

# THE GIFT OF GIVING

(The Power of a Wish)

BRIAN BALMAGES

## INSTRUMENTATION

- |                         |   |   |
|-------------------------|---|---|
| 1 Conductor Score       | 2 Trombone 1  | <p><b>SUPPLEMENTAL and WORLD PARTS</b><br/> <i>The following instruments and transpositions (all parts) are available to download from <a href="http://alfred.com/supplemental">alfred.com/supplemental</a></i></p> <p>E♭ Alto Clarinet<br/>                 E♭ Contra Alto Clarinet<br/>                 B♭ Contra Bass Clarinet<br/>                 E♭ Horn<br/>                 Trombone in B♭ T.C.<br/>                 Trombone in B♭ B.C.<br/>                 Euphonium in B♭ B.C.<br/>                 Tuba in B♭ T.C.<br/>                 Tuba in B♭ B.C.<br/>                 Tuba in E♭ T.C.<br/>                 Tuba in E♭ B.C.<br/>                 String Bass</p> |
| 1 Piccolo               | 2 Trombone 2  |   |
| 4 Flute 1               | 2 Trombone 3  |   |
| 4 Flute 2               | 2 Euphonium   |   |
| 2 Oboe                  | 2 Baritone T.C.   |   |
| 2 Bassoon               | 4 Tuba  |   |
| 4 B♭ Clarinet 1         | 1 Timpani   |   |
| 4 B♭ Clarinet 2         | 2 Mallet Percussion 1<br>(Chimes, Synthesizer)                              |   |
| 4 B♭ Clarinet 3         | 1 Mallet Percussion 2<br>(Bells)  |   |
| 2 B♭ Bass Clarinet      | 1 Mallet Percussion 3<br>(Vibraphone)                                       |   |
| 2 E♭ Alto Saxophone 1   | 3 Percussion<br>(Crash Cymbals, Triangle,<br>Wind Chimes, Suspended Cymbal) |   |
| 2 E♭ Alto Saxophone 2   |   |   |
| 2 B♭ Tenor Saxophone    |   |   |
| 2 E♭ Baritone Saxophone |   |   |
| 3 B♭ Trumpet 1          |   |   |
| 3 B♭ Trumpet 2          |   |   |
| 3 B♭ Trumpet 3          |   |   |
| 2 F Horn 1              |   |   |
| 2 F Horn 2              |   |   |





## THE COMPOSER

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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, the International Outstanding Contributor Award from Phi Beta Mu, won the 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 bands and orchestras as well as university and professional groups throughout the world. He has appeared in nearly all 50 states, with notable guest conducting appearances including "The President's Own" United States Marine Band, United States Air Force Band, The Midwest Clinic, Western International Band Clinic, Maryborough Music Conference (Australia), Teatro dell'Aquila (Italy), and others. Currently, he is Director of MakeMusic Publications and Digital Education for Alfred and MakeMusic.

## ABOUT THE MUSIC

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We sometimes forget what a powerful impact an individual can make. How a single person's actions can change a community for the better. How a music program can be so much more than just "band, orchestra, and choir." Well, it's not only time to remember this: it is time to *prove it*. All proceeds I receive from this piece will support the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Here is the powerful story...

Melody Jackson was a 16-year-old band student at Reeltown High School in Alabama. In the summer of 2023, she was diagnosed with adrenocortical carcinoma, a rare form of terminal cancer. Doctors said she would be lucky to have even a few more months. The community jumped into action. That fall, Melody was crowned homecoming queen. In addition, the school held a surprise graduation ceremony for her, giving her a class ring, cap and gown, diploma, and letterman jacket.

Yet, it was Melody who gave back to her alma mater through Make-A-Wish Alabama. The organization has long been known to grant wishes for children dealing with critical illness. It is quite common for children to wish to meet someone famous, or to take an incredible trip somewhere. But not Melody. In one of the most selfless wishes possible, Melody's wish was for her high school marching band to receive new uniforms. That wish was granted, and while Melody passed away on February 5, 2024, the school surprised the community that fall with the new uniforms while also taking time to honor Melody and her family. The school band was then invited to perform at the Alabama Make-A-Wish conference.

