

AMERICAN BIG TOP

Brian Balmages

Instrumentation

1 - Conductor's Full Score	2 - F Horn 1
1 - Piccolo	2 - F Horn 2
4 - Flute 1	2 - Trombone 1
4 - Flute 2	2 - Trombone 2
2 - Oboe	2 - Trombone 3
2 - Bassoon	2 - Baritone / Euphonium
4 - B \flat Clarinet 1	2 - Baritone T.C.
4 - B \flat Clarinet 2	4 - Tuba
4 - B \flat Clarinet 3	1 - String Bass
2 - B \flat Bass Clarinet	1 - Timpani
1 - E \flat Contra Alto Clarinet	1 - Xylophone
1 - B \flat Contrabass Clarinet	1 - Bells
2 - E \flat Alto Saxophone 1	2 - Percussion 1
2 - E \flat Alto Saxophone 2	Snare Drum
2 - B \flat Tenor Saxophone	Bass Drum
2 - E \flat Baritone Saxophone	2 - Percussion 2
3 - B \flat Trumpet 1	Crash Cymbals
3 - B \flat Trumpet 2	Wood Block
3 - B \flat Trumpet 3	Triangle

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

T H E
F · J · H
MUSIC
COMPANY
I N C.
Frank J. Hackinson

2525 Davie Road, Suite 360
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33317-7424
www.fjhmusic.com



The Composer

Brian Balmages (b. 1975) is an award-winning composer, conductor, producer, and performer. The music he has written for winds, brass, and orchestra has been performed throughout the world with commissions ranging from elementary schools to professional orchestras. World premieres include prestigious venues such as Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, and Meyerhoff Symphony Hall. 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. He received his bachelor's degree in music from James Madison University and his master's degree from the University of Miami in Florida. He is a recipient of the prestigious A. Austin Harding Award from the American School Band Directors Association and in 2016 was awarded the James Madison University Distinguished Alumni Award from the School of Visual and Performing Arts (the first year the award was given). 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.

As a conductor, Mr. Balmages enjoys regular engagements with all-state and region bands and orchestras, as well as university and professional ensembles throughout the world. Notable guest conducting appearances have included the Midwest Clinic, Western International Band Clinic, College Band Directors Conference, American School Band Directors Association National Conference and others. Additional conducting appearances have included the Kennedy Center and Meyerhoff Symphony Hall as well as engagements in Australia, Canada and Italy. Currently, he is Director of Instrumental Publications for The FJH Music Company and Assistant Director of Bands and Orchestras at Towson University.

Program Notes

American Big Top can best be described as an American circus march that meets Charles Ives. Largely based on original material, the piece weaves in small anecdotal references to *The Stars and Stripes Forever*, *Take Me Out to the Ballgame*, *The Yankee Doodle Boy*, *Yankee Doodle*, *The Star-Spangled Banner*, and *The Entertainer*. The entire piece is based on the layering of melodies, harmonies, textures, and rhythms. As the piece develops, the layering becomes more and more complex, yet always with a splash of fun and humor. It is a highly energetic work that constantly throws a curve ball (no pun intended—well, maybe just a little) at the listener with just enough Americana thrown in to give it a homegrown feel without necessarily being categorized as a full-on patriotic work.

The piece was commissioned by the Artie Henry Middle School Honors Band (Cedar Park, Texas; Robert Herrings, conductor) on the occasion of their selection as the TMEA CCC Honor Band. Given that this was their third time being selected as honor band, the piece playfully uses the theme of "three" throughout, beginning immediately with groups of three that move through three different time signatures (including 3/8). In addition, *The Stars and Stripes Forever* reference only involves the trio section and the only part of *Take Me Out to the Ballgame* is "One! Two! Three strikes you're out!" (Of course, we then hear the sound of a ball being hit!)

American Big Top was premiered at the 2018 Texas Music Educators Association Convention by the Artie Henry Middle School Honors Band; Robert Herrings, conductor.

