

Orchestra

OF THE
**SOUTHERN
FINGER LAKES**

TOSHIYUKI SHIMADA
Music Director & Conductor

To: All Media
From: The Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes
Re: Clara Schumann Festival 2023
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CORNING – The Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes will continue its Clara Schumann Festival, designed to celebrate the life and work of a pioneer in classical music history for women as composers and touring piano soloists, with the following performance:

**A Woman's Heart in Song: Exploring Songs of Clara Schumann
and her Contemporaries**

Ivy Walz: Mezzo Soprano, Pej Reitz: Piano

7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 13

Elmira College – Peterson Chapel in Cowles Hall

\$30 for Adults/\$10 for Youth Under 18/FREE for Elmira College students with ID

Tickets and more information available at: <https://www.osfl.org/>

“Clara Schumann is one of music’s unsung masters and remains, in many circles, best known for being the wife of Robert Schumann,” said Clare van den Blink, President of the Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes Board of Directors. “This festival is designed to highlight her work and contributions to the world of music, feature an impressive lineup of outstanding performers, and connect the Orchestra to students and others throughout the region in alignment with our mission.”

Ivy Walz is a mezzo soprano known for her exceptional musicianship, colorful singing, and dedication to collaboration. She enjoys an enriching career as a vocal performer, vocal educator and clinician, and administrator. She has appeared with Cincinnati Opera, Syracuse Opera, Des Moines Metro Opera, the Spoleto Festival, Opera Ithaca, Tri-Cities Opera and Resonance Works. As an active concert soloist, she has been featured with Symphoria Syracuse, Binghamton Philharmonic, Akron Symphony, Cayuga Chamber Orchestra, and the Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes. Her scholarship within art song by women composers is flourishing, with recent performances such as a lecture recital comparing Robert Schumann’s *Frauenliebe und Lieben* to Libby Larsen’s *Love After 1950*, and song recitals *Out of the Salon*, and *Art Song in a Time of Women’s*

Suffrage. Recent invited performances are with the International Music by Women Festival, Fall Island Vocal Arts Seminar, Finger Lakes Chamber Ensemble, SongFest, Cincinnati Song Initiative, Denver Art Song Project, Civic Morning Musicals, Middlebury Song Fest. She is an active guest clinician for summer programs, schools, and universities. She holds the DMA from the College Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati and a BM and MM from Ithaca College. She serves as an Associate Dean at the Ithaca College School of Music, Theatre, and Dance where she is also an Associate Professor of Voice.

Pej Reitz, pianist, has accompanied throughout the United States, in England, South America, Spain, and at the American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria. She was a winner of the Artistic Ambassadors Program by the United States Information Agency in partnership with the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Invited artist engagements include the University of Madrid in Grenada, Spain (coached by Teresa Berganza and at Mannes School of Music), the Barcelona Song Festival, the Glickman/Poplin Festival in North Carolina, the International Gilbert and Sullivan Festival in Harrogate, the National Opera Center in New York City, and returning guest artist on WSKG Expressions Series. She is currently on the faculty at Binghamton University, the Ithaca College School of Music, Theatre, and Dance, and SUNY Broome. She is on the Executive Board of the New York District MTNA organization and serves as Treasurer of the local District VII Music Teachers Association. She is an active adjudicator for the National Piano Guild Organization. She received her Bachelor and Master of Music degrees in piano performance with accompanying emphasis from Boston University, New England Conservatory, and Binghamton University. She has studied piano with Jean Casadesus, Victor Rosenbaum, Seymour Fink, and Walter Ponce and accompanying with Allen Rogers.

ABOUT THE ORCHESTRA OF THE SOUTHERN FINGER LAKES (OSFL)

The OSFL offers four regular season full orchestra concerts, including a side-by-side Youth Orchestra and professional musician collaboration, a Musicians' Choice Chamber Music Series, concerts by the Chorus of the Southern Finger Lakes, several concerts by the Young People's Orchestra, as well as smaller ensemble concerts for children. Under the guidance of distinguished Music Director and Conductor, Toshiyuki Shimada, the OSFL is a strong supporter of highlighting the musical achievements of young musicians with its own Young People's Orchestra, as well as the Hertzog Concerto & Aria Competition for young artists in grades 9 through 12. The OSFL collaborates with regional cultural partners, artists, and like-minded organizations to advance our mutual artistic growth in the greater Elmira-Corning area.

The Clara Schumann Festival is sponsored in part by support from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Hilliard Corporation. Support for the OSFL comes from the Corning Incorporated Foundation, the Community Foundation of Elmira-Corning and the Finger Lakes, Hilliard Foundation, and the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the office of the governor and the New York State Legislature.

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