

PRIMAL DANCES

Brian Balmages

Instrumentation

1 - Conductor's Full Score	3 - B♭ Trumpet 1	2 - Percussion 2
1 - Piccolo	3 - B♭ Trumpet 2	Vibraphone
4 - Flute 1	3 - B♭ Trumpet 3	Xylophone
4 - Flute 2	2 - F Horn 1	4 - Percussion 3
2 - Oboe	2 - F Horn 2	Concert Toms
2 - Bassoon	2 - Trombone 1	Bass Drum
4 - B♭ Clarinet 1	2 - Trombone 2	Chimes
4 - B♭ Clarinet 2	2 - Trombone 3	Suspended Cymbal
4 - B♭ Clarinet 3	2 - Baritone / Euphonium	China Cymbal
2 - B♭ Bass Clarinet	2 - Baritone T.C.	Splash Cymbal
1 - E♭ Contra Alto Clarinet	4 - Tuba	Bar Chimes
1 - B♭ Contrabass Clarinet	1 - String Bass	4 - Percussion 4
2 - E♭ Alto Saxophone 1	1 - Timpani	Crash Cymbals
2 - E♭ Alto Saxophone 2	2 - Percussion 1	Triangle
2 - B♭ Tenor Saxophone	Bells	Cabasa
2 - E♭ Baritone Saxophone	Chimes	Suspended Cymbal
	Marimba	Temple Blocks
		Wood Block
		Tam-tam

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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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

While not specifically programmatic, the music is inspired by the raw, primitive nature of its title. Built on a combination of driving, dissonant rhythms and complex harmonies, the piece features angular melodies surrounded by colorful percussion writing. Indicative of evolution, the music begins to develop and become more complex, although it never abandons its primal roots during the process. At times, it feels exploratory – at other moments, it has more of a chaotic, near violent nature. The transition into the slower, mystical section draws on elements of Stravinsky (referencing elements of both his *Rite of Spring* and *Firebird Suite*.) As the slower section unfolds, the listener is lulled by a slow, steady movement of quarter notes under the melody. This builds into a powerful conflict (both harmonically and melodically as bass voices compete with the upper woodwinds and brass). The quarter note pulse returns once again, and eventually moves back into the driving, raw harmonic content of the opening. Familiar melodies begin to surface under new orchestration before moving into a coda section featuring a building woodwind and percussion ostinato. A series of powerful chords emerges under the ostinato, creating harmonic instability. The music becomes even more unstable as the chords change duration while a final ascending statement emerges from horns, saxophones, and euphonium. The ending of the work erupts in a fury of rhythmic and harmonic intensity before a final unison statement brings the work to a furious conclusion.

Primal Dances was commissioned by the Folly Quarter Middle School Symphonic Wind Ensemble (Ellicott City, Maryland; Andrew Spang, conductor). The commission is a result of Folly Quarter's "Play It Forward" Commissioning Project through their booster organization, the Friends of Folly Quarter Musicians.

- Brian Balmages

PRIMAL DANCES

BRIAN BALMAGES
(ASCAP)

Raw (♩ = 144)

Piccolo

Flutes 1 2

Oboe

Bassoon *p*

B♭ Clarinets 1 2 3 *mp*

B♭ Bass Clarinet *p*

B♭ Contrabass Clarinet *p*

E♭ Alto Saxophones 1 2 *mp*

B♭ Tenor Saxophone *p*

E♭ Baritone Saxophone *p*

Raw (♩ = 144)

B♭ Trumpets 1 2 3

F Horns 1 2

Trombones 1 2 3

Baritone / Euphonium *p*

Tuba String Bass *p*

Timpani *p* (G, Ab, C♯, D)

Percussion 1 (Bells, Chimes, Marimba)

Percussion 2 (Vibraphone, Xylophone)

Percussion 3 (Concert Toms w/ sticks) *p secco* B.D.

Percussion 4 (Crash Cymbals, Triangle, Cabasa, Suspended Cymbal, Temple Blocks, Wood Block, Tam-tam)



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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
st. mute
mp

Hns. 1 2

Tbn. 1 2 3
p

Bar./ Euph.

Tuba St. Bass

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2
Vibra.
mp

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

7 8 9 10 11 12

13

Picc.

