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FJH SYMPHONIC BAND

Grade 4

THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER

JOHN STAFFORD SMITH

Arranged by

Brian Balmages

Instrumentation

- | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 - Conductor's Full Score | 2 - E♭ Alto Saxophone 1 | 2 - Baritone/
Euphonium |
| 1 - Piccolo | 2 - E♭ Alto Saxophone 2 | 2 - Baritone T.C. |
| 4 - Flute 1 | 2 - B♭ Tenor Saxophone | 4 - Tuba |
| 4 - Flute 2 | 2 - E♭ Baritone Saxophone | 1 - Timpani |
| 1 - Oboe 1 | 3 - B♭ Trumpet 1 | 3 - Mallet Percussion |
| 1 - Oboe 2 | 3 - B♭ Trumpet 2 | Bells |
| 1 - Bassoon 1 | 3 - B♭ Trumpet 3 | Chimes |
| 1 - Bassoon 2 | 1 - F Horn 1 | Vibraphone |
| 4 - B♭ Clarinet 1 | 1 - F Horn 2 | 2 - Percussion 1 |
| 4 - B♭ Clarinet 2 | 1 - F Horn 3 | Snare Drum |
| 4 - B♭ Clarinet 3 | 1 - F Horn 4 | Bass Drum |
| 2 - B♭ Bass Clarinet | 2 - Trombone 1 | 3 - Percussion 2 |
| 1 - B♭ Contrabass Clarinet | 2 - Trombone 2 | Crash Cymbals |
| | 2 - Trombone 3 | Triangle |
| | | Suspended Cymbal |

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As a result, all single page parts are collated before multiple page parts.

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The Arranger

Brian Balmages (b. 1975) is an award-winning composer, conductor, producer, and performer. He holds a bachelor's degree in music from James Madison University and a master's degree from the University of Miami in Florida. His compositions have been performed worldwide at the state, national and international level. His active schedule of commissions and premieres has incorporated groups ranging from elementary schools to professional ensembles, including the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Miami Symphony Orchestra, University of Miami Wind Ensemble, Boston Brass, and the Dominion Brass Ensemble. In 2012, Mr. Balmages received the prestigious Albert Austin Harding Award from the American School Band Directors Association. He is also a 2010 winner of the Harvey G. Phillips Award for Compositional Excellence, presented by the International Tuba-Euphonium Association.

As a conductor, Mr. Balmages enjoys engagements with numerous all-state and regional honor bands and orchestras along with university and professional groups. Notable guest conducting appearances have included the Midwest Clinic, Western International Band Clinic, National Association for Music Educators, American School Band Directors Association, CBDNA, the Kennedy Center, and Meyerhoff Symphony Hall. He has also served as an Adjunct Professor of Instrumental Conducting and Acting Symphonic Band Director at Towson University in Maryland.

Currently, Mr. Balmages is the Director of Instrumental Publications for The FJH Music Company Inc. in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He resides in Baltimore with his wife Lisa and their two sons.

About the Music

When I was asked to conduct the Ohio All-State Band, I was told that they always start the program off with *The Star-Spangled Banner*. I had recently revisited one of the most stunning arrangements I can recall - a performance by Bruce Hornsby and Branford Marsalis at the 1991 NBA All-Star Game. The arrangement visibly stunned the audience, many with tears in their eyes by the end. It truly struck me as well and I wanted to write a version that stayed true in form (and time signature) to the original, yet brought a more intense emotional element. This version is the result. It begins in a soft and unassuming manner and steadily builds, rises and falls throughout. Just as it hits its peak, the music returns to the opening textures and concludes in a very heartwarming, compassionate way.

Except for a short 8-measure introduction, the arrangement follows the exact form of the original version. It is perfectly appropriate for audience members to stand if desired. At the premiere, I did not mention anything to the audience. They sat until measure 9, when the melody began. Then, without saying a word, the entire audience stood together. After the piece was over, everyone just stood in silence for a minute before applauding. It was magical, and I thank the Ohio All-State Band for their wonderful performance at the premiere.

Picc.

Fls. 1 2

Obs. 1 2

Bsns. 1 2

Cls. 1 2 3

B. Cl.

Cb. Cl.

A. Saxes 1 2

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

Tpts. 1 2 3

Hns. 1 2 3 4

Tbns. 1 2 3

Bar./Euph.

Tuba

Timp.

Mit. Perc.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

tutti

mp

tutti

mp

p

tutti

mp

p

tutti

mp

p

play

mp

div.

p

p

Chimes

p

Picc.

Fls. 1 2

Obs. 1 2

Bsns. 1 2

Cls. 1 2 3

B. Cl.

Cb. Cl.

A. Saxes 1 2

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

Tpts. 1 2 3

Hns. 1 2 3 4

Tbn. 1 2 3

Bar./Euph.

Tuba

Timp.

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

mp

mf

mf

p

p

play

con moto

Picc.

Fls. 1 2

Obs. 1 2

Bsns. 1 2

Cls. 1 2 3

B. Cl.

Cb. Cl.

A. Saxes 1 2

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

Tpts. 1 2 3

Hns. 1 2 3 4

Tbns. 1 2 3

Bar. / Euph.

Tuba

Timp.

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Sus. Cym.

mp *mf* *tutti*

con moto

42 Very slow and free (dictated)

rit.

Picc.

Fls. 1 2

Obs. 1 2

Bsns. 1 2

Cls. 1 2 3

B. Cl.

Cb. Cl.

A. Saxes 1 2

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

2 players only
1 player per part

solo

p

solo

p

pp

1 player

pp

pp

pp

pp

pp

Bsn. solo

p

pp

42 Very slow and free (dictated)

rit.

Tpts. 1 2 3

Hns. 1 2 3 4

Tbns. 1 2 3

Bar. / Euph.

Tuba

Timp.

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

1 player per part

1 player

solo

p

pp

1 player

pp

muffle

muffle

Vibr.

p

Bells

pp