

DRAGON PEARL

BRIAN BALMAGES

INSTRUMENTATION

- 1 Conductor Score
- 8 Violin 1
- 8 Violin 2
- 5 Violin 3 (Viola T.C.)
- 5 Viola
- 5 Violoncello
- 5 Double Bass
- 1 Piano (opt.)

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Please note: Our band and orchestra music is collated by an automatic high-speed system.
The enclosed parts are now sorted by page count, rather than score order.



THE COMPOSER

Brian Balmages is known worldwide as a composer and conductor who equally spans the worlds of orchestral, band, and chamber music. His music has been performed by groups ranging from professional symphony orchestras to elementary schools in venues such as Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, Sydney Opera House, Toronto Centre for the Arts, and many more. He is a recipient of the A. Austin Harding Award from the American School Band Directors Association, won the 2020 NBA William D. Revelli Composition Contest with his work *Love and Light*, and is an elected member of the prestigious American Bandmasters Association. Balmages was awarded the inaugural James Madison University Distinguished Alumni Award from the School of Visual and Performing Arts. In the same year, he was commissioned by his other alma mater, the University of Miami, to compose music for the inauguration of the institution's 6th president, Dr. Julio Frenk. His music was also performed as part of the 2013 Presidential Inaugural Prayer Service, which was attended by both President Obama and Vice President Biden.

As a conductor, Mr. Balmages enjoys regular engagements with all-state and regional ensembles as well as university and professional groups throughout the world. Notable guest conducting appearances have included the Midwest Clinic, Western International Band Clinic, Maryborough Music Conference (Australia), College Band Directors Conference, American School Band Directors Association National Conference, numerous state ASTA conferences, Teatro dell'Aquila (Italy), and others. Currently, he is Director of MakeMusic Publications and Digital Education for Alfred and MakeMusic.

ABOUT THE MUSIC

Throughout history, especially in the Far East, pearls have been associated with wisdom, power, prosperity, and even immortality. They are also associated with 30th anniversary celebrations, which is why Prelude Strings commissioned this work. Annette Brower saw a need in Orange County, California, and founded Prelude Strings to support string education for students as young as 8 years old. What began with a group of 8 violins and 2 cellos in its first season has grown into roughly 110 musicians divided into three string ensembles. To celebrate this milestone, we agreed that it would be ideal to have "pearl" in the title. After doing some research about pearls and the mythology behind them, *Dragon Pearl* was born. It became a way to honor the 30th anniversary of the organization while also engaging the imaginations of the young musicians in the orchestra.

The piece is inspired by a fantasy world in which dragons defend a flaming pearl. The lyrical opening reflects the gorgeous surface of the pearl and offers numerous opportunities to teach phrasing. As the battle begins, powerful rhythms combine with heavy accents and aggressive harmonies to paint a vivid picture of fire illuminating the skies.

Dragon Pearl was commissioned by Prelude Strings to honor their 30th anniversary. It symbolizes yet another milestone reached by founder Annette Brower and conductors Helen Weed and Macie Sweeney-Slick.

—Brian Balmages

DURATION: 1:50

commissioned in honor of the 30th anniversary of the Prelude Strings
Orange County, California; Annette Brower, Founder
Helen Weed and Macie Sweeney-Slick, Conductors

DRAGON PEARL

BRIAN BALMAGES
(ASCAP)

Andante cantabile (♩ = 72)

5

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola
(Violin 3)

Violoncello

Double Bass

Piano

2 3 4 5

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

6 7 8 9 10



poco rit. 12 **a tempo**

Vln. 1 *p sub.* *mp* *p*

Vln. 2 *p sub.* *mp* *p*

Vla. *p sub.* *mp* *p*

Vcl. *p* *mp* *p*

D.B. *p* *mp* *p*

Pno. *p sub.* *mp* *p*

11 12 13 14 15

16 **Allegro aggressivo** (♩ = 156)

Vln. 1 *f*

Vln. 2 *f*

Vla. *f*

Vcl. *f*

D.B. *f*

Pno. *f*

16 17 18 19 20 21

24

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

22 23 24 25 26 27

32

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

28 29 30 31 32 33

Score for measures 34 to 39. The score includes parts for Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vcl., D.B., and Pno. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The tempo/mood is marked *mp* (mezzo-piano). The score is overlaid with a large red watermark reading "Preview Only" and "Legal Use Requires Purchase".

Measures 34 to 39. The score includes parts for Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vcl., D.B., and Pno. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The tempo/mood is marked *mp* (mezzo-piano). The score is overlaid with a large red watermark reading "Preview Only" and "Legal Use Requires Purchase".

Score for measures 40 to 45. The score includes parts for Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vcl., D.B., and Pno. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The tempo/mood is marked *f* (forte). The score is overlaid with a large red watermark reading "Preview Only" and "Legal Use Requires Purchase".

Measures 40 to 45. The score includes parts for Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vcl., D.B., and Pno. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The tempo/mood is marked *f* (forte). The score is overlaid with a large red watermark reading "Preview Only" and "Legal Use Requires Purchase".

48

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

mf *f*

46 47 48 49 50 51

56

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

H2

52 53 54 55 56 57

Score for measures 58 to 63. The score includes staves for Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vcl., D.B., and Pno. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The time signature is 4/4. A large red watermark "Preview Only" is overlaid diagonally across the score.

Measures 58 to 63. The score includes staves for Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vcl., D.B., and Pno. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The time signature is 4/4. A large red watermark "Preview Only" is overlaid diagonally across the score.

Score for measures 64 to 68. The score includes staves for Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vcl., D.B., and Pno. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The time signature is 4/4. A large red watermark "Preview Only" is overlaid diagonally across the score.

Measures 64 to 68. The score includes staves for Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vcl., D.B., and Pno. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The time signature is 4/4. A large red watermark "Preview Only" is overlaid diagonally across the score.