



**Thursday,
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3:15-5 p.m. in U73**

Guest lecture in the seminar series
**Topics in the Aesthetics of
Music and Sound**

- arranged by **The Aesthetics of Music and
Sound** – www.soundmusicresearch.org –
**Cross-Disciplinary Interplay between the
Humanities, Technology and Musical
Practice**; Institute for the Study of Culture,
University of Southern Denmark -

<http://www.soundmusicresearch.org/seminarsfall2012.html>

**Music as *Communitas*:
Ecstasy and Dogma in the Performance Aesthetics of Franz
Liszt and Clara Schumann**

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(Via Skype)



Franz Liszt and Clara Schumann have each been historicized as representatives of performative dichotomies: Liszt as the uninhibited virtuoso who drove audiences into wild ecstasy, Schumann as the “priestess” who upheld the dogma of the *Werktreue* and delivered the “pure” musical work in the most sober manner. Nevertheless, closer inspection into the writings and performative lives of each challenges their stereotypical personae and reveals an interesting interplay between the emotional and the conceptual, between ecstasy and dogma. Through the

lens of anthropologist Victor Turner’s concept of *Communitas* we see these artists negotiating both experience and idealization; we encounter a Liszt who idealized musical experience as the basis for societal transformation, and we also envisage Schumann’s private, emotional relationship with music, which drove her to idealize the musical work as an autonomous entity. Ultimately my goal is not to synthesize a philosophy of performance but to offer a socio-historical framework within which we can expand the dialogue on our own performative approaches and the lingering echoes of Liszt and Schumann’s aesthetics in them

ALL ARE WELCOME!