- Brian Balmages

AMERICAN BIG TOP

BRIAN BALMAGES
(ASCAP)

Spirited! (♩ = 144)

Piccolo

Flutes 1 2

Oboe

Bassoon

B♭ Clarinets 1 2 3

B♭ Bass Clarinet

B♭ Contrabass 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

Baritone / Euphonium

Tuba

String Bass

Timpani

Xylophone (F, B♭, C, F)

Bells

Percussion 1 (Snare Drum, Bass Drum) S.D.

Percussion 2 (Crash Cymbals, Wood Block, Triangle) Cr. Cym. B.D.

2 3 4 5 6 7



Hear and download this piece at www.fjhmusic.com

Copyright © 2018 The FJH Music Company Inc. (ASCAP).
International Copyright Secured. Made in U.S.A. All Rights Reserved.
WARNING! The music, text, design, and graphics in this publication are protected by copyright law.
Any duplication is an infringement of U.S. copyright law.

Musical score for orchestra, measures 8-16. The score is divided into two systems. The first system covers measures 8-13, and the second system covers measures 13-16. The instruments and parts are listed on the left side of each system. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The time signature is 4/4. The score includes various dynamics such as *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *f* (forte). A large red watermark "Preview Only Requires Purchase" is overlaid diagonally across the score.

9 13

Picc.

Fls. 1 2

Ob.

Bsn.

1 2 3

Cls.

B. Cl.

C.B. Cl.

A. Saxes 1 2

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

9 13

1 2 3

Tpts.

Hns. 1 2

Tbns. 1 2 3

Bar./Euph.

Tuba St. Bass

Timp.

Xylo.

Bells

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

Picc.

Fls. 1
2

Ob.

Bsn.

Cls. 1
2
3

B. Cl.

C.B. Cl.

A. Saxes 1
2

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

Tpts. 1
2
3

Hns. 1
2

Tbns. 1
2
3

Bar./
Euph.

Tuba
St. Bass

Timp.

Xylo.

Bells

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

26

Picc.

Fls. 1
2

Ob.

Bsn.

1
2
3

Cl. 1
2
3

B. Cl.

C.B. Cl.

A. Sax. 1
2

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

26

1
2
3

Tpts.

Hns. 1
2

Tbns. 1
2
3

Bar. / Euph.

Tuba
St. Bass

Timp.

Xylo.

Bells

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

W.B.

1, 2. Solos
mp

mp

Solo
mp

Solo
mp

Solo
mp

Solo
mp

Solo
mp

f

tutti
f

tutti
f

tutti
f

tutti
f

f

tutti
f

f

play
f

f

f

f

f

f

f

f

f

f

f

f

f

26 *mp* 27 28 29 30 31 32 33

34

Picc.

Fls. 1 2

Ob.

Bsn.

Cl. 1 2 3

B. Cl.

C.B. Cl.

A. Sax. 1 2

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

34

Tpts. 1 2 3

Hns. 1 2

Tbns. 1 2 3

Bar. / Euph.

Tuba St. Bass

Timp.

Xylo.

