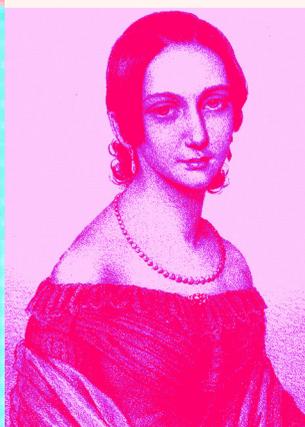


MUSES TRIO

Celebrating Clara

1. **Kate Moore:** Whoever you are, come forth (solo cello)
2. **Clara Schumann:** Piano Trio in G minor, Op. 17, 1st movt. Allegro moderato
3. **Rebecca Clarke:** Lullaby (violin and cello)
4. **Clara Schumann:** Piano Trio in G minor, Op. 17, 2nd movt. Scherzo and Trio
5. **Kate Moore:** Dies Irae (violin and piano)
World premiere recording
6. **Clara Schumann:** Piano Trio in G minor, Op. 17, 3rd movt. Andante
7. **Pauline Viardot:** Tarantelle (violin and piano)
8. **Nicole Murphy:** Surface 2 (violin, cello and piano)
9. **Jennifer Higdon:** Nocturne (cello and piano)
10. **Clara Schumann:** Piano Trio in G minor, Op. 17, 4th movt. Allegretto
11. **Lera Auerbach:** Postscriptum (violin, cello and piano)

The Muses Trio celebrates the music, words and life of Clara Schumann for the 200th anniversary of her birth in 2019. Clara's personal piano trio is fragmented and reconstructed with music by female composers to create a contemporary emotional narrative representing the facets of her life: pianist, touring virtuoso, composer, wife to a very unstable genius, mother to eight.



1. KATE MOORE (AUS)

Whoever you are, come forth (solo cello)

Invoking the creative spirit

Kate Moore (born 1979) is an Australian-Dutch musician and composer of new music. Having obtained a Masters degree from The Royal Conservatory of The Hague, she has been based in the Netherlands since 2002 and in 2013 she was awarded a Ph.D. from The University of Sydney. In 2017 she was the recipient of the Matthijs Vermeulen Prize, the most prestigious Dutch prize for composers, for her work *The Dam* commissioned for The Canberra International Festival. Her major work *Sacred Environment* was premiered by The Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra and choir with soloists Alex Oomens and Lies Beijerinck. Active on the international scene, Moore has had works performed by acclaimed ensembles including ASKO|Schönberg, Alarm Will Sound, The Bang On A Can All-Stars and Icebreaker. Her works have been performed in venues including The Concertgebouw, Carnegie Hall and The Sydney Opera House and at major festivals including The Holland Festival, ISCM World Music Days and MATA. katemoore.org

2. CLARA SCHUMANN

Piano Trio Op. 17: 1st movt

Clara, the performer

"all Vienna is saying that no artist has ever made a sensation like this."

CLARA WIECK SCHUMANN

was one of the leading pianists of her day and a composer in her own right. Although her output was relatively small, she wrote significant keyboard and vocal compositions. Born in Leipzig, 1819, Clara began studying the piano with her father, a teacher of high repute. Clara gave her debut concert in Leipzig at the age of seven, and by 1837 was recognized as one of the leading virtuosi in Europe. Her career as a composer was also blossoming.

Clara married Robert Schumann in 1840. They would have eight children and Clara would watch her husband slowly lose his sanity. Had Clara been able to devote more time to composition – she was occupied with maternal matters and concertizing to support her family – she might well have risen to the artistic heights of her husband. Clara composed little after Robert's death in 1856. She took a teaching post at the Frankfurt Hoch Conservatory and continued to concertize until 1891. She died of a stroke in 1896.

The Trio in G minor for piano, violin and cello, Op. 17, composed in 1846, is generally regarded as her finest work. Clara's remarks in her diary about her trio demonstrate the influence of societal attitudes towards women composers:

"There are some pretty passages in the trio, and I think it is fairly successful as far as form goes, of course it is only a woman's work, which is always lacking in force, and here and there in invention."

