



# Composer Portfolios

# Clara SCHUMANN



Name	Clara Schumann
Nationality	German
Born-Died	1819-1896
Quote	<p><i>'My imagination can picture no fairer happiness than to continue living for art'</i></p> <p><i>'I wish to lead a life free from care, and I see that I shall be unhappy if I cannot always work at my art.'</i></p>

## Interesting Stories

### Wonder Woman

Once she was married, a huge portion of Clara's time was spent handling domestic duties and taking care of her family. In the 14 years that they were together, Robert and Clara managed to get pregnant 10 times and have 8 children namely Marie, Elise, Julie, Emil, Ludwig, Ferdinand, Eugenie, and Felix. Although she had to endure multiple pregnancies and motherhood, Clara still continued to perform, playing 139 public concerts in the period between 1840 and 1854 across the world.

### Performing from Memory

Clara was one of the only musicians from her time to perform music from memory. Before the 19th century, playing or performing publicly without the score was considered arrogant. Clara felt that playing from memory and heart allowed her to feel the music more powerfully. As the classical music continued to develop era after era, more and more teachers would start encouraging their students to memorize their scores.

### Facts:

- Clara is one of the most prominent female pianists of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- She started performing at the age of 9, under her father's guidance.
- Clara received a thorough musical education. Her father supervised her training in theory and composition, which started after her 5<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- Due to Clara's success and popularity as a musician, she went on a European tour in 1835, where she was titled a child prodigy.
- In 1840, Clara married composer Robert Schumann
- Clara inspired her husband and he wouldn't have realized the amount of success he did without her assistance.
- Clara often doubted herself. She wrote in her diaries that society believed women should not compose, which meant she found it difficult to believe she had talent, despite her father and husband's encouragement.
- Through her life Clara created 66 pieces of music, including 20 pieces for solo piano, 4 for orchestra and piano, 29 songs and cadenzas for piano concertos.

### Clara's Music

*Now we know more about the woman, why not listen to some of her music!*

- Piano Concerto
- Piano Romances
- Love's Spring
- Piano Sonata in G minor
- Easy Preludes for Students
- Three Romances, Op.11
- Four Polonaises, Op.1
- Caprices en forme de valse, Op.2
- Scherzo in D minor, Op.10
- Scherzo No.2 in C minor, Op.14
- Three Praeludien und Fugen, Op.16
- Three Gemischte Chöre, Op.19