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FJH CONCERT BAND

Grade 3

LEGEND OF THE DROP BEAR

Brian Balmages

Instrumentation

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 - Conductor's Full Score | 2 - Baritone T.C. |
| 4 - Flute 1 | 4 - Tuba |
| 4 - Flute 2 | 1 - Timpani |
| 2 - Oboe | 2 - Mallet Percussion 1 |
| 2 - Bassoon | Bells |
| 5 - B \flat Clarinet 1 | Xylophone |
| 5 - B \flat Clarinet 2 | 3 - Mallet Percussion 2 |
| 2 - B \flat Bass Clarinet | Vibraphone |
| 2 - E \flat Alto Saxophone 1 | Marimba |
| 2 - E \flat Alto Saxophone 2 | Chimes |
| 2 - B \flat Tenor Saxophone | 2 - Percussion 1 |
| 2 - E \flat Baritone Saxophone | 2 Tom-toms |
| 4 - B \flat Trumpet 1 | Bass Drum |
| 4 - B \flat Trumpet 2 | 3 - Percussion 2 |
| 4 - F Horn | Snare Drum |
| 2 - Trombone 1 | Low Wood Block |
| 2 - Trombone 2 | Triangle |
| 2 - Baritone / Euphonium | 3 - Percussion 3 |
| | Splash Cymbal |
| | China Cymbal |
| | Bar Chimes |
| | Suspended Crash Cymbal |

FJH is now using a high-speed sorting system for parts. As a result, all single page parts are collated before multiple page parts.

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The Composer



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

The inspiration for this piece came from a trip to Australia during which I had the wonderful opportunity to conduct at the Queensland Conservatorium in Brisbane. Of course, I had the chance to pet kangaroos and hold a koala, but we kept joking about the legendary "drop bear." The drop bear, of course, is a complete hoax intended to amuse locals while alarming visitors to the country. In many ways, it pokes fun at how many tourists refer to the "koala bear," but in fact it is not a bear - it is a marsupial. Another popular tourist question involves whether koalas fall out of trees when they sleep. Combine these and other myths together with the many dangerous animals that live in Australia and it is easy to see why the predatory, vicious drop bear has become so popular.

On my way home from Australia (my very, very long way home), I began to think of a musical idea that featured this drop bear, and *Legend of the Drop Bear* was born. The piece itself begins in a very dark and mystical way. As the harmonic progression continues, a lone trombone glissando hints at the idea of something falling, albeit very slowly. Eventually, the flutes begin an eerie effect that involves playing and vocalizing. There are numerous ways to approach this effect, and I suggest all directors watch a fabulous video made by my close friend, Erica Peel, who plays piccolo in the San Diego Symphony. The video is available on the FJH website (search for *Legend of the Drop Bear*) or use the following link: <https://youtu.be/honPaNUKG-Y>

Extended effects like this are an incredible way to develop flute players of all ages, so I highly recommend giving this a shot. For shorter events (such as honor bands), it is also easy to achieve this effect by dividing the flute section and half play fingered pitches while the other half vocalize into their flute (without actually playing). After this section, I pay tribute to Australian composer Jodie Blackshaw, who has done some incredible work using vocal effects in pieces. Thus, the use of the whispered "drop bear" throughout the ensemble. This should be a "shouted whisper" of sorts - projecting the words as crisply and clearly as possible with heavy emphasis on consonants. It should sound percussive. Encourage students to do it at random (not together or on the beat!) and continue to get more intense / speed up as the section continues.

Finally, the drop bears begin to fall and hit the ground and the terrified tourists are off and running for their lives! Intense percussion activity and dissonant harmonies / countermelodies become the focus of the work as a sinister melody emerges. The music continues to develop despite brief moments of respite, and eventually all elements of the piece come together as the trombones signal the wild dropping of drop bears all around the hall.

Legend of the Drop Bear was commissioned by the Ohio State University for their middle school honor band festival in February, 2016. It is dedicated to my friends and colleagues at the Queensland Conservatorium in Australia and received its Australian premiere by the Young Conservatorium Wind Orchestra on April 29, 2016.

