

59E59 THEATERS

LPMAM
AND
FACE TO FACE
PRESENT

Clara

SEX, LOVE AND
CLASSICAL MUSIC

BY
ELENA MAZZON

DIRECTED BY
COLIN WATKEYS

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OFF
BROADWAY
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SEX, LOVE AND CLASSICAL MUSIC

BY
ELENA MAZZON
DIRECTED BY
COLIN WATKEYS

— CAST —

Clara Schumann ELENA MAZZON *

— CREATIVE TEAM —

Playwright..... ELENA MAZZON

Director/Lighting Design.....COLIN WATKEYS

Music Director.....STEFANIA PASSAMONTE

Dramaturg CATRIONA KERRIDGE

Production Stage ManagerMADISON LANE

Run time: 60 minutes with no intermission

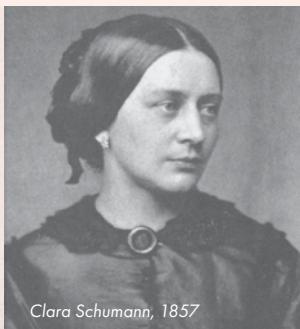


The Production Stage Manager is a member of Actors' Equity Association,
the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

*Member of British Actors' Equity

CLARA SCHUMANN: A STORY OF GRACE, DETERMINATION, AND EXCELLENCE

By Amelie Bazile, New Haven Symphony Orchestra



Clara Josephine Schumann, neé Wieck, (1819-1896) was a German composer, pianist, and music teacher. Appraised as one of the most esteemed pianists of her time, Schumann gained a wide range of influence, which she maintained over a 61-year concert career. She used this influence to familiarize the world with her compositions, as well as make fundamental changes to the piano recital. Through her compositions, honors, and performances, Clara Schumann was able to leave a profound mark upon both the worlds of music and history.

Schumann began her journey as a composer as a result of taking music lessons with her father. From the age of five, Schumann took daily lessons in composition, music theory, harmony, and counterpoint (among other subjects). She was exposed to composition through these lessons and continued through adulthood.

As a child, Schumann was taught lessons in voice, violin, and piano by her father. Schumann made her official concert debut at the Gewandhaus in Leipzig when she was just nine years old. She toured all across Europe and became well known as a young prodigy.

A mellifluous pianist, Schumann became highly decorated in the field over the course of her 61-year performance career. She composed 66 pieces, including chamber music, works for solo piano, and piano with orchestra. The

most famous piece composed by Schumann is her Piano Concerto in A Minor. Composed between 1833 and 1834, when Schumann was just thirteen years old, the Piano Concerto was her first major composition.

Clara Schumann made fundamental changes to the way the piano recital is performed that are still in practice today. She established the convention of musicians performing their recital pieces from memory as well as highlighted historical composers, such as Bach and Scarlatti, which was unusual for her time period. Schumann also promoted commitment to the intention of composers, highlighting the genius of the composer rather than the flashy skills of the soloist.

Secondly, she was very famous throughout Europe, which gave her the power to influence trends and opinions. She championed the works of Robert Schumann, Brahms, Mendelssohn, and Chopin, which helped boost them to the positions of fame they occupy today.

Finally, Schumann's own compositions – especially her Piano Concerto and her Piano Trio – have become famous in modern times, and now occupy positions in concert programs worldwide.

This article has been edited for brevity.
Read the full biography at bit.ly/ClaraNHSO

NOTE FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT

I was fascinated by how modern, yet deeply rooted in her time, Clara was — and how human and dramatic her life feels even today. A woman of extraordinary talent who still doubted her own value, she was influenced by the men in her life, yet capable of strong choices in a society that confined women to being wives and mothers. Her story — and music — deserves to be heard, as it remains both a warning and a lesson in today's world.

Clara: Sex, Love and Classical Music began in 2016, when I met Colin at the Actors Centre in London. With support from Arts Council England, the piece was developed in 2017 with Stefania (music director) and Catriona (dramaturg), before premiering in London in 2018.

Since then, Clara has toured internationally across Europe, Australia, and the United States. It was adapted for radio, longlisted for the 61st Grammy Awards (Spoken Word), and translated into Italian.

ELENA MAZZON

(Clara Schumann)



Elena Mazzon is an Italian-British actress and playwright based in the UK. She creates and performs theater that blends storytelling with live music. Her debut play, **Clara: Sex, Love and Classical**

Music (2018), was first workshopped at the Actors Centre and toured Europe, Australia, and America. Her second solo work, **The Popess: Instructions for Freedom** (2024), has toured the UK, New York, and Italy. Theater credits include **Circular**, **The Tempest**, **Neither Here Nor There**, and **Clepsydra**. Screen work includes **The Count of Montecristo**, **Killing Eve**, **Far from the Plains**, **A Dice with Five Sides**, **Empathy**, and **The Overcoat**.

COLIN WATKEYS

(Director)

Colin Watkeys, founder of the Face to Face Festival, has specialized in directing solo performers for more than forty years, including Claire Dowie, Ken Campbell, and Jack Klaff. He studied Philosophy in London; Japanese Theater, Music and Dance in Tokyo; ran the Finborough Cabaret (1982 - 1988); and taught at the Actors Centre. He also contributed to the Royal Court Theatre's Young Writers Festival and continues to direct highly praised productions at the Brighton, London, and Edinburgh Fringes. Recently he directed Claire Dowie's **Swansong** and Jack Klaff's **Kafka** at the Finborough Theatre in London. **Kafka** transferred to 59E59 Theaters as part of Brits Off Broadway 2025.