(Notes by Barry and Jeanne Gorman)

3. REBECCA CLARKE (UK)

Lullaby (violin and cello)

Clara, the mother

"My dear, dear Marie, if you only knew how dear you are to me, how my whole existence is bound up with yours..."

Rebecca Clarke (1886-1979) was a pioneering female musician and composer of the early twentieth century. Her father was a cruel domestic tyrant whose abusive behaviour was a major influence in his daughter's life. She was admitted to the Royal Academy of Music in London in 1903, but her father withdrew her when her harmony teacher, Percy Miles, proposed marriage. Her father banished her from the family home. To support herself, Clarke embarked on an active performing career as a violist. In 1912, she became one of the first female musicians in a fully professional (and formerly male) ensemble, the Queen's Hall Orchestra.

The best-known of her works are the Viola Sonata and the Piano Trio. Much of Clarke's music was never published and remains the property of her estate. Her difficulties in publishing the Piano Trio may have discouraged her from pursuing publication of later works. Although she has been identified as among the most important British composers of the interwar years, a complete understanding of her significance will only be reached when more of her music is available for study.

(Notes by Barry Gorman)

4. CLARA SCHUMANN

Piano Trio Op. 17: 2nd movt

*"Our house is very merry.
Five children are running about
and already beginning to listen to
Mozart and Beethoven."*

Robert Schumann

5. KATE MOORE (AUS)

Dies Irae (violin and piano)

Losing her fourth child, baby Emil



6. CLARA SCHUMANN

Piano Trio Op. 17: 3rd movt

Robert and Clara

Clara: "I never feel so well, so comfortable, as when I am with him. He doesn't have to talk at all. I like it so much when he is just thinking and would like to be able to listen to each thought. And when he gently presses my hand, it makes me feel happy to the very core of my being. Then I feel so sure that I am his best beloved."

7. PAULINE VIARDOT (FRANCE)

Tarantelle (violin and piano)

Viardot upon retiring from the stage in 1844:

*"I am leaving you Clara
Schumann. Her singing on the
piano is better than mine."*

A celebrated singer of the nineteenth century, **Pauline Viardot** (1821-1910) became an influential voice teacher and composer of songs and operas. Clara Schumann, a close friend, wrote: "*she is the most brilliant woman I have ever met*". Pauline studied voice with her father, Spanish voice pedagogue Manuel del Popolo García, composition with Anton Reicha, and piano with Franz Liszt. She was fluent in four languages by the age of six. She made her debut as a three-octave mezzo, and soon began touring, accompanying herself at the piano in her own songs. She joined the Théâtre Italien in Paris and in 1840 married the theatre's director, Louis Viardot. The couple toured Europe extensively with Louis as Pauline's accompanist. Her publications are an important source on nineteenth century vocal performance practice.

(Notes by Barry and Jeanne Gorman)



8. NICOLE MURPHY (AUS)

Surface 2 (violin, cello and piano)

Clara: "The more Robert involves himself with his art, the less I can do as an artist, Heaven knows! There are always interruptions, and small as our household is, I always have this and that to do and that robs me of my time....This always happens when Robert is composing. There is not even one little hour in the whole day for myself! If only I don't fall too far behind...I can't do anything with my composing — I would sometimes like to strike my dumb head!"