LEGEND OF THE DROP BEAR

dedicated to my colleagues at the Queensland Conservatorium; Brisbane, Queensland (Australia)

BRIAN BALMAGES
(ASCAP)

Misterioso (♩ = 60)

7

Flutes 1 2 Fl. 1 only

pp +2. *p*

B♭ Clarinets 1 2

B♭ Bass Clarinet

p

E♭ Alto Saxophones 1 2

B♭ Tenor Saxophone

E♭ Baritone Saxophone

p

Misterioso (♩ = 60)

7

B♭ Trumpets 1 2

F Horn

Trombones 1 2

Baritone / Euphonium

Tuba

st. mute solo *p*

Timpani (F, G, D, E♭)

Mallet Percussion 1 (Bells, Xylophone)

Mallet Percussion 2 (Vibraphone, Marimba, Chimes) Vib. *p*

Percussion 1 (2 Tom-toms, Bass Drum)

Percussion 2 (Snare Drum, Low Wood Block, Triangle) Low Wood Block *mp*

Percussion 3 (Splash Cymbal, China Cymbal, Bar Chimes, Suspended Crash Cymbal) Bar Chimes *mp*

2 3 4 5 6 *p*



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12

Fls. 1 2

Ob.

Bsn.

Cls. 1 2

B. Cl.

A. Saxes 1 2

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

Tpts. 1 2

Hn.

Tbns. 1 2

Bar. / Euph.

Tuba

Timp.

Mlt. Perc. 1

Mlt. Perc. 2

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Sus. Cym.

st. mute tutti

st. mute

solo

slow gliss. - last note not important

Bells

Mar.

B.D.

Tri.

mp

p

n

pp

13 14



18 to be played at random, simultaneously by each player:
top pitches - vocal gliss at random (while playing flute)
bottom pitches - randomly finger any written notes while playing / vocalizing

The musical score is arranged in systems for various instruments. The Flute (Fls.) part includes a specific instruction for measure 18: "to be played at random, simultaneously by each player: top pitches - vocal gliss at random (while playing flute), bottom pitches - randomly finger any written notes while playing / vocalizing". The score includes parts for Fls. 1 & 2, Ob., Bsn., Cls. 1 & 2, B. Cl., A. Saxes 1 & 2, T. Sax., B. Sax., Tpts. 1 & 2, Hn., Tbns. 1 & 2, Bar./Euph., Tuba, Timp., Mlt. Perc. 1 & 2, Perc. 1, 2, and 3. Dynamics such as *p*, *mp*, *fp*, and *f* are indicated throughout. A large red watermark "PREVIEW ONLY" is overlaid diagonally across the page.

25 Furioso (♩ = 144)

Fls. 1
2
whispered, but projected and percussive - begin slowly at random, becoming faster and louder

Ob.
drop bear drop bear
whispered, but projected and percussive - begin slowly at random, becoming faster and louder

Bsn.
drop bear drop bear

Cls. 1
2
whispered, but projected and percussive - begin slowly at random, becoming faster and louder

B. Cl.
drop bear drop bear

A. Saxes 1
2
whispered, but projected and percussive - begin slowly at random, becoming faster and louder

T. Sax.
drop bear drop bear
whispered, but projected and percussive - begin slowly at random, becoming faster and louder

B. Sax.
drop bear drop bear

Tpts. 1
2
whispered, but projected and percussive - begin slowly at random, becoming faster and louder

Hn.
drop bear drop bear
"distant cries in the wilderness" - slow gliss. at random

Tbns. 1
2
p
whispered, but projected and percussive - begin slowly at random, becoming faster and louder

Bar. / Euph.
drop bear drop bear
whispered, but projected and percussive - begin slowly at random, becoming faster and louder

Tuba
drop bear drop bear

Timp.
gliss up and down keyboard slowly (exact pitches do not matter)
f
dampen

Mlt. Perc. 1
p

Mlt. Perc. 2
whispered, but projected and percussive - begin slowly at random, becoming faster and louder

Perc. 1
Tom-toms
f
S.D. (snare off)

Perc. 2
whispered, but projected and percussive - begin slowly at random, becoming faster and louder
f

Perc. 3
whispered, but projected and percussive - begin slowly at random, becoming faster and louder
drop bear drop bear

33

This page contains a musical score for a large ensemble, starting at measure 33. The instruments listed on the left are:

