

# THUNDERBOLT FANFARE