



*NoonArts & Lectures
and
First Unitarian Church
present*

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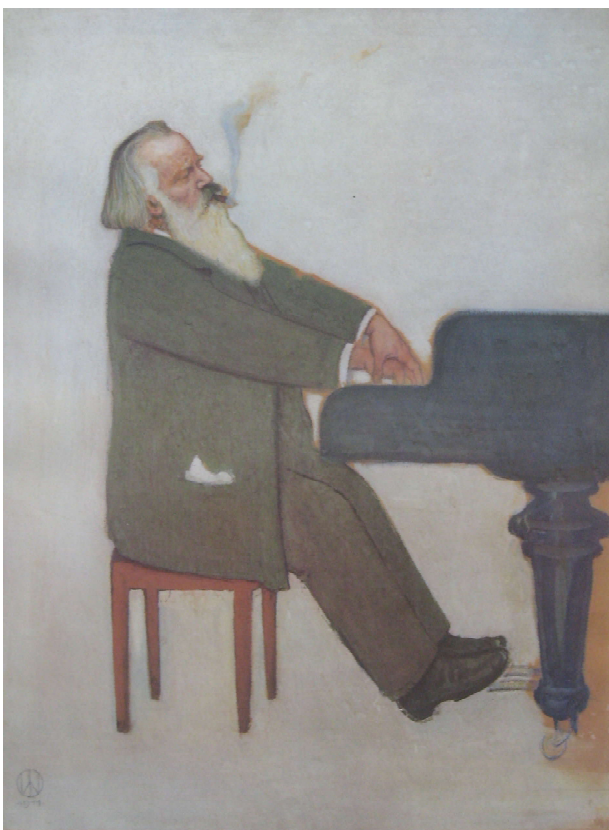
"The Art of Difficulty: Brahms and the Limits of the Piano"

an admission free exploration and performance

Friday, June 12, 2026 12:10^{PM}

First Unitarian Sanctuary, 160 N. Third St., downtown San Jose

Brahms's piano music is often described as "difficult," tricky, or even awkward — yet what if that difficulty is not a problem to overcome, but the very substance of his music? Through his left-hand arrangement of the Bach: Chaconne and the late Klavierstücke, Op. 116, this lecture-recital explores how Brahms transforms effort, constraint, and even frustration into expressive meaning, where the struggle to play becomes part of the musical meaning and sonic experience.



Johannes Brahms
1833-1897



Theodora Serbanescu-Martin
pianist / musicologist