Bells

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41

42

Picc. *mf*

Fls. 1 *mf*

2

Ob. *mf*

Bsn. *mf*

1 *mf*

Cls. 2 *mf*

3

B. Cl. *mf*

C.B. Cl. *mf*

A. Saxes 1 *mf*

2

T. Sax. *mf*

B. Sax. *mf*

42

1

Tpts. 2 *mf*

3

Hns. 1 *mf*

2

1 *mf*

Tbns. 2 *mf*

3

Bar. / Euph. *mf*

Tuba St. Bass *mf*

Timp. *mf*

Xylo. *mf*

Bells *f*

Perc. 1 *mf*

Perc. 2 *f*

42 *mf* 43 44 45 46 47 48 *f*

49

Picc. *mf*

Fls. 1 *mf*

2 *mf*

Ob. *mf*

Bsn. *mf*

1 *mf*

Cl. 2 *mf*

3 *mf*

B. Cl. *mf*

C.B. Cl. *mf*

A. Sax. 1 *mf*

2 *mf*

T. Sax. *mf*

B. Sax. *mf*

49

Tpt. 1 div. *mf*

1 *mf*

2 *mf*

3 *mf*

Tpt. 2 *mf*

Tpt. 3 div. *mf*

Hns. 1 *mf*

2 *mf*

Tbns. 1 *mf*

2 *mf*

3 *mf*

Bar. / Euph. *mf*

Tuba St. Bass *mf*

Timp. *mf*

Xylo. *mf*

Bells *mf*

Perc. 1 *mf*

Perc. 2 *mf*

49 *mf* 50 51 52 53 54 55 *f*

58

Musical score for various instruments including Picc., Fls., Ob., Bsn., Cls., B. Cl., C.B. Cl., A. Saxes, T. Sax., B. Sax., Tpts., Hns., Tbn., Bar./Euph., Tuba St. Bass, Timp., Xylo., Bells, Perc. 1, and Perc. 2. The score includes a large red watermark reading "Preview Only" and "Legal Use Requires Purchase".

56

57

58

59

60

61

62

63

Picc.

Fls. 1
2

Ob.

Bsn. *mf*

Cls. 1 *f*
2 *f*
3 *f*
mf

B. Cl. *mf*

C.B. Cl. *mf*

A. Saxes 1
2 *mf*

T. Sax. *mf*

B. Sax. *mf*

Tpts. 1 *f*
2 *f*
3 *f*

Hns. 1
2

Tbns. 1
2
3 *mf*

Bar./Euph. *mf*

Tuba St. Bass *mf*

Timp. *f* (High F to G)

Xylo. *f* *mf*

Bells *f* *mf*

Perc. 1 *f* *mf*

Perc. 2 *f* *mf*

64 *f* 65 66 67 68 69 *mf* 70

74

Picc. *mf*

Fls. 1 *mf*

2 *mf*

Ob. *mf*

Bsn. *f*

Cls. 1 *f*

2 *f*

3 *f*

B. Cl. *f*

C.B. Cl. *f*

A. Saxes 1 *f*

2 *f*

T. Sax. *f*

B. Sax. *f*

74

Tpts. 1 *f*

2 *f*

3 *f*

Hns. 1 *f*

2 *f*

Tbn. 1 *f*

2 *f*

3 *f*

Bar./Euph. *f*

Tuba St. Bass *f*

Timp. *f*

Xylo. *f*

Bells *f*

Perc. 1 *f*

Perc. 2 *f*

71 72 73 74 75 76 77

Picc.

Fls. 1 2

Ob.

Bsn.

Cl. 1 2 3

B. Cl.

C.B. Cl.

A. Sax. 1 2

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

Tpts. 1 2 3

Hns. 1 2

Tbns. 1 2 3

Bar. / Euph.

Tuba / St. Bass

Timp.

Xylo.

Bells

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

78 79 80 81 82 83 84

Musical score for orchestra and woodwinds, measures 85-91. The score includes parts for Picc., Fls. (1 and 2), Ob., Bsn., Cls. (1, 2, and 3), B. Cl., C.B. Cl., A. Saxes (1 and 2), T. Sax., B. Sax., Tpts. (1, 2, and 3), Hns. (1 and 2), Tbn. (1, 2, and 3), Bar./Euph., Tuba/St. Bass, Timp., Xylo., Bells, Perc. 1, and Perc. 2. The score features dynamic markings such as *mp* and *f*, and includes a large red watermark reading "Preview Only Requires Purchase".

Picc. *f*

Fls. 1 *mp* *f*

2 *mp* *f*

Ob. *f* *f*

Bsn. *f* *mp* *f*

Cls. 1 *f* *mp* *f*

2 *f* *mp* *f*

3 *f* *mp* *f*

B. Cl. *p* *f*

C.B. Cl. *p* *f*

A. Saxes 1 *f* *p* *f*

2 *f* *p* *f*

T. Sax. *f* *p* *f*

B. Sax. *f* *p* *f*

Tpts. 1 *f* *f*

2 *f* *f*

3 *f* *f*

Hns. 1 *f* *p* *f*

2 *f* *p* *f*

Tbns. 1 *f* *mp* *f*

2 *f* *mp* *f*

3 *f* *mp* *f*

Bar. / Euph. *f* *f*

Tuba St. Bass *f* *p* *f*

Timp. *mf* *f* (D to Eb)

Xylo. *f*

Bells *f*

Perc. 1 *mf* *f* r.s.

Perc. 2 *f*

92 93 94 95 96 97 *f* 98

99 107

Picc.

