

**THE MASTER
MUSICIANS.
SCHUMANN**

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The Master Musicians. Schumann by Annie W. Patterson & Frederick J. Crowest

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The Master Musicians

EDITED BY
FREDERICK J. CROWEST



THE
Master Musicians

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[*Second Edition.*]

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Robert Schumann

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Schumann

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With

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INSCRIBED

WITH MUCH ESTEEM

TO THE COMPOSER'S YOUNGEST DAUGHTER

FRÄULEIN EUGENIE SCHUMANN

Preface

SCHUMANN, as editor, essayist and composer, occupies a unique and striking position. His early literary culture and poetic tendencies, as his subsequent work in connection with the *Neue Zeitschrift für Musik*, rendered him a man of many parts. Thus it happens that, if we consider him from his many aspects of endeavour, he appeals to a wider art circle than that which is bounded within the pale of Music alone. Yet, in the realm proper of music, after a very limited period of healthful activity, Schumann left behind him specimens of well-nigh every form of classical composition, in all of which he attained to a high and rare artistic standard of originality and excellence.

So great, indeed, were Schumann's claims upon the public for recognition as a musician that, whereas more than one admirable biography exists of the composer, narrators scarcely penetrate beyond historical data and critical notices of his works, leaving the man—as he appears in his essays and letters—but partially known to us. We have it upon the authority of Madame Clara Schumann herself that, particularly from his private correspondence, it is easiest to arrive at a just estimate of the sterling personal traits of her husband.¹ Hence the writer, in the present instance, while

¹ See page 141.