It is hard to comprehend anyone being so selfless, and this is a powerful reminder that the act of giving not only benefits the recipient, but is also a gift to those who donate, whether it is in the form of money, time, or countless other ways of giving. The gift of giving benefits everyone. In a world that often seems so full of anger, hate, and division, we need to do everything we can to highlight the beautiful aspects of humanity. Melody did, and so can we.

My hope is that giving will not end with the purchase of this piece. I hope that groups will hold fundraisers in their own communities: clothing drives, food drives, gift collections, volunteering in the community, supporting local shelters, rehab facilities, and more. Maybe all of us can be fortunate enough to receive the gift of giving.

The music itself begins with the painful reality of critical illness and the incredible stress it places on families. Even still, rays of hope peek through the clouds and a sweet melody attempts to provide comfort. There is a long build toward a section marked "Heartwarming." When Eric Thompson, director of bands at Reeltown High School, contacted me, he was hoping there could be a signature moment that symbolized when a wish is granted. Many families indicate that this moment was a turning point in treatment, and nearly all doctors say that wishes help relieve families from traumatic stress. My hope is that this music helps families and communities heal, and inspires people to give back and care for each other. Once again, let's show the world what the power of music can do.

*The Gift of Giving* is dedicated to Melody Jackson and the Reeltown High School Band. It is available in both concert band and string orchestra versions.

—Brian Balmages

DURATION: 5:20

dedicated to Melody Jackson, the Reeltown High School Band,  
and the Make-A-Wish Foundation for granting her wish  
Notasulga, Alabama; Eric Thompson, Director

# THE GIFT OF GIVING

(The Power of a Wish)

BRIAN BALMAGES  
(ASCAP)

Adagio con dolore (♩ = 76)

Piccolo

Flutes 1 2

Oboe

Bassoon

B♭ Clarinets 1 2 3

B♭ Bass Clarinet

E♭ Alto Saxophones 1 2

B♭ Tenor Saxophone

E♭ Baritone Saxophone

B♭ Trumpets 1 2 3

F Horns 1 2

Trombones 1 2 3

Euphonium

Tuba

Timpani (F, B♭, C, D)  
(Synth patch "choir oohs")

Mallet Percussion 1 (Chimes, Synthesizer)

Mallet Percussion 2 (Bells)

Mallet Percussion 3 (Vibraphone)

Percussion (Crash Cymbals, Triangle, Wind Chimes, Suspended Cymbal)

B. Cl. p

B. Cl. p

Vibraphone w/ soft mallets p

2 3 4 5 6

poco rit. 9 a tempo

Picc.

Fls. 1 2

Ob.

Bsn.

Cls. 1 2 3

B. Cl.

A. Saxes 1 2

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

Tpts. 1 2 3

Hns. 1 2

Tbns. 1 2 3

Euph.

Tuba

Timp.

Mlt. Perc. 1 (Ch., Synth.)

Mlt. Perc. 2 (Bls.)

Mlt. Perc. 3 (Vib.)

Perc.

*mp* *p* *p* *play* *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *play* *p* *Chimes* *p* *Tri.* *p*

