

# RELENTLESS

BRIAN BALMAGES

## INSTRUMENTATION

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

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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

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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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*Relentless* is a high-energy work characterized by its constant forward motion and driving rhythmic pulse. The piece opens with a burst of sound, immediately establishing a vigorous and complex rhythmic framework. The strings engage in a tightly wound, perpetual motion, with interlocking figures passing rapidly throughout the ensemble. This initial section is a study in rhythmic propulsion, demanding technical precision and unified drive from the musicians.

The central portion of the work offers a momentary, yet deceptive, contrast. A lyrical melody emerges in the lower strings amidst the continuous rhythmic foundation. Crucially, the pulse established earlier never subsides; the accompanying figures, though softer and more subtle, maintain their insistent presence, ensuring the underlying tension remains. This juxtaposition creates a sense of yearning against an unstoppable force.

From this lyrical interlude, the music begins an inexorable ascent toward its climax. The thematic material fragments and is passed between sections, gaining intensity as the dynamic level steadily increases.

All sections of the orchestra join in a final, furious buildup, culminating in a powerful and intensely dramatic conclusion.

*Relentless* was commissioned by the Dublin (Ohio) Youth String Orchestra; Stephanie Hanson, conductor.

—Brian Balmages

DURATION: 3:15

commissioned by the Dublin Youth String Orchestra  
Dublin, Ohio; Stephanie Hanson, Conductor

# RELENTLESS

BRIAN BALMAGES  
(ASCAP)

Vivace (♩ = 156)

4

Violin 1  
Violin 2  
Viola (Violin 3)  
Violoncello  
Double Bass

Vln. 1  
Vln. 2  
Vla.  
Vcl.  
D.B.

Vln. 1  
Vln. 2  
Vla.  
Vcl.  
D.B.

Vln. 1  
Vln. 2  
Vla.  
Vcl.  
D.B.

18 19 21 22

*f* *mf* *mf* *f*

This block contains the first system of the musical score, covering measures 18 to 22. It features five staves: Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Violoncello, and Double Bass. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. Dynamics include *f* (forte) and *mf* (mezzo-forte). A large red watermark 'Preview Only Requires Purchase' is overlaid on the score.

23

Vln. 1  
Vln. 2  
Vla.  
Vcl.  
D.B.

23 24 25 26 27

*mp* *mp* *mp* *mp* *pizz.* *mp*

This block contains the second system of the musical score, covering measures 23 to 27. The time signature changes to 3/4. Dynamics include *mp* (mezzo-piano) and *pizz.* (pizzicato). A large red watermark 'Preview Only Requires Purchase' is overlaid on the score.

30

Vln. 1  
Vln. 2  
Vla.  
Vcl.  
D.B.

28 29 30 31 32

*mf* *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf*

This block contains the third system of the musical score, covering measures 28 to 32. Dynamics include *mf* (mezzo-forte). A large red watermark 'Preview Only Requires Purchase' is overlaid on the score.

div.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

*f*

*f*

*f*

*f*

*f*

*f*

arco

33 34 35 36 37

39

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

*ff*

*ff*

*ff*

*ff*

*ff*

38 40 41 42

47

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

*mp sub.*

*mp sub.*

*mp sub.*

*mp sub.*

non div.

43 44 45 46 47

Vln. 1  
Vln. 2  
Vla.  
Vcl.  
D.B.

48 49 50 51 52

*mp*  
*pizz.*  
*mp*

This system contains measures 48 through 52. It features five staves: Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Violoncello, and Double Bass. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4. Measures 48-50 show a steady rhythmic pattern with various dynamics. Measure 51 includes a 'pizz.' (pizzicato) instruction for the Double Bass. Measure 52 continues the pattern with a 'mp' dynamic.

Vln. 1  
Vln. 2  
Vla.  
Vcl.  
D.B.

53 54 55 56 57

*f*  
*f*  
*f sub.*  
*f sub.*

This system contains measures 53 through 57. The time signature changes to 3/4 at measure 55. Dynamics include 'f' (forte) and 'f sub.' (forzando). The Double Bass part includes an 'arco' instruction at measure 55. The Violin parts have accents and hairpins.

Vln. 1  
Vln. 2  
Vla.  
Vcl.  
D.B.

58 59 60 61 62

*ff*  
*mp*  
*ff*  
*mp*  
*mp sub.*  
*ff*  
*ff*  
*non div.*  
*f*

This system contains measures 58 through 62. The time signature is 3/4. Dynamics include 'ff' (fortissimo), 'mp' (mezzo-piano), and 'mp sub.' (mezzo-piano sordato). The Viola part has a 'non div.' instruction at measure 62. The Violoncello and Double Bass parts have accents and hairpins.

66

63 64 65 67

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

*mf*

div.

68 69 70 71 72

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

74

73 75 76 77 78

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

*f*

*ff*

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

79 80 81 82 83

84

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

84 85 86 87 88

92

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

89 90 91 92 93

Vln. 1 *mp* *mf* *mf*

Vln. 2 *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Vcl. *mf*

D.B. *mf*

94 95 97 98

div. div. div.

100

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

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

Vla. *p* *mp* *p*

Vcl. *p* *mp* *p*

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

99 100 101 103 103

div.

108

Vln. 1 *mf* *p*

Vln. 2 non div. *mf* *p*

Vla. *mf* *p*

Vcl. *mf* *p*

D.B. *mf* *p*

105 107 108 109 110

div. div.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

*f*

*p*

111 112 113 114 115 116

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

117 118 119 120 121 122

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

*mp*

*mf*

*mp*

*mf*

*mp*

*mf*

*mp*

*mf*

123 125 126 127

132

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

129 130 131 133 134

*f*

*f*

*f*

*f*

*f*

140

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

135 136 137 138 139

*ff*

*ff*

*ff*

*ff*

*ff*

div.

div.

div.

*ff*

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

141 142 143 144 145 146

div.

non div.

150

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

147

148

151

152

*mf*

*ff*

158

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

153

154

155

156

157

158

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

159

160

161

162

163

164