

M502: ROBERT AND CLARA SCHUMANN



What role does biography play in the reception and analysis of the Schumanns' compositions?

This course will introduce major and lesser-known works of Robert and Clara Wieck Schumann, while examining the phenomenon of composer biography and its place in both popular and academic discourse on music.

We will study selected works of both composers chronologically, while reading and comparing three recent—and quite different—biographies, along with other primary sources and secondary literature.

The class will be conducted as a seminar, combining lecture and student presentations with group discussion. Coursework will consist of weekly short writing assignments, a presentation on selected repertoire, and midterm and final examinations. Students in the academic disciplines of Musicology and Music Theory will also be expected to write a research paper, and may form an optional outside reading group.

Instructor: Alison Altstatt
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Course Number, Time and Location

Time: MW 8:15–9:30

Location: M267

Course number: 32424

Prerequisites

Music T508, M541, and M542 are prerequisites for this course. This requirement may be satisfied by passing the Written Theory and Music History portions of the Graduate Entrance Examination.