- Fls. 1 and 2 (Flutes)
- Ob. (Oboe)
- Bsn. (Bassoon)
- Cls. 1 and 2 (Clarinets)
- B. Cl. (Bass Clarinet)
- A. Saxes 1 and 2 (Alto Saxophones)
- T. Sax. (Tenor Saxophone)
- B. Sax. (Bass Saxophone)
- Tpts. 1 and 2 (Trumpets)
- Hn. (Horn)
- Tbns. 1 and 2 (Trombones)
- Bar. / Euph. (Baritone/Euphonium)
- Tuba
- Timp. (Timpani)
- Mlt. Perc. 1 and 2 (Multiple Percussion)
- Perc. 1, 2, and 3 (Percussion)

The score includes various musical notations such as dynamics (e.g., *f*), articulation (e.g., accents), and performance instructions (e.g., "open" for trumpets). A large red watermark "Preview Only Requires Purchase" is overlaid diagonally across the page. Measure numbers 29, 30, 31, 32, and 33 are indicated at the bottom of the page.

29

30

31

32

33

This page contains a musical score for a large ensemble. The instruments listed on the left are: Fls. (Flutes), Ob. (Oboe), Bsn. (Bassoon), Cls. (Clarinets), B. Cl. (Bass Clarinet), A. Saxes (Alto Saxophones), T. Sax. (Tenor Saxophone), B. Sax. (Baritone Saxophone), Tpts. (Trumpets), Hn. (Horn), Tbn. (Trombone), Bar./Euph. (Baritone/Euphonium), Tuba, Timp. (Timpani), Mlt. Perc. 1 (Multiple Percussion 1), Mlt. Perc. 2 (Multiple Percussion 2), Perc. 1 (Percussion 1), Perc. 2 (Percussion 2), and Perc. 3 (Percussion 3). The score is written in a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a common time signature (C). It consists of 16 staves, with some instruments having multiple parts (e.g., Fls. 1 & 2, Cls. 1 & 2, Tpts. 1 & 2, Tbn. 1 & 2). The music features a variety of rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. A large, diagonal watermark reading 'Preview Only' is overlaid across the entire score.

41

Fls. 1 2

Ob.

Bsn.

Cls. 1 2

B. Cl.

A. Saxes 1 2

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

Tpts. 1 2

Hn.

Tbns. 1 2

Bar. / Euph.

Tuba

Timp.

Mlt. Perc. 1

Mlt. Perc. 2

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Xyl.

W.B.

China Cym.

Splash Cym.

w/ sticks *f*

39

40

41

42

43

Fls. 1 2

Ob.

Bsn.

Cl. 1 2

B. Cl.

A. Sax. 1 2

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

Tpts. 1 2

Hn.

Tbns. 1 2

Bar. / Euph.

Tuba

Timp.

Mlt. Perc. 1

Mlt. Perc. 2

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

44 *f* 45 46 47 48

49

Fls. 1
2

Ob.

Bsn.

Cl. 1
2

B. Cl.

A. Sax. 1
2

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

49

Tpts. 1
2

Hn.

Tbns. 1
2

Bar. /
Euph.

Tuba

Timp.

Mlt. Perc. 1

Mlt. Perc. 2

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

49 50 51 52 53 54

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57

Fls. 1 2

Ob. *mp*

Bsn. *mp*

Cls. 1 *mp*

2 *mp*

B. Cl. *mp*

A. Saxes 1 2 *mp* *mp*

T. Sax. *mp* *fp*

B. Sax. *mp*

Tpts. 1 *mp* *mp* *open* *fp*

2 *mp* *mp* *open* *div.* *fp*

Hn. *mp* *fp*

Tbns. 1 2 *mp*

Bar. / Euph. *mp*

Tuba *mp* *div.*

Timp. *mp* *secco - always dampen*

Mlt. Perc. 1 *mp*

Mlt. Perc. 2 *mp*

Perc. 1 *mp*

Perc. 2 *mp*

Perc. 3 *mp* *w/ mallets*

55 56 57 58 59 *p*

61

The musical score is arranged in two systems. The first system (measures 61-64) includes staves for Flutes (1 and 2), Oboe, Bassoon, Clarinets (1 and 2), Bass Clarinet, Alto Saxophones (1 and 2), Tenor Saxophone, Bass Saxophone, Trombones (1 and 2), Horn, Baritone/Euphonium, Tuba, Timpani, Mallet Percussion 1, Mallet Percussion 2, Percussion 1, Percussion 2 (marked 'snare on'), and Percussion 3 (marked 'w/ sticks'). The key signature has two flats, and the time signature is common time. The dynamic marking 'mp' is present in the Bassoon, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, and Percussion 2 parts. Measure numbers 61, 62, 63, and 64 are printed below their respective staves.

