

ELENA MAZZON trained as an actress in Italy and she's been living in London since 2006. She has appeared in several stage productions, including Circular (Edinburgh Fringe), The Tempest (Steiner Theatre), Neither here nor there (Soho Theatre Studio), Clepsydra (Athens Festival) and TV and film productions, Killing Eve II (BBC America), Empathy (short film), Eat me out of House and Home (short film) Anna and modern-day Slavery (feature). Clara – Elena's first play as writer- has been touring in Europe, America and it has had its Australian premiere at Perth Fringe World Festival in February 2020.

CATRIONA KERRIDGE is an established playwright and Clara marks her debut as a director. Catriona's work has been performed at venues including: Hampstead Theatre, The North Wall, Southwark Playhouse, Tristan Bates and the National Theatre Temp Space. Her first commission came from Paines Plough and the Oxford Playhouse "Come to where I come from". She has been a member of the Royal Court, National Theatre Studio, HighTide Theatre, Sheffield Theatres Writers Program and is currently one of the Sphinx writers.

STEFANIA PASSAMONTE is an international concert pianist, recording artist, radio broadcaster and entrepreneur. Founder and owner of the International Music Academy "London Piano Masters" as well as the classical record label Master Chords Records, Stefania is voting member of the Recording Academy for the Grammy's Awards in the USA and member of the Classical Committee of the BPI for the Classic BRITS Awards in the UK.

PETER WARNOCK is an actor and voice over artist. As a teacher, Peter has worked with LAMDA, ALRA, BSA and the Actors Centre and runs his own training company, The Voice Zone. Peter also engineers at Just Voices agency and very recently finished working as Technical voice and acting support with Warner Brothers on a new video game. His acting credits include, amongst others, the RSC, Royal Opera House and the Abbey Theatre Dublin.

PAUL REISENBERGER has worked in the events industry for over 10 years. In 2019 he graduated from a Diploma of Live Production and Technical Services at Melbourne Polytechnic. This is his first production role in a theatre since graduating Paul is excited to expand his skills in production, lighting design and stage management.



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La Mama Theatre is on traditional land of the people of the Kulin Nation. We give our respect to the Elders of these traditional lands and to all First Nations people past, present and future. We acknowledge all events take place on stolen lands and that sovereignty was never ceded.

We are grateful to all our philanthropic partners and donors, advocates, volunteers, audiences, artists and our entire community as we work towards the La Mama rebuild. Thank you!

La Mama is financially assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council – its arts funding and advisory body, the Victorian Government through Creative Victoria, and the City of Melbourne through the Arts and Culture triennial funding program.



 **LA MAMA** presents

CLARA: SEX, LOVE AND CLASSICAL MUSIC



18 - 23 FEB 2020

CLARA: SEX, LOVE AND CLASSICAL MUSIC

Written by **Elena Mazzon**
Directed by **Catriona Kerridge**
Performed by **Elena Mazzon**
Music Director: **Stefania Passamonte**
Voice and Movement: **Peter Warnock**
Lighting design by **Paul Reisenberger**
Photography credit **Justin “Juice” Black**

Clara is the untold story of feminist icon and ground-breaking classical composer Clara Schumann. No, not Robert Schumann - Clara Schumann! The music might be classical, but the play tackles very contemporary issues. This one-woman show tells the story of a fascinating and complex artist, turning her relationships and life inside out, whilst she is getting ready for a date with none other than the famous Johannes Brahms.

Warning: this show contains live music, love and an unusual, eye-opening look into the past.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank the whole La Mama team for being so welcoming and supportive of my show. Also, very special thanks to: Paul Reisenberger, Anita Ceravolo, Andrew McBride and Christine Rankin. Thank you to Virginia Lovett, Kathleen Higgs and MTC for providing the piano.

Music Featured in the play:

C. Wieck- Schumann, Romanza, Op. 21, no. 3
C. Wieck- Schumann, Piano Concerto in A minor, Romanza, Op.7
C. Wieck- Schumann, Romanza, Op. 11, no. 2
C. Wieck- Schumann, Romanza, Op. 11, no. 1
R. Schumann, Widmung Op.25 no.1
R. Schumann, Carnival, Op.9, Eusebius and Chiarina
C. Wieck-Schumann, Sie Liebten Sich Beide, Op13, no.2
J. Brahms, Wiegenlied (Lullaby), Op. 49 no.4

Characters appearing in the play:

Clara Schumann nee Wieck (1819–1896) Named by her father, Clara (meaning light, brilliance) was expected to be a sensational pianist from the very start.

Mariane Tromlitz Wieck Bargiel (1797-1872) A skilled pianist and exceptional singer, she came from a family of established musicians and was Friedrich’s perfect marriage choice to increase his prestige as a teacher and businessman

Friedrich Wieck (1785-1873) was an ambitious piano teacher, whose harshness caused several break ups in his personal relationships, including with his daughter, Clara.

Robert Schumann (1810-1856) was a composer and writer who embodied the Romantic ideology in both his work and his life.

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897) was a pianist and composer from Hamburg. His meeting with Robert and Clara Schumann in 1853, changed Brahms’ career and profoundly affected his personal life.