

IGNITION POINT

BRIAN BALMAGES

INSTRUMENTATION

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



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, 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

Ignition Point is a high-octane work for string orchestra that is very accessible yet includes a lot of clever rhythmic interplay and contemporary use of harmony. Despite alternating between major and minor throughout, the piece uses no high or low fingerings or extensions.

My goal with this work was to offer a composition that moves beyond traditional tonal expectations at this level, incorporating subtle harmonic shifts and dissonances that keep the listener on edge while being quite approachable for the musicians. This harmonic tension, combined with the work's inherent velocity, underscores the sense of a powerful force that has reached its ignition point.

—Brian Balmages

IGNITION POINT

BRIAN BALMAGES
(ASCAP)

Allegro energico (♩ = 144)

Violin 1
mf

Violin 2
mf

Viola (Violin 3)
mf

Violoncello
mf

Double Bass
mf

Piano
mf

Vln. 1
f

Vln. 2
f

Vla.
f

Vcl.
f

D.B.
f

Pno.
f

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

12 13 14 15 16 17

19

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

18 19 20 21 22 23

mf *f* *mf* *mp*

mf *f* *mf* *mp*

mf *f* *mf* *mp*

pizz. 3 0

mf *mp*

pizz. 1 2

mf *mp*

mf *f* *mf* *mp*

27

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

24 25 26 27 28 29

35

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

30 31 32 33 34 35

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

36 37 38 39 40 41

mp

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

42 43 44 45 46

p

arco

p

arco

p

51

Vln. 1 *mp* *mf*
 Vln. 2 *mp* *f*
 Vla. *mp* *f*
 Vcl. *mp* *mf*
 D.B. *mp* *mf*
 Pno. *mp* *mf*

47 48 49 50 51

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

52 53 54 55 56 57

59

Musical score for measures 58-63. The score is for a string quartet and piano. The instruments are Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vcl., D.B., and Pno. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked with a box containing the number 59. The dynamics are marked with *f* (forte) at the beginning of measure 59. The score shows a variety of rhythmic patterns and melodic lines across the instruments.

Musical score for measures 64-69. The score continues from the previous page. The instruments are Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vcl., D.B., and Pno. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The dynamics are marked with *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *f* (forte) in measures 68 and 69. The score shows a variety of rhythmic patterns and melodic lines across the instruments.