This page contains the musical score for measures 65 through 68. The instruments and their parts are as follows:

- Fls. 1 & 2:** Flutes, starting in measure 67 with a melody in *mf*.
- Ob.:** Oboe, starting in measure 67 with a melody in *mf*.
- Bsn.:** Bassoon, playing a sustained bass line in *mf*.
- Cls. 1 & 2:** Clarinets, playing rhythmic patterns in *mf*.
- B. Cl.:** Bass Clarinet, playing rhythmic patterns in *mf*.
- A. Sax. 1 & 2:** Alto Saxophones, starting in measure 67 with a melody in *mf*.
- T. Sax.:** Tenor Saxophone, starting in measure 67 with a melody in *mf*.
- B. Sax.:** Baritone Saxophone, playing a sustained bass line in *mf*.
- Tpts. 1 & 2:** Trumpets, playing sustained notes in *mf*.
- Hn.:** Horn, playing sustained notes in *mf*.
- Tbns. 1 & 2:** Trombones, playing sustained notes in *mf*.
- Bar. / Euph.:** Baritone/Euphonium, playing sustained notes in *mf*.
- Tuba:** Tuba, playing rhythmic patterns in *mf*.
- Timp.:** Timpani, playing rhythmic patterns in *mf*.
- Mlt. Perc. 1:** Mallet Percussion 1 (Xyl.), starting in measure 67 with a melody in *mf*.
- Mlt. Perc. 2:** Mallet Percussion 2, playing rhythmic patterns in *mf*.
- Perc. 1:** Percussion 1, playing rhythmic patterns in *mf*.
- Perc. 2:** Percussion 2, playing rhythmic patterns in *mf*.
- Perc. 3:** Percussion 3, playing sustained notes in *mf*.

The score is marked with *mf* (mezzo-forte) throughout. A large red watermark reading "Preview Only - Legal Use Requires Purchase" is overlaid diagonally across the entire page.

69

Fls. 1 2

Ob.

Bsn.

Cls. 1 2

B. Cl.

A. Saxes 1 2

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

69

Tpts. 1 2

Hn.

Tbns. 1 2

Bar./Euph.

Tuba

Timp.

Mlt. Perc. 1

Mlt. Perc. 2

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

mf

mf

mf

mf

69 70 71 72

Fls. 1 2
Ob.
Bsn.
Cls. 1 2
B. Cl.
A. Saxes 1 2
T. Sax.
B. Sax.
Tpts. 1 2
Hn.
Tbns. 1 2
Bar. / Euph.
Tuba
Timp.
Mlt. Perc. 1
Mlt. Perc. 2
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
Perc. 3

73 74 75 76 *f*

77

Fls. 1
2

Ob.

Bsn.

Cls. 1
2

B. Cl.

A. Saxes 1
2

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

77

Tpts. 1
2

Hn.

Tbns. 1
2

Bar. / Euph.

Tuba

Timp.

Mlt. Perc. 1

Mlt. Perc. 2

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Chimes

rim

f

f

f

f

This musical score page includes parts for the following instruments:

- Fls. 1 & 2
- Ob.
- Bsn.
- Cls. 1 & 2
- B. Cl.
- A. Saxes 1 & 2
- T. Sax.
- B. Sax.
- Tpts. 1 & 2
- Hn.
- Tbns. 1 & 2
- Bar. / Euph.
- Tuba
- Timp.
- Mlt. Perc. 1
- Mlt. Perc. 2
- Perc. 1
- Perc. 2
- Perc. 3

The score is marked with a large red watermark: "Preview Only - Legal Use Requires Purchase".

Fls. 1
2

Ob.

Bsn.

Cl. 1
2

B. Cl.

A. Sax. 1
2

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

Tpts. 1
2

Hn.

