

# PHILADELPHIA CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY

a life more beautiful

**Susan Graham, *mezzo-soprano***

**Bradley Moore, *piano***

**Tuesday, May 11 – 6 PM**

*American Philosophical Society*

**PREVIEW  
NOTES**

## **PROGRAM**

### ***Frauenliebe und-leben***

**Robert Schumann**

***Born:*** June 8, 1810, Zwickau, Germany

***Died:*** July 29, 1856, Endenich, Bonn, Germany

***Composed:*** 1840

***Duration:*** 18 minutes

Often referred to as "the year of the song" in Schumann's life, the year 1840 saw the completion of at least 137 songs, including the famous Op. 39 *Liederkreis*, *Dichterliebe* (Op. 48), and *Frauenliebe und -leben* (*A Woman's Love and Life*), written to poems of Adalbert von Chamisso. Schumann's impending marriage to Clara Wieck (1819-1896) -- hard won after a long legal battle with her father -- was largely the inspiration for his burst of creativity; this seems especially clear in the case of *Frauenliebe und -leben*, which takes as its subject the earnest devotion of a wife and mother. Schumann arranged the songs to represent something of a story, covering different stages of a woman's life. *Seit ich ihn gesehen* (*Since I First Saw Him*) introduces us to the focal point of the song cycle -- the man whom the protagonist desires. Without having him, everything around her seems drab and lifeless, and she does not want to mingle even with her sisters. Schumann illustrates the darkness of her world by a descending seventh on "tiefstem" (deepest) near the end of the first verse. Schumann would later quote the final three measures of the song in the slow movement of his Symphony No. 1..