



## DOLCI BY THE BAY

### Concert No. 32

*Ted Rust, oboe*  
*Viva Knight, piano*



#### Three Romances, opus 94

#### Robert Schumann (1810-1856)

*Nicht schnell — Einfach, innig — Nicht schnell*

*Three Romances* are a set of instrumental love songs Robert Schumann wrote in 1849 as a Christmas present to his wife Clara, nine years into their marriage. It was one of their last happy years together. Robert attempted suicide in 1853 and spent much of his short remaining lifetime in a mental hospital. The *Romances* open with confessional intimacy, the oboe personifying Robert, the piano Clara. At first the couple sing tentative questions and answers. In the second Romance the voices become agitated as they interrupt each other in a staggered rhythm. In the last Romance, they declare love in a recurring unison, but Clara's piano answers each in a solo cadence.

#### Dance of the Gnomes

#### Franz Liszt (1810-1886)

This is one of two Concert Etudes that Liszt composed in 1866. Both he and Clara were touring recitalists, and both cultivated some showiness in their styles of composition that may have been essential to their popularity. But Liszt, unlike the sober Clara, lived a passionate public and private life, loving and leaving a succession of wealthy women and fathering numerous children in and out of wedlock. He was also a generous friend to less fortunate musicians.

#### Three Romances, opus 22

#### Clara Schumann (1819-1896)

*Andante molto — Allegretto — Leidenschaftlich schnell*

As the sole family breadwinner after Robert became ill, Clara was obliged to devote most of her time and energy to her career as a virtuoso pianist. Clara probably wrote her *Three Romances* for Christmas, 1849, at the same time Robert wrote the *Three Romances for Oboe and Piano*, but like many of her compositions they were not published immediately. She performed them for King George V of Hanover in 1853 (he loved them) with the violinist Joseph Joachim, and finally published them in 1856 with a dedication to Joachim. They mirror Robert's *Three Romances* in form, and while there is no published oboe version, they suit it beautifully, suggesting that they might have been originally intended for that instrument.

NEXT CONCERT: SEPTEMBER 19 AT AQUATIC PARK

PETER HOPE — OBOE SONATA; MADELEINE DRING — TWO DANCES