Australian Nicole Murphy's music has been described as "exquisite and sensitive" (Sydney Morning Herald), "strong and compelling" (Loudmouth) and "full of exhilarating tension" (Arts Knoxville). She has received commissions from eminent arts organisations including the Australian Ballet, the Royal Academy of Dance (London), the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, Experiments in Opera/Symphony Space (New York), Orchestra Victoria, Wild Rumpus (San Francisco), Chamber Sounds (Singapore), and the Definiens Project (Los Angeles). Her music has been performed by the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra, NOWensemble (New York), Ars Nova (Dallas), and Halcyon (Sydney), and has been programmed at numerous festivals, including the Intimacy of Creativity (Hong Kong), Norfolk/Yale Chamber Music Festival (Connecticut), the Dallas Festival of Modern Music, and the Nief Norf Festival (Tennessee). Nicole is the recipient of various awards, including the inaugural Layton Composer Fellowship (2018), the Ensemble Offspring Noisy Women commission (2018), ICEBERG International Call for Scores (2017), Nief Norf International Call for Scores (2016), the MAFB International Commissioning Prize (2015), and the Theodore Front International Orchestral Prize (2013). She holds a PhD from the University of Queensland.

nicolemurphy.com.au

9. JENNIFER HIGDON (US)

Nocturne (cello and piano)

Clara: "I always pray to God to give me the strength to successfully overcome the frightful agitations that I have lived through and that still await me. My true old friend, my piano, must help me with this! ... I always believed I knew what a splendid thing it is to be an artist, but only now, for the first time, do I really understand how all my pain and joy can be relieved only by divine music so that I often feel quite well again."

Jennifer Higdon is one of America's most acclaimed and most frequently performed living composers. She is a major figure in contemporary Classical music, receiving the 2010 Pulitzer Prize in Music for her Violin Concerto, a 2010 Grammy for her Percussion Concerto and a 2018 Grammy for her Viola Concerto. Most recently, Higdon received the Nemmers Prize from Northwestern University which is given to contemporary classical composers of exceptional achievement who have significantly influenced the field of composition. Higdon enjoys several hundred performances a year of her works, and Blue Cathedral is one of today's most performed contemporary orchestral works, with more than 600 performances worldwide. Her works have been recorded on more than sixty CDs. Higdon's first opera, Cold Mountain, won the prestigious International Opera Award for Best World Premiere and the opera recording was nominated for 2 Grammy awards. Dr. Higdon holds the Rock Chair in Composition at The Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. Her music is published exclusively by Lawdon Press.

jenniferhigdon.com



10. CLARA SCHUMANN

Piano Trio Op. 17: 4th movt

Clara, the composer

"There is nothing that surpasses the joy of creative activity, even if only for those hours of self forgetfulness in which one breathes solely in the realm of tones."

11. LERA AUERBACH

Postscriptum (violin, cello and piano)

Lera Auerbach is a poet, composer, concert pianist and visual artist. She has published more than 100 works for opera, ballet, orchestral and chamber music, and performs as concert pianist throughout the world. Her work is championed by leading artists, conductors, stage directors and choreographers, with recent works staged by the San Francisco Ballet, Stanislavsky Theater, Hamburg Opera, Theatre an der Wein, National Ballet of China, Finnish National Ballet, National Ballet of Canada, Netherlands Dance Theater, Semperoper and Staatskapelle Dresden, and New York's Lincoln Center. Lera is a regular contributor to the Best American Poetry blog, has published three books of poetry and prose in Russian, and is the author of several librettos. Prizes for her works include two Golden Masks, Echo Klassik and the Hindemith Prize. She holds degrees from the Hanover University of Music, Drama and Media and The Juilliard School, where she received the P. and D. Soros Fellowship. The World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, selected Lera in 2007 as a Young Global Leader and in 2014 as a Cultural Leader, where she lectured on borderless creativity, a fascinating topic that she also presented at the University of Michigan, Harvard University, the Open Society Institute and other venues. leraauerbach.com



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Christa Powell (violin)

Highly-respected performance artist, session musician, and music educator, with a long held passion for chamber and orchestral music, and founding principal of **topologymusic.com**

Louise King (cello)

Louise King is a recording and concert artist, teaching artist, active chamber musician, examiner, conductor, music director, arranger and adjudicator **cellodreaming.com**

Therese Milanovic (piano)

Therese is in demand as both performer and pedagogue, and is an Australian Taubman Instructor and Associate Faculty member with the Golandsky Institute **theresemilanovic.com**