Fls. 1 2

Ob.

Bsn. *mp*

Cls. 1 *mf* Hn. *mp* play

2 3 *mf* *mp*

B. Cl. *mp*

C.B. Cl. *mp*

A. Saxes 1 2 *mf* *mp*

T. Sax. *mp*

B. Sax. *mp*

13

Tpts. 1 2 3 *mf* *mp*

Hns. 1 2 *mf* *mp*

Tbns. 1 2 3 *mp*

Bar. / Euph. *mf* *mp*

Tuba / St. Bass *mp*

Timp. *mp*

Perc. 1 *mp* Mar.

Perc. 2 *mf* *mp*

Perc. 3 *mp*

Perc. 4 *mp* Wood Block

13 14 15 16 17 18 *mp*

30

Picc. *f*

Fls. 1 *f*
2

Ob. *f*

Bsn. *f*

Cl. 1 *f*
2 *f*
3 *f*

B. Cl. *f*

C.B. Cl. *f*

A. Sax. 1 *f*
2 *f*

T. Sax. *f*

B. Sax. *f*

30 div. *f*

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

Hns. 1 *f*
2 *f*

Tbns. 1 *f*
2 *f*
3 *f*

Bar. / Euph. *f*

Tuba *f*
St. Bass *f*

Timp. *f*

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3 *f*

Perc. 4 *f* Cabasa

30 31 32 33 34 35

38

Picc.

Fls. 1
2

Ob.

Bsn.

Cls. 1
2
3

B. Cl.

C.B. Cl.

A. Saxes 1
2

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

38

Tpts. 1
2
3

Hns. 1
2

Tbns. 1
2
3

Bar. / Euph.

Tuba / St. Bass

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

(D to E^b)
(play one octave lower)

36 37 38 39 40

Picc. *mf*

Fls. 1 *mf*
2

Ob. *mf*

Bsn.

Cls. 1
2
3

B. Cl.

C.B. Cl.

A. Saxes 1 *mf*
2

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

Tpts. 1 *mf*
2
3

Hns. 1
2

Tubs. 1
2
3

Bar./Euph.

Tuba St. Bass

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3 China Cym. w/ stick *mf*

Perc. 4

51 52 53 54 55

61

Picc.

Fls. 1
2

Ob.

Bsn.

Cls. 1
2
3

B. Cl.

C.B. Cl.

A. Saxes 1
2

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

61

Tpts. 1
2
3

Hns. 1
2

Tbns. 1
2
3

Bar./Euph.

Tuba
St. Bass

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4
Cabasa

61 62 63 64 65

Picc.

Fls. 1 2

Ob.

Bsn.

Cl. 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.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

2 players

p

2 players

p

open

play open

ff

ff

China

+ Splash

mf

ff

Cr. Cym. muffle

76 77 78 79



suddenly slower (♩ = 60)

The musical score is arranged in systems for various instruments. The top system includes Picc., Fls. 1 & 2, Ob., and Bsn. The second system includes Cls. 1 & 2, B. Cl., and C.B. Cl. The third system includes A. Saxes 1 & 2, T. Sax., and B. Sax. The fourth system includes Tpts. 1, 2, & 3, Hns. 1 & 2, Tbn. 1 & 2, Bar./Euph., and Tuba/St. Bass. The fifth system includes Timp., Perc. 1, Perc. 2, Perc. 3, and Perc. 4. The score is marked 'suddenly slower (♩ = 60)' and includes a large red watermark reading 'Preview Only - Legal Use Requires Purchase'. The page number 18 is in the top left corner. The score spans measures 80 to 85.

Picc.

Fls. 1 2

Ob.

Bsn.

Cls. 1 2 3

B. Cl.

C.B. Cl.

A. Saxes 1 2

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

Hn.

Tpts. 1 2 3

Hns. 1 2

Tbns. 1 2 3

Bar. / Euph.

Tuba / St. Bass

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

stagger breathe

p

tr

pp

pp

Solo

p

p

mute

p

Tri.

p

92 93 94 95 96 97



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.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

mf

p

mf

p

mf

p

103

Picc.

Fls. 1 2

Ob.

Bsn.

Cl. 1 2 3

B. Cl. Tuba

C.B. Cl.