Tbns. 1
2

Bar. / Euph.

Tuba

Timp.

Mlt. Perc. 1

Mlt. Perc. 2

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

85 86 87 mp

89

Fls. 1 2
ff

Ob.
ff

Bsn.
ff

Cls. 1 2
ff

B. Cl.
ff

A. Saxes 1 2
ff

T. Sax.
ff

B. Sax.
ff

89

Tpts. 1 2
ff

Hn.
ff

Tbns. 1 2
ff

Bar. / Euph.
ff

Tuba
ff

Timp.
ff

Mlt. Perc. 1

Mlt. Perc. 2

Perc. 1
ff v B.D. sim.

Perc. 2
ff head

Perc. 3

89 *ff* 90 91 92

This page contains a musical score for an orchestra, spanning measures 93 to 96. The instruments listed on the left are: Flutes (1 and 2), Oboes (1 and 2), Bassoon (Bsn.), Clarinets (1 and 2), Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), Alto Saxophones (A. Saxes 1 and 2), Tenor Saxophone (T. Sax.), Bass Saxophone (B. Sax.), Trumpets (1 and 2), Horns (Hn.), Trombones (1 and 2), Baritone/Euphonium (Bar. / Euph.), Tuba, Timpani (Timp.), Milt. Perc. 1, Milt. Perc. 2 (with Mar.), Perc. 1, Perc. 2, and Perc. 3. The score is in 3/4 time and features a dynamic marking of *ff* (fortissimo) throughout. A large red watermark reading "Preview Only" is overlaid diagonally across the page.

Musical score for a full orchestra, including Flutes, Oboes, Bassoons, Clarinets, Bass Clarinet, Saxophones, Trumpets, Horns, Trombones, Baritone/Euphonium, Tuba, Timpani, and Percussion. The score is marked with a large red watermark: "Preview Only - Legal Use Requires Purchase".

97

Fls. 1
2

Ob.

Bsn.

1
Clars.

2

B. Cl.

A. Saxes 1
2

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

97

1
Tpts.

2

Hn.

1
2
Tbns.

Bar. /
Euph.

Tuba

Timp.

Mlt. Perc. 1

Mlt. Perc. 2

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

97

98

99

100

101

104

104

Fls. 1
2

Ob.

Bsn.

Cl. 1
2

B. Cl.

A. Saxes 1
2

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

Tpts. 1
2

Hn.

Tbns. 1
2

Bar. / Euph.

Tuba

Timp.

Mlt. Perc. 1

Mlt. Perc. 2

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

f

ff

mp

ff

slow gliss. at random

102

mp

ff

105

This musical score page contains the following parts and measures:

- Fls. 1 & 2:** Flute parts, measures 106-109.
- Ob.:** Oboe part, measures 106-109.
- Bsn.:** Bassoon part, measures 106-109.
- Cls. 1 & 2:** Clarinet parts, measures 106-109.
- B. Cl.:** Bass Clarinet part, measures 106-109.
- A. Saxes 1 & 2:** Alto Saxophone parts, measures 106-109.
- T. Sax.:** Tenor Saxophone part, measures 106-109.
- B. Sax.:** Baritone Saxophone part, measures 106-109.
- Tpts. 1 & 2:** Trumpet parts, measures 106-109.
- Hn.:** Horn part, measures 106-109.
- Tbns. 1 & 2:** Trombone parts, measures 106-109.
- Bar. / Euph.:** Baritone/Euphonium part, measures 106-109.
- Tuba:** Tuba part, measures 106-109.
- Timp.:** Timpani part, measures 106-109.
- Mlt. Perc. 1 & 2:** Multiple Percussion parts 1 and 2, measures 106-109.
- Perc. 1, 2, & 3:** Individual Percussion parts 1, 2, and 3, measures 106-109.

Measures 106, 107, 108, and 109 are clearly labeled at the bottom of the page.

Fls. 1 2

Ob.

Bsn.

Cls. 1 2

B. Cl.

A. Saxes 1 2

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

Tpts. 1 2

Hn.

Tbns. 1 2

Bar. / Euph.

Tuba

Timp.

Mlt. Perc. 1

Mlt. Perc. 2

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

div.

gliss. (any low starting pitch)

mp *f* *mp* *f* *mp* *f*

mf *ff*