poco rit. 9 a tempo

rit. 17 più mosso

Picc. 4 3 4 3 4 2 4

Fls. 1 4 3 4 3 4 2 4  
2 4 4 4 4 4 4 4

Ob. 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4

Bsn. *mp* *mf*

Cls. 1 *mp* *mf*  
2 *mp* *mf*  
3 *mp* *mf*

B. Cl. *mp* *mf*

A. Saxes 1 *mp* *mf*  
2 *mp* *mf*

T. Sax. *mp* *mf*

B. Sax. *mp* *mf*

Tpts. 1 *mp* *mf*  
2 *mp* *mf*  
3 *mp* *mf*

Hns. 1 *mp* *mf*  
2 *mp* *mf*

Tbns. 1 *mp* *mf*  
2 *mp* *mf*  
3 *mp* *mf*

Euph. *mp* *mf*

Tuba *mp* *mf*

Timp. 4 3 4 3 4 2 4  
*mp* *mp* *mf*

Mlt. Perc. 1 (Ch., Synth.) *mp* *mf*

Mlt. Perc. 2 (Bls.) *mf*

Mlt. Perc. 3 (Vib.) *mf*

Perc. *mf*

Sus. Cym. *p* *mf*

Bells w/ plastic mallets *mf*

w/ medium mallets *mf*

13

14

15

16

17

18

rit.

Musical score for various instruments including Picc., Fls., Ob., Bsn., Cls., B. Cl., A. Saxes, T. Sax., B. Sax., Tpts., Hns., Tbn., Euph., Tuba, Timp., and Perc. The score is written in 4/4 and 2/4 time signatures. It includes dynamic markings such as *mf* and *f*, and a *rit.* (ritardando) instruction. The score is overlaid with a large red watermark that reads "Preview Only" and "Legal Use Requires Purchase".

19

20

21

22

23

24

*meno mosso* *rit.* **29** *a tempo*

Picc. *f* *mp*

Fls. 1 *f* *mp*

2 *f* *mp*

Ob. *f* *mp*

Bsn. *f* *mp*

Cls. 1 *f* *mp*

2 *f* *mp*

3 *f* *mp*

B. Cl. *f* *mp*

A. Saxes 1 *f* *mp*

2 *f* *mp*

T. Sax. *f* *mp*

B. Sax. *f* *mp*

Tpts. 1 *f* *mp*

2 *f* *mp*

3 *f* *mp*

Hns. 1 *f* *mp*

2 *f* *mp*

Tbns. 1 *f* *mp*

2 *f* *mp*

3 *f* *mp*

Euph. *f* *mp*

Tuba *f* *mp*

Timp. *f* *mp*

Mlt. Perc. 1 (Ch., Synth.) *f* *mp*

Mlt. Perc. 2 (Bls.) *f* *mp*

Mlt. Perc. 3 (Vib.) *f* *mp*

Perc. Cr. Cym. *f* *mp*

25 26 27 28 29 30



rit.

(♩ = 60)

poco rit.

Picc. 1 2

Fls. 1 2

Ob.

Bsn.

*p*

Cls. 1 2 3

B. Cl.

*p*

A. Saxes 1 2

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

*p*

Euph. Solo

play

rit.

(♩ = 60)

poco rit.

Tpts. 1 2 3

Hns. 1 2

*p*

Tbns. 1 2 3

Euph.

Tuba

*p*

Euph. Solo

Solo

*p*

Timp.

Mlt. Perc. 1 (Ch., Synth.)

Mlt. Perc. 2 (Bls.)

Mlt. Perc. 3 (Vib.)

Perc.

*p*

(F to A)

38 a tempo

Picc.

Fls. 1 2 *p*

Ob.

Bsn. *p* Euph. Solo

Cls. 1 2 3 *p*

B. Cl.

A. Saxes 1 2

T. Sax. *p* Euph. Solo

B. Sax.

38 a tempo

Tpts. 1 2 3

Hns. 1 2

Tbns. 1 2 3 *p* Euph. Solo

Euph. (Solo) *p*

Tuba

Timp.

Mlt. Perc. 1 (Ch., Synth.)

Mlt. Perc. 2 (Bls.) *p*

Mlt. Perc. 3 (Vib.) *p*

Perc.

38 39 40 41 42 43





60 con moto

Picc.

Fls. 1  
2

Ob.

Bsn.

Cls. 1  
2  
3

B. Cl.

A. Saxes 1  
2

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

Tpts. 1  
2  
3

Hns. 1  
2

Tbns. 1  
2  
3

Euph.

Tuba

Timp.

Mlt. Perc. 1 (Ch., Synth.)

Mlt. Perc. 2 (Bls.)