A. Sax. 1 2

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

musical notation for woodwinds and brass instruments

103

Tpts. 1 2 3

Hns. 1 2

Tbns. 1 2 3

Bar. / Euph.

Tuba St. Bass

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

musical notation for percussion and solo instruments

103

104

105

106

107

108

125 Tempo I (♩ = 144)

Picc.

Fls. 1 2

Ob.

Bsn. *p*

Cl. 1 2 3

B. Cl. *tutti p*

C.B. Cl. *p*

A. Sax. 1 2

T. Sax. *play p*

B. Sax. *play p*

125 Tempo I (♩ = 144)

Tpts. 1 2 3

Hns. 1 2

Tbns. 1 2 3

Bar. / Euph. *p play*

Tuba / St. Bass *p*

Timp. *p*

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3 *p* Toms

Perc. 4 B.D.

133

Picc.

Fls. 1 2

Ob.

Bsn. *mp*

Cls. 1 *mp*

2 3 *mp*

B. Cl. *mp*

C.B. Cl. *mp*

A. Saxes 1 *mp* tutti

2 *mp*

T. Sax. *mp*

B. Sax. *mp*

Tpts. 1 *mf* st. mute

2 3 *mp* st. mute

Hns. 1 *mf* stopped

2 *mp* open

Tbns. 1 2 3 *mp*

Bar. / Euph. *mp*

Tuba St. Bass *mp*

Timp. *mp*

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3 *mp*

Perc. 4 *mp* Cbsa.

T. Blks. *mp*

131 132 133 134 135 136

Picc. *mf*

Fls. 1 2

Ob. *mf*

Bsn.

div. Cls. 1 2 3 *mf*

B. Cl.

C.B. Cl.

A. Saxes 1 2

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

Tpts. 1 2 3

Hns. 1 2

Tbn. 1 2 3 *mf*

Bar. / Euph.

Tuba St. Bass

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2 Xylo. A *mf*

Perc. 3

Perc. 4 *mf*

149 150 151 152 153 154

This page contains a musical score for measures 160 through 163. The score is for a large ensemble, including woodwinds and percussion. The woodwind parts include Piccolo (Picc.), Flutes (Fls. 1 and 2), Oboe (Ob.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Clarinets (Cls. 1, 2, and 3), Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), Contrabass Clarinet (C.B. Cl.), Alto Saxophones (A. Saxes 1 and 2), Tenor Saxophone (T. Sax.), and Bass Saxophone (B. Sax.). The brass parts include Trumpets (Tpts. 1, 2, and 3), Horns (Hns. 1 and 2), Trombones (Tbns. 1, 2, and 3), Baritone/Euphonium (Bar./Euph.), and Tuba/Str. Bass. The percussion parts include Timpani (Timp.), Percussion 1 (Perc. 1), Percussion 2 (Perc. 2), Percussion 3 (Perc. 3, Chimes), and Percussion 4 (Perc. 4, Tam-tam). The score is in 6/4 time and features a dynamic of *ff* (fortissimo) throughout. A large red watermark reading "Preview Only" is overlaid diagonally across the page. Measure 160 starts with a *ff* dynamic. Measure 161 includes a performance instruction: "(G to F, Ab to B, D to E)". Measure 162 continues with the *ff* dynamic. Measure 163 features a Tam-tam instrument with a dynamic change from *ff* to *mp* (mezzo-piano).

164

Picc.

Fls. 1 2

Ob.

Bsn. *ff*

Cls. 1 2 3

B. Cl.

C.B. Cl.

A. Saxes 1 2

T. Sax. *ff*

B. Sax. *ff*

164

Tpts. 1 2 3

Hns. 1 2

Tbns. 1 2 3 *ff*

Bar. / Euph. *ff* div.

Tuba St. Bass *ff*

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

164 *f* 165 166

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.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

171

Picc.

Fls. 1
2

Ob.

Bsn.

1
2
3
Cls.

B. Cl.

C.B. Cl.

A. Saxes 1
2

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

1
2
3
Tpts.

1
2
Hns.

1
2
Tbns.

Bar. /
Euph.

Tuba
St. Bass

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

Sus. Cym.
170 *mp*

171 *ff*

172

173

Toms
B.D.

ff

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.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

Cr. Cym.

ff

f

ff

174 175 176 177 178