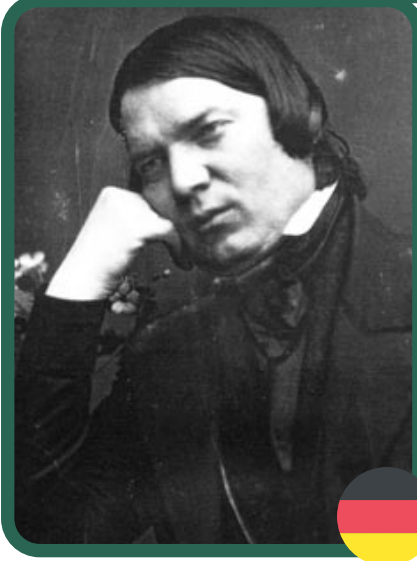




COMPOSER BIOGRAPHY

**ROBERT SCHUMANN**

BORN: June 8, 1810

ERA/STYLE: Romantic

DIED: July 29, 1856

HOMETOWN: Zwickau, Germany

Robert Schumann was born in Germany in 1810. His father, an editor and book dealer, encouraged him to be interested in books as well as music. Schumann began taking piano lessons when he was 6 years old. After grammar school, he went to a university to study law. However, he was more interested in music than law and eventually gave up law completely.

In 1832, while Schumann was studying piano and composing, he permanently injured his hand. He then devoted himself to composing music and literary works. He started a magazine, *New Journal for Music*, for which he wrote articles and reviewed music and concerts. He became well known as a critic, editor, and a great spokesperson for Romantic music.

In 1840, Schumann married Clara Wieck, also a pianist and the daughter of his former piano teacher. Up to this point, he had written only music for the piano. However, he was very happy and began to write songs. He also later composed music for orchestra and piano, opera, chorus, and chamber ensembles, and became known for writing music about characters and literature.

Schumann accompanied Clara on a concert tour of Russia where she performed many of his compositions. She was considered one of the best pianists at the time, and premiered many of her husband's works. They had eight children.