Mlt. Perc. 3 (Vib.)

Perc.

mf

open

60 con moto

mf



68 Heartwarming (♩ = 64)

Picc. *ff*

Fls. 1 *ff*

2

Ob. *ff*

Bsn. *ff*

Cls. 1 *ff* div.

2 *ff*

3

B. Cl. *ff*

A. Saxes 1 *ff*

2

T. Sax. *ff*

B. Sax. *ff*

68 Heartwarming (♩ = 64)

Tpts. 1 *ff*

2 *ff*

3

Hns. 1 *ff*

2 *ff*

Tbns. 1 *ff*

2 *ff*

3

Euph. *ff*

Tuba *ff*

Timp. *ff* *mf* *ff*

Mlt. Perc. 1 (Ch., Synth.) *ff* w/ brass mallets

Mlt. Perc. 2 (Bls.) *ff* *ff*

Mlt. Perc. 3 (Vib.) *ff* *ff* pedal each measure

Perc. Cr. Cym. | Wind Chimes *ff*

poco rit.

76 a tempo

Picc.

Fls. 1  
2

Ob.

Bsn.

Cls. 1  
2  
3

B. Cl.

A. Saxes 1  
2

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

Tpts. 1  
2  
3

Hns. 1  
2

Tbns. 1  
2  
3

Euph.

Tuba

Timp.

Mlt. Perc. 1 (Ch., Synth.)

Mlt. Perc. 2 (Bls.)

Mlt. Perc. 3 (Vib.)

Perc.

div.

*mf* *ff*

*ff*

*ff*

*ff*

*ff*

*mf* *ff*

(G, A, B $\flat$ , D)  
(F to G, C to B $\flat$ )

accel.

Picc.

Fls. 1  
2

Ob.

Bsn.

Cls. 1  
2  
3

B. Cl.

A. Saxes 1  
2

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

accel.

Tpts. 1  
2  
3

Hns. 1  
2

Tbns. 1  
2  
3

Euph.

Tuba

Timp.

Mlt. Perc. 1  
(Ch., Synth.)

Mlt. Perc. 2  
(Bls.)

Mlt. Perc. 3  
(Vib.)

Perc.

dampen

Synth. - "choir oohs"  
(soft and ethereal)

dampen



84 **meno mosso**

Picc.

Fls. 1  
2

Ob.

Bsn.

Cls. 1  
2  
3

B. Cl.

A. Saxes 1  
2

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

Euph. Solo

Solo *p*

84 **meno mosso**

Tpts. 1  
2  
3

Hns. 1  
2

Tbns. 1  
2  
3

Euph.

Tuba

Timp.

Mlt. Perc. 1 (Ch. Synth.)

Mlt. Perc. 2 (Bls.)

Mlt. Perc. 3 (Vib.)

Perc.

w/ plastic mallets

w/ medium mallets

*p*

*p* *Rea*

84 85 86 87 88 89 90

Picc.

Fls. 1  
2

Ob.

Bsn.

Cls. 1  
2  
3

B. Cl.

A. Saxes 1  
2

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

Tpts. 1  
2  
3

Hns. 1  
2

Tbn. 1  
2  
3

Euph.

Tuba

Timp.

Mlt. Perc. 1 (Ch., Synth.)

Mlt. Perc. 2 (Bls.)

Mlt. Perc. 3 (Vib.)

Perc.

Solo

*mp*

*p*

play

*p*

tutti

*p*

Tri.

*mp*

91 92 93 94 95 96



rit.

Picc.

Fls. 1  
2

Ob.

Bsn.

Cls. 1  
2  
3

B. Cl.

A. Saxes 1  
2

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

Tpts. 1  
2  
3

Hns. 1  
2

Tbns. 1  
2  
3

Euph.

Tuba

Timp.

Mlt. Perc. 1 (Ch., Synth.)

Mlt. Perc. 2 (Bls.)

Mlt. Perc. 3 (Vib.)

Perc.

103

104

105

106

107

108

109