STEFANIA PASSAMONTE

(Music Director)

Dr. Stefania Passamonte OMRI is an internationally acclaimed pianist, composer, and music director for opera, theater, and film. Knighted into the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic, she is recognized for her innovative approach to classical performance. She is founder and co-producer of Climate Opera Haus, music director for the SDGs, and president & CEO of Master Chord Records. Founder of the London Performing Academy of Music, Stefania brings a distinctive vision that bridges tradition and contemporary storytelling, pioneering interdisciplinary productions that unite artistry, innovation, and global cultural dialogue.

CATRIONA KERRIDGE

(Dramaturg)

Catriona Kerridge is a British-German playwright and dramaturg whose work has been performed at venues including the North Wall (**Fast Track**), Hampstead Theatre (**Bunch**), and the National Theatre Temporary Space and Studio (**Shoot, I Didn't Mean That**), as

well as festivals across the UK. She has been part of writers' groups at the Royal Court, National Theatre Studio, HighTide Theatre, and Sphinx Theatre Company. As a dramaturg, she has worked across the UK and internationally, including Luxembourg and Belgium. Her work with young people has led to many wild yet hard-hitting productions, often collaborating with organizations such as Pegasus Theatre, Kiln Theatre, and Theatre Royal Plymouth.

MADISON LANE

(Production Stage Manager; she/her)

Off Broadway: *Pericles* (Classic Stage Company), *someone spectacular* (Signature Theatre); *DATA*, *Gary Gulman: Grandiloquent*, *Rachel Bloom: Death, Let Me Do My Show* (Lucille Lortel); *Hannah Gadsby: Woof!* (Abrons Arts Center), *Alison Leiby: Oh God, A Show About Abortion* (Cherry Lane), *Terminus* (New York Theatre Workshop); *Richard III*, *King Lear* (New York Classical Theatre). Regional: *Comedy of Errors* (Actors Theatre of Louisville). Other: *Gary Gulman: Grandiloquent* (Soho Theatre); *The Miser, The Misanthrope* (Moliere in the Park); *Corsicana* (Playwrights Horizons), *Wolf Play* (Soho Rep), *Coco Live-to-Film Tour* (AMP Worldwide). Madison is an Anglophile at heart and absolutely chuffed to be working with the Brits Off Broadway teams this summer!

LPMAM

(Producer)

The London Performing Academy of Music CIO is a UK-based charity dedicated to nurturing the next generation of musical talent. We provide scholarships, instruments, and performance opportunities, helping young musicians bring their artistry to life. From supporting concerts and competitions to fostering community engagement, we champion excellence and diversity in music. Through its work, LPMAM creates spaces where talent can thrive and reach audiences around the world.

FACE TO FACE

(Producer)

Face to Face produces solo theatre for festivals throughout the UK, Europe, and the world. We run workshops teaching solo performance and nurture the creation and development of solo theatre plays. Elena Mazzon created and developed both *Clara: Sex, Love and Classical Music* and *The Popess: Instructions for Freedom* in Face to Face solo theatre workshops.

CLARA: SEX, LOVE AND CLASSICAL MUSIC

First workshopped at the former Actors Centre in London in 2017, Elena Mazzon's debut play received its world premiere in London at From the Forest Festival in 2018 and has since toured across three continents. We are delighted to present *Clara: Sex, Love and Classical Music* to a wider international audience in collaboration with 59E59 Theaters.

CURATOR'S NOTE

Before seeing this show, I'd only heard of Clara Schumann's husband, the more "famous" composer of the couple. I was struck by how contemporary her story feels. Clara was, in many ways, a feminist before the term existed—determined, disciplined, and unwilling to let her artistry be diminished.

As a woman working in the arts, I recognize that tension all too well; the landscape has changed, but not as much as we might like to think. There's something deeply connecting in that recognition, across time. I'm very glad to be able to share her story here.



VAL DAY

Artistic Director,
59E59 Theaters

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By JIMMY LOGAN

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and JAMIE MacDOUGALL

Directed by KALLY LLOYD-JONES

BRITS
OFF
BROADWAY
2026



OUR MISSION

59E59 Theaters was established by the Elysabeth Kleinhans Theatrical Foundation in 2004 to grant professional space and expertise to non-profit theater companies premiering their work in New York City. Under the leadership of Val Day, Artistic Director, and Brian Beirne, Managing Director, 59E59 Theaters presents a year-round curated program of Off Broadway plays and musicals that are nurtured and supported by providing performance spaces and equipment as well as production, ticketing, FOH, marketing, and press support. These theater companies receive 80% or more of the ticket revenue and pay no weekly rent to 59E59.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

59E59 Theaters reside on the traditional homelands of the Leni-Lenape People on the Lenape Island of Mannahatta. We acknowledge the Leni-Lenape as the original people of the land who were forcefully removed during colonization resulting in erased and excluded peoples and culture. We are grateful for the opportunity to work on the land and honor their elders, past and present alongside future generations for their stewardship and continuing relationship with their territory.

This presentation is not a production of the Elysabeth Kleinhans Theatrical Foundation, Inc., which offers its facilities, when available, for productions by not-for-profit theater companies. For further information regarding licensing this theater or other theaters in this Theater Building, contact Brian Beirne, Managing Director. The use of cameras and other recording devices in the Theater is prohibited by law. There is no smoking in this Theater or any part of the Theater Building.