



Danielle Talamantes &
Kerry Wilkerson, vocal duo

Friday, October 2nd at 7:30 PM
Christ United Methodist Church

Felix Mendelssohn

German born Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847) was a violinist, pianist, composer, and conductor. He was a central figure of the early Romantic period whose compositional styles blend clarity with invention. From an early age, Mendelssohn showed musical promise - so much so that he composed his 'Overture to a Midsummer Night's Dream' as a teenager! In addition to his own musical ventures, Mendelssohn is credited with starting the resurgence of J.S. Bach's music with a performance of his *St. Matthew Passion* in 1839. In his later life, Mendelssohn's music became increasingly intense largely due to the death of his beloved sister, Fanny.

This program will include *Herbstlied* ("Autumn Song") and *Abendlied* ("Evening Song"). *Herbstlied* captures the quiet melancholy of autumn through beautiful harmonies and tender melodic lines. *Abendlied* is a gentle piece that brings a sense of calm. Its smooth, hymn-like lines and gentle harmonies create a peaceful close to the day and serve as a fitting end for this program!



Fanny Mendelssohn

Fanny Mendelssohn (1805–1847), eldest sister of Felix, was an exceptional composer and pianist. Despite societal constraints that discouraged women from publishing music, she created over 450 works including art songs, piano works, and chamber music. Her exact number of compositions is unknown, due partially to the fact that quite a few of her works were published under her brother's name. After marrying, Fanny Mendelssohn continued to host salon concerts for the remainder of her life. Her death affected her brother so deeply that he passed away six months later.

Featured works by Fanny Mendelssohn include *Sehnsucht* ("Longing"), *Verlust* ("Loss"), *Nachtwanderer* ("Night Wanderer"). In *Sehnsucht*, Mendelssohn explores the emotional tension between desire and distance. *Verlust* brings a much more moody and urgent feel throughout the work, using changes in harmony and color to portray the emotion of loss and vulnerability.



Franz Schubert

Austrian composer Franz Schubert (1797–1828) stands as one of music's great poetic voices whose short life produced an astonishing number of songs, chamber works, symphonies, and piano music. After showing musical promise at a young age, Schubert began studying violin with his father and piano with his brother. Schubert wrote over 1,000 musical works, including over 600 Lieder (German art songs). After his early death at 31 years old, his music continued to be championed by the likes of Felix Mendelssohn, Robert Schumann, and Johannes Brahms.

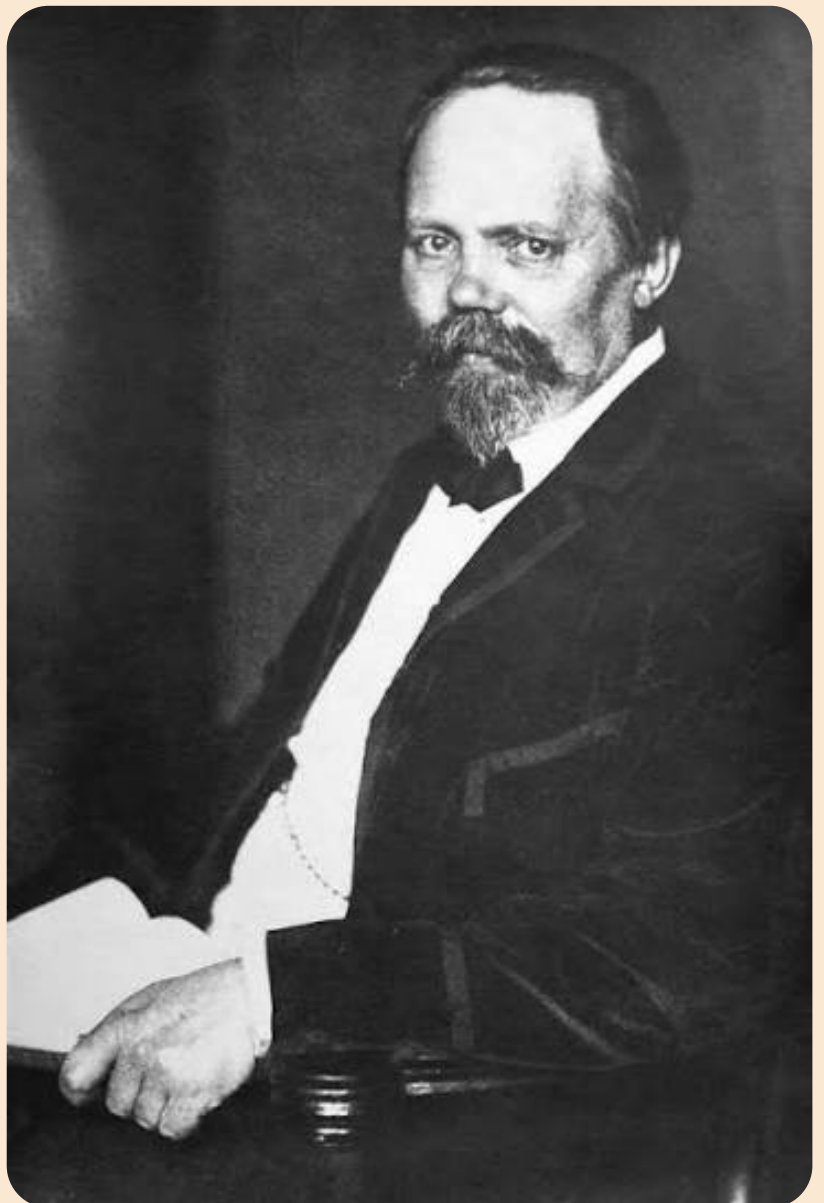


An den Mond (“To the Moon”), *Im Abendrot* (“At Sunset”), *Schwestergruss* (“Sister’s Greeting”), and *Der Doppelgänger* are all featured on this program. *An den Mond*, *Im Abendrot*, and *Schwestergruss* all showcase Schubert’s ability to create beautiful and serene moments with gorgeous harmonies and smooth lyrical lines. *Der Doppelgänger*, on the other hand, is much more dark and haunting. This work is built on an unchanging harmonic foundation that unfolds as the narrator confronts a ghostly vision of himself.

Engelbert Humperdinck

Best known for his opera 'Hansel and Gretel', Engelbert Humperdinck (1854–1921) wrote music deeply attuned to color and atmosphere, often reflecting his tutorship by Richard Wagner. Humperdinck was pressured in his youth to become an architect by his family, but fortunately decided to pursue his passions for music. While his music catalogue is not as extensive as others, his works have often captivated audiences with their charm.

This program features the beloved evening prayer from 'Hansel and Gretel', *Abends will ich schlafen gehn* ("When at night I go to sleep"). This beautiful piece pairs a simple, childlike melody with lush Wagnerian harmonies, creating a moment of warmth.



Richard Wagner

Richard Wagner (1813–1883) was a German composer, conductor, and music theorist whose works reshaped Western music through his visionary operas and expansion of harmonies. His monumental cycle ‘Der Ring des Nibelungen’ and operas such as ‘Tristan und Isolde’ pushed boundaries of form and orchestration. Wagner’s influence on later composers was profound, though his antisemitic views remain deeply controversial.



O du mein holder Abendstern (“O thou my gracious evening star”), Wolfram’s aria from *Tannhäuser*, is one of Wagner’s most lyrical and restrained moments. This beautiful piece offers a calm meditation on love, set against lush orchestration and harmonies.

Johannes Brahms

Johannes Brahms's (1833–1897) compositions held onto Classical traditions of form and structure paired with Romantic emotion and expression. A master of the symphony, chamber works, choral pieces, and piano compositions Brahms's music often balances introspection with grandeur. Born in Germany, Brahms supported his family as a teen by playing piano in taverns. His big breakthrough came after meeting Robert Schumann and his wife Clara. Schumann wrote an editorial praising Brahms's music, instantly elevating his career. Brahms was a master at nearly every genre of music - save opera - having written hundreds of works that are still celebrated today.



This wonderful program features *Die Boten der Liebe* (“The Messengers of Love”), *Die Meere* (“The Seas”), and *Die Mainacht* (“May Night”). *Die Boten der Liebe* and *Die Mainacht* both paint beautiful portraits of serenity that capture the relationships with humans and nature, while *Die Meere* uses sweeping melodic lines to create imagery of the sea. Brahms is a personal favorite of mine, so I’m sure that you are going to love these pieces!

Robert Schumann

Robert Schumann (1810–1856) was a German Romantic composer, pianist, and influential music critic. Schumann composed works that range from whimsical piano pieces to expressive songs, symphonies, and chamber music. Schumann's original ambitions were to be a concert pianist; however, after a hand injury, he focused on composition and music criticism. Schumann married Clara Wieck in 1840, who was a celebrated pianist and composer herself. Unfortunately, Schumann struggled with mental health and wound up in an asylum for the last two years of his life.



This program features Schumann's beautiful *Mondnacht* ("Moonlit Night") which embodies the poetic spirit of the Romantic period. Its weightless melody and gentle accompaniment create a dreamlike atmosphere, perfectly capturing the poem's sense of unity between nature and the soul.

Matt Wilson, Program Notes

Matt Wilson, the author of the program notes that you hopefully found illuminating and inspiring, is a violinist and violist from South Carolina. He received a Bachelor's in Music Education from Appalachian State University in Boone, NC, before teaching in the North Carolina public schools for several years. He received a Master's in Music Education from UNC Greensboro and a Ph.D. in Music Education from the University of Kansas in Lawrence, KS. He is an active researcher, often focusing on issues of gender and sexuality in music education. Dr. Wilson is currently on the faculty at Penn-Griffin School for the Arts, where he teaches history, philosophy, music theory, and music appreciation.



Dr. Wilson has been an active member of the North Carolina and Kansas Music Educators Associations. He is a member of the National Association for Music Education and the American String Teachers Association (ASTA). He is currently on the ASTA's RIA committee, continuing to share in creating inclusion and diversity within music education.