**Smarthinking Tutor Response Form**

Your tutor has written overview comments about your essay in the form below. Your tutor has also embedded comments **[in bold and in brackets]** within your essay. Thank you for choosing Smarthinking to help you improve your writing!

Hello, Nitin! My name is Louise H. and I look forward to working with you on this **Essay Center Review**to improve your writing.

**\*Writing Strength:** You made a good start by providing this background information on the composer: “The life of one of the most influential composers began on September 13, 1819. Clara Wieck was born in [Leipzig]…” These details are important because they allow readers to form a timeline of the life of Schumann. ☺

**\*Nitin 11381920, you requested help with Organization:** This statement from the introduction has not been developed fully in the body of the essay:

🡪*From all of these, Clara proved that even in the 19th century she could be at the level of male composers (since the 19th century had few female composers).*

Readers will expect to see more information on her achievement as a woman composer during the time that she lived. Statements in the introduction show readers what to expect from the discussion in the body of the essay.

What made her achievements outstanding as a woman composer? How did her career compare with those of other woman composers from this era, for example?

By developing this idea further, you will ensure that the content in the body of the essay delivers what was promised in the introduction. The handbook has a lesson on [Effective Introductions](http://services.smarthinking.com/static/document_library/docs/writeman/3_01.cfm) that has more guidelines to help you.

**Use of Resources:** Although you have used external resources to research your topic, there are no in-text citations to show where you found information such as this: 

🡪*Above all, Clara is most notably known for giving over 230 unique concerts with fellow violinist and professional partner Joseph Joachim.*

**For instance, if this information came from an encyclopedia, the citation would look like this if you are using MLA style:**

In-text citation: The mountain is considered “geologically young” and “dormant,” having “last erupted about 150 years ago” (“Mount Rainier”).

**The words in parentheses would direct readers to this entry on the works cited page:**

“Mount Rainier.” *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 20 Sept. 2015, [www.britannica.com/place/Mount-Rainier.](http://www.britannica.com/place/Mount-Rainier)

It is important that you consult the style guide recommended by the instructor to make sure that you cite your references correctly.

**\*Nitin 11381920, you requested help with Sentence Structure: The idea in this sentence could be conveyed more effectively by using a punctuation mark to create two separate sentences:**  

*🡪 She accepted however Friedrich didn’t approve of Robert at all*.

As it is written, two sentences have become fused, and readers may have to read it more than once to figure out the meaning (this is called a “run-on” error). Here is a similar example to show you how you could revise this sentence:  
  
🡪*The manager accepted the worker’s resignation. However, it was not easy to find a replacement to fill this position.*

In this example, I used a period to create two separate sentences. I could also use a semicolon:

🡪*The manager accepted the worker’s resignation; however, it was not easy to find a replacement to fill this position.*

Note that in each example, there is a comma after “however” because this word forms an introductory element in this sentence. You could use either of these examples to revise your sentence.  
  
  
**Summary of Next Steps:**

* Develop the idea on her achievements as a woman composer.
* Use citations to show where specific information may be found.
* Revise the sentence that has a run-on error.

Thank you for submitting your essay for a review, Nitin. I enjoyed helping you with this step in the revision process. Have a good day! Louise H.

You can find more information about writing, grammar, and usage in the [Smarthinking Writer's Handbook](http://services.smarthinking.com/static/Document_Library/docs/writeman/contents.cfm).

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Please look for comments **[in bold and in brackets]** in your essay below.  
Thank you for submitting your work to Smarthinking! We hope to see you again soon.

Clara Schumann Biographical essay

by:Nitin N



Since the beginning of ancient civilizations, music was created to help us communicate with each other in a form other than speaking. Music has always had the same 5 elements of music: Melody, Harmony Rhythm, form, and expression. And through each age of music, the styles tend to change but the five elements are always present. During the Classical age, the world of musical was defined by order and fully embraced this form of music instead of focusing on emotionally driven music. However, near the end of the 19th century, musical styles gave way for romantic styles which rejected Classical era ideologies and encouraged many composers to write compositions that involved emotional ideas. The musical styles were based upon stories that opposed the idea of order and reason.