Fls. 1 2

Ob.

Bsn.

Cls. 1 2 3

B. Cl.

C.B. Cl.

A. Saxes 1 2

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

99 107

Tpts. 1 2 3

Hns. 1 2

Tbns. 1 2 3

Bar. / Euph.

Tuba / St. Bass

Timp.

Xylo.

Bells

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

W.B.

99 100 101 102 103 104 105 106 107

Picc.
 Fls. 1
 2
 Ob.
 Bsn.
 Cls. 1
 2
 3
 B. Cl.
 C.B. Cl.
 A. Saxes 1
 2
 T. Sax.
 B. Sax.
 Tpts. 1
 2
 3
 Hns. 1
 2
 Tbns. 1
 2
 3
 Bar. / Euph.
 Tuba
 St. Bass
 Timp.
 Xylo.
 Bells
 Perc. 1
 Perc. 2

mf *mp*
mf *mp*
mf *mp*
mf
mp
mf
mp
mf *mp*
mp
mf *mp*
mf *mp*
mf *mp*
mf *mp*
mf *mp*
mf *mp*
mf *mp*
mf *mp*
mf *mp*
mf *mp*
mf *mp*
mf *mp*
mf *mp*
mf *mp*
mf *mp*
mf *mp*
mf *mp*
mf *mp*
mf *mp*
mp
mp rim
mp
mf

st. mute
 div.
 (Eb to D)

108 109 110 111 112 113 114 *mf* 115 116



Picc.

Fls. 1
2

Ob.

Bsn.

Cls. 1
2
3

B. Cl.

C.B. Cl.

A. Saxes 1
2

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

Tpts. 1
2
3

Hns. 1
2

Tbns. 1
2
3

Bar. / Euph.

Tuba / St. Bass

Timp.

Xylo.

Bells

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Solo open

mp

mp

mp

mp

mp

mp

mp

mp

mp

mp

mp

mp

117 118 119 120 121 122 123 *mp* 124 125

126 127 128 129 130 131 132 133

Preview Only
Legal Use Requires Purchase

134

Picc.

Fls. 1 2

Ob.

Bsn.

ff

Cls. 1 2 3

B. Cl.

C.B. Cl.

ff

A. Saxes 1 2

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

ff

134

Tpts. 1 2 3

Hns. 1 2

Tbns. 1 2 3

ff

Bar. / Euph.

Tuba St. Bass

ff

Timp.

Xylo.

Bells

ff

Perc. 1

ff

Perc. 2

ff

134 135 136 137 138 139 140

Picc.

Fls. 1
2

Ob.

Bsn.

Cls. 1
2
3

B. Cl.

C.B. Cl.

A. Saxes 1
2

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

Tpts. 1
2
3

Hns. 1
2

Tbns. 1
2
3

Bar. / Euph.

Tuba / Str. Bass

Timp.

Xylo.

Bells

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

(F to G)

ff

141 142 143 144 145 146 147

151

Picc.

Fls. 1
2

Ob.

Bsn.

Cl. 1
2
3

B. Cl.

C.B. Cl.

A. Sax. 1
2

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

151

Tpts. 1
2
3

Hns. 1
2

Tbns. 1
2
3

Bar. / Euph.

Tuba St. Bass

Timp.

Xylo.

Bells

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

148 149 150 151 152 153 154

159

159

Picc.

Fls. 1 2

Ob.

Bsn.

Cl. 1 2 3

B. Cl.

C.B. Cl.

A. Sax. 1 2

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

Tpts. 1 2 3

Hns. 1 2

Tbns. 1 2 3

Bar. / Euph.

Tuba St. Bass

Timp.

Xylo.

Bells

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Tri.

mf *f* *ff*

155 156 157 158 159 *ff* 160 161

Picc.

Fls. 1 2

Ob.

Bsn.

ff

Cls. 1 2 3

B. Cl.

C.B. Cl.

ff

A. Saxes 1 2

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

ff

Tpts. 1 2 3

Hns. 1 2

Tbn. 1 2 3

ff

Bar. / Euph.

Tuba St. Bass

ff

Timp.

Xylo.

Bells

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

162 163 164 165 166 167