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### Schumann

J. A. Fuller Maitland (1856–1936), whose Masters of German Music is also reissued in this series, was music critic of The Times for 22 years, was the editor of the second edition of Grove's Dictionary of Music and Musicians, prepared an edition of the Fitzwilliam Virginal Book, and also worked on Purcell and on folk song. This biography of Schumann, in the 'Great Musicians' series edited by Francis Hueffer, was published in 1884, 28 years after its subject's death. It is dedicated to Schumann's widow, Clara, who the author consulted, along with Joachim and others; but he also acknowledges that those hoping for an exhaustive life of Schumann would be be disappointed. 'The time for writing such a life is not yet come.' Nevertheless, this book contains a survey of Schumann's compositions as well as his critical writings and a range of contemporary critical responses to his work.



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# Schumann

JOHN ALEXANDER FULLER-MAITLAND





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## The Great Musicians

Edited by Francis Hueffer

# SCHUMANN

BY

J. A. FULLER MAITLAND.

### LONDON

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1884

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A SERIES OF BIOGRAPHIES

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### MADAME CLARA SCHUMANN

THE FOLLOWING IMPERFECT SKETCH OF HER HUSBAND'S LIFE

Is Dedicated,

WITH DEEPEST RESPECT AND GRATITUDE.



### PREFACE.

THOSE who expect to find in the following pages a complete and exhaustive life of Robert Schumann must of necessity be disappointed. The time for writing such a life is not yet come; while so many of the composer's most intimate friends and relations are still living, much must needs be left unsaid. Not that there was any action of his life which would not bear the closest scrutiny, but certain circumstances, and in particular those which darkened the close of his career, must for the present be hinted at rather than described.

Nor can the present sketch lay claim to any important accession of new material to that which has been already published in the German lives of the master. For several details which clear up one or two points where the existing lives are at variance, and for some of the anecdotes, the author is indebted to the kindness of Madame Schumann, Herr Joachim, and others; but the bulk of the book cannot boast of much originality, since it is mainly based on the work of others.

Among the biographies of Schumann, Wasielewski's stands first; with regard to all the facts of the composer's life, it is absolutely reliable, and is also valuable as being founded in great part on personal recollection. The analyses of the compositions are exceedingly good,—in the original German at least, for in the English translation many of them are omitted or curtailed. The second life in order of publication was that of



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August Reissmann, who, like his predecessor, devotes much attention to the compositions, without adding much to what was already known concerning the master's life. A valuable element in his book is the complete catalogue of Schumann's works in chronological order, upon which the list at the end of this book is founded. The careful and interesting article contributed to Grove's "Dictionary of Music and Musicians," by Dr. Philipp Spitta, which has since been republished in its original German, rather supplements than supplants Wasielewski's work; it contains much new matter, and is of the greatest value to the student of Schumann's life. Mr. Hueffer's "Music of the Future" contains an article of great interest on Schumann, and, what is still more valuable, a collection of letters addressed by the composer to Anton von Zuccalmaglio, or rather translations from these documents, which are in Mr. Hueffer's possession. One of the most important additions to the Schumann literature has been lately published. "Die Davidsbündler," by F. Gustav Jansen (Leipzig: Breitkopf and Härtel), is a collection of sketches rather than a life of the master; but his figure is presented to us far more vividly than in any of the lives, properly so called. Many interesting anecdotes and personal recollections by some of his most intimate friends are given; and though the book modestly professes to be a study of the earlier part only of Schumann's life, it is much more than this, for numbers of hitherto unpublished letters, ranging over a very considerable portion of his career, are inserted, as well as some very interesting sketches of those who came into the closest contact with the composer.



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