

## Beloved Clara

### The Schumannfest 2019 celebrates Clara Schumann's 200th birthday

The 22nd Bonn Schumann Festival (June 1-16) will be dedicated to the 200th birthday of Clara Schumann this year. Under the slogan "Beloved Clara", the festival in 16 events commemorates a woman who is not only an exception in music history. Clara Schumann can not be pressed into any role: she was a wife (by Robert Schumann) and mother (of eight children), she was the most famous pianist of the 19th century, she was composer and manager of her own career, educator and counselor. "The Schumann Festival," say the festival makers Markus Schuck and Ulrich Bumann, "will try to convey this multifaceted richness of an unusual personality."

Of course, in the opening recital on June 1st (8pm) at the Theater im Ballsaal there will works by Clara Schumann. In addition, the Finnish baritone Arttu Kataja and the Finnish pianist Pauliina Tukiainen, artistic advisor at the Schumann Festival, include songs of Robert Schumann and Johannes Brahms in their program. The second recital on June 7 at the Schumannhaus focuses on the work of Clara Schumann and other composers: four young, multi-award winning artists, the singers Samantha Gaul and Sofia Vinnik, and the pianists Victoria Guerrero and Rebeka Stojkoska, congratulate Clara Schumann on her 200th birthday.

The three piano recitals of the festival are also in female hands this year. The Latvian pianist Aurelia Shimkus will be the star in the Theater in the Ballroom on June 3. She was awarded with an Echo Klassik award for young talent in 2016. Shimkus will also present her own compositions at this concert. Robert Schumann's traditional concert on June 8 at the Schumannhaus will be performed by the internationally acclaimed young German pianist Katharina Treutler with works by Robert and Clara Schumann, as well as by Schubert and Liszt. Patron of the festival is Peter Limbourg, Director of Deutsche Welle. And the final concert of the Schumannfest takes place in the Deutsche Welle Gremiensaal on 15 June: The German-Greek pianist Danae Dörken, successful in many national and international competitions, plays works by Robert and Clara Schumann as well as Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy and Frederic Chopin.

Two evenings in the program are specially designed for the Bonn Schumann Festival and the 200th birthday of Clara Schumann. The

award-winning violinist Liv Migdal and her sister, the actress Nadia Migdal, will present works by poets and composers in a dialogue of words and music at the theater in the ballroom on 11 June. The jazz evening of the festival on June 12 at the Schumannhaus is all about great pianists and composers of jazz: The Danish jazz singer Mette Nadja Hansen and the jazz pianist Johannes von Ballestrem, born in Bonn, embark on a musical journey of discovery.

One of the main works of Clara Schumann, her Piano Trio in G minor, will be heard at the Ballroom Theater on June 14th. It is interpreted by the young British bush trio, who are considered one of the leading European trios of their generation. Trios by Mozart and Schubert complete the program.

The Schumann Festival 2019 gives a lot of space to the young participants: with the musical "Clara", which pupils of the Clara Schumann Gymnasium have prepared (June 2nd, Theater in the Ballroom), with the orchestral concert of Ernst-Moritz-Arndt - Gymnasiums (13 June in the auditorium of the University of Bonn) and with the singing contest "Show what you can do" (finale on 16 June at the Haus der Springmaus).

On two festival evenings, June 6th and 7th, a production of the Fringe Ensemble will be shown in the theater in the ballroom: "Clara", a play by director Marlin de Haan. On June 5th the pianists Jennifer Rüth and Ming, who promise a musical-acrobatic-cabaretistic work of art as "Queenz of Piano" - set a cheerful counterpoint at Haus der Springmaus.

Once again, this year the film program in the Rex Cinema is a defining element of the Schumann Festival. Of course, two films revolve around Robert and Clara Schumann: "Beloved Clara" by Helma Sanders-Brahms with Martina Gedeck (2 June) and "Reverie" (5 June), the oldest known Schumann film from 1943 with Hilde Krahl and Mathias Wieman. In line with the festival's vocal competition, the American feature film "Boychoir" starring Dustin Hoffman will be on the program on June 14th.

The Beethovenfest sets a special accent on the occasion of Clara Schumann's 200th birthday with a special concert on September 13, the exact birthday date, at the World Conference Center Bonn. At the joint event with the Bonn Schumann Festival, the two piano concertos by Clara and Robert Schumann take center stage; Beethoven's Overture No. 1 on "Fidelio" and the world premiere of a work by the Polish-Swiss composer Bettina Skrzypczak are also included. The solo parts will be

performed by Jamina Gerl and Fabian Müller, with the Robert Schumann Philharmonic Orchestra Chemnitz under the direction of Gerrit Prießnitz.

Further information: [www.bonner-schumannfest.de](http://www.bonner-schumannfest.de)

Tickets: [www.bonnticket.de](http://www.bonnticket.de)