

**Program notes:**

Since his youth, Robert Schumann (1810-1856) was a great admirer of Johann Sebastian Bach. During a period of intense personal crisis in 1844-45, Schumann left Leipzig with his wife, Clara, to move to Dresden. He had there a pedal piano (pictured below) for developing his counterpoint skills, and during 1845 composed his opus 56 & 58 (for pedal piano), opus 60 (for pedal piano or organ) and opus 72 (for piano). These compositions reflect Schumann's reverence for Bach with the *Six Studies in Canonic Form*, op. 56, being closely related to Bach's *Inventions*, and the *Six Fugues on the name B-A-C-H*, op. 60.

Schumann saw great promise in the future of the pedal piano, which until his compositions was mainly used by organists for practicing. The instrument, however, is now rare and Schumann's pieces remain the best known compositions written specifically for the pedal piano.

*Six Pieces for Pedal Piano*, op. 56 and 58, arranged for *Timpani and Piano* were first performed at The Juilliard School in May 1982, with Shelley Katz, piano, and Randy Max, timpani.

