with his Wife Clara (c. 1850)

Abstract

The composer and musical director Robert Schumann (1810–1856) and his wife Clara Schumann (1819–1896), also a composer and virtuoso pianist, were leading contributors to musical life in nineteenth-century Germany and major representatives of romanticism in music. In his numerous piano works and *Lieder* (songs), Robert Schumann built on impulses and material from romantic writers such as Jean Paul and [E. T. A. Hoffmann](#), interpreting poems by [Johann Wolfgang von Goethe](#), Joseph Eichendorff, and [Heinrich Heine](#) in his music. This depiction of the couple is emblematic of their symbiotic relationship, with Clara being the most important performer of her husband's work. A composer herself, a music teacher at the Frankfurt conservatory, and the editor of her husband's works, Clara Schumann also maintained a life-long friendship with Johannes Brahms (1833–1897), whose [works](#) she performed in addition to those of Beethoven and Chopin. Lithograph by unknown artist, c. 1850.

Source



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