

SYNOPSIS

Late in life, concert pianist Clara Wieck Schumann plays the deeply intimate Intermezzo, written for and dedicated to her by Johannes Brahms. As she plays, she thinks of those she has loved — the joys shared, the personal tragedies — and the ghosts of her past gather around. As the Intermezzo draws to a close, we see three different aspects of her person emerge. A singer, dancer and pianist Clara take us on a journey of remembrance.

We see her meet Robert Schumann, the genius composer for love of whom she engaged in a hostile battle with her mentor father. We experience their highly charged romantic early years, and mourn the creeping mental illness that destroys their marriage, leading to his dramatic suicide attempt, incarceration in a mental asylum, and premature death.

We meet the entrancing young composer Johannes Brahms, an important friend to both Robert and Clara. Clara's intimate confidant, he ultimately breaks her heart when he refuses to consider the idea of marriage. Deeply wounded, Clara turns to the companion who has fortified her throughout her tumultuous life: her music. Drawing strength from words she set during her first year of marriage, the three Claras gather. Clara is no stranger to pain, but it will not define her. Instead, she chooses Love.

Tara Faircloth, Stage Director