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B.A. in Music Senior Capstone Projects

Student Scholarly Activity

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11-7-2020

## Fighting the Philistines: Robert Schuman and the *Dauidsbüundler*

Stephen J. White

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THE CEDARVILLE UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF  
MUSIC AND WORSHIP

PRESENTS THE

SENIOR LECTURE-RECITAL  
OF  
STEPHEN WHITE

FIGHTING THE PHILISTINES:  
ROBERT SCHUMANN AND  
THE DAVIDSBÜNDLER

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2020  
3 P.M.

RECITAL HALL  
BOLTHOUSE CENTER FOR MUSIC  
DIXON MINISTRY CENTER

## PROGRAM

*Davidsbündlertänze*, Op. 6 ..... Robert Schumann (1810–1856)

- I. Lebhaft
- II. Innig
- III. Mit Humor
- IV. Ungeduldig
- V. Einfach
- VI. Sehr rasch und in sich hinein
- VII. Nicht schnell

Stephen is a student of Sandra Yang and Danielle Hutchison.

This lecture-recital is presented in partial fulfillment  
of the Bachelor of Arts in music degree.

*No flash photography, please.*

*Please turn off all cell phones.*

## **Fighting the Philistines: Robert Schumann and the *Davidsbündler***

### **ABSTRACT**

Robert Schumann was an eccentric composer and musical critic who influenced the Romantic-era musical community through the formation of the *Davidsbündler*. This “league of David” was Schumann’s idea of a musical society which exemplified a distinctly pure style of modern musical composition. The style of the *Davidsbündler* was based on the idea that music must reflect the personal life experiences of its composer. Needing a journal to publish musical writings of *Davidsbündler*, Schumann created the *New Journal for Music*. Having himself suffered from mental instability throughout his life, Schumann’s music often displayed unique levels of polarity and passion in order to show his own life experiences. Schumann’s mental polarity and instability was directly showcased in his music through the characteristics of the imaginary Florestan and Eusebius. These characters are clearly displayed through the piano works *Carnival* and the *Davidsbündlertänze*. Through the use of modern musical compositional techniques such as chromaticism and syncopation along with clear characterizations of Florestan and Eusebius, the *Davidsbündlertänze* stands as a testament to the ideals of the *Davidsbündler*.