Around this time period, one of the greatest composers from Germany was greatly successful for her works during the romantic era. Clara Wieck was well known for being one of the greatest piants in Germany and throughout Europe as well. Similarly to other famous composers, her talent was proven to be above others at a very young age. She would be most notably known as Clara Schumann after she married another famous composer Robert Schumann. Above all, Clara is most notably known for giving over 230 unique concerts with fellow violinist and professional partner Joseph Joachim. From all of these, Clara proved that even in the 19th century she could be at the level of male composers (since the 19th century had few female composers). **[How did her work compare with that of male composers? Think about including an idea like this when** **you develop this point further so that readers understand why it is important to your discussion.]**

The life of one of the most influential composers began on September 13, 1819. Clara Wieck was born in Lepzig, during the reign of the German confederation which was made up of 39 German-speaking states. Her parents were Friedrich Wieck and Marianne Wieck (formally Tromlitz). At the time of Clara’s birth, Marianne was a famous singer in Lepzig at the time and was singing solos almost every week. Her father, was a noted German piano teacher, owned a piano store and wrote many different musical essays!

The Wiecks were divorced in 1824, due to an affair between Clara’s mother and Friedrich’s friend Adolph Bargiel. Clara (then at 5 years old) moved to Berlin with her father. This in turn reduced the amount of contact between Clara and her mother. The only way Clara and her mother communicated was through letters and a visit every couple of years. Clara’s musical career, like many other famous musicians at the time, was discovered at an early age. She was considered a “child prodigy”. Her early life was carefully laid out by her father. Clara would receive 1 hour lessons in piano, violin and singing. On top of this she also practiced 2 hours per day using teaching method her father created. Besides focusing on music, Clara studied religion and language all under Friedrich Wieck. In 1828, her first major performance was held at the Lepzig home of Dr. Ernst Carus, director of a mental hospital: Colditz Castle. At this exact location she met her future husband, Robert Schumann who was several years older than her. Robert Schumann and Clara started to develop bond through the many years following her performance.

1830 really marked the official start of Clara Schumann’s career as a pianist. At the age of eleven, Clara went on her first concert tour to Paris via other European cities along with her father. This was significant because it was one of the very first performances that she gave all by herself. From Gewandhaus to Weimar, she performed numerous compositions and solos that amazed everyone. When performing in Paris however, the attendance was very slim due to an outbreak of cholera. **[<Here is an example of a sentence that may need a citation to show where the information may be found. To which entry on the works cited page will you direct readers who want to know about this event, for example?]** When Clara was 18, she traveled to Vienna and performed numerous recitals.

Clara Wieck became Clara Schumann when she married another brilliant composer named Robert Schumann. He was significantly older than Clara and became a piano student under Clara’s father. He moved into Clara’s household in 1830. Robert Schumann proposed to Clara on 1837 when Clara was only 18 years old. She accepted however Friedrich didn’t approve of Robert at all. Crazy thing is, Clara and Robert went to court to sue Friedrich to get married! The judge went in favor of the couple and they got married on September 12, 1840. Despite being married, Clara continued to perform and compose several different musical pieces which was rare for a woman living in 19th century Europe. She gave birth to 8 children between 1841 and 1854. It was actually impressive how Clara was able to balance her domestic duties along with her musical career. Unfortunately, Robert soon sufferered from severe mental issues as well as an attempted suicide. He then had to be sent off to an asylum due to his deteriorating health. He passed away in 1856 due to syphilis. Many of Clara’s children passed away pretty early with only a few reaching adulthood. Besides continuing her musical career, she was also forced to raise many grandchildren as well. She later passed away at the age of 76 in 1896.

During Clara’s lifetime, she wasn’t known only in Europe for her music; she had a great influence on people all over the world. **[This statement may be seen as too general. Instead, think about giving readers more accurate information on her fame. For example, where in the world were her works known? Which specific examples would illustrate this idea?]** There have been an estimated 1300 programs she often performed between 1831 and 1889. She often appreciated and embraced Robert’s ideas as well as many fellow musicians as well. In her early works, the songs she played were “mainstream” and popular at the time as well as some of her own compositions. One of her most notable “team ups” were with a violinist named Joseph Joachim. She met him when Joseph was only 14 years old. During her career, Joseph and Clara gave over 230 concerts in Germany as well as Britain. The two played a lot of Beethoven sonatas. In her later years, Clara was appointed to be a teacher of piano lessons at the Hoch Conservatory in Frankfurt. She played here last public concert on March 12, 1891. It was Johannes Brahms’ Variations on a Theme by Hayden in duet format with another musician James Kwast. Her legacy was initially rejected after her death due to many controversies surrounding her as a composer. Despite the circumstances, she helped make Robert's work famous as well as hers.

Clara Schumann hands down was one of the greatest pioneers of music during the romantic era as well as the world of music. She also displayed great feats of feminism proving that even a woman can rise up to the levels of other great composers. Without her works in the music world, the music today would've been completely changed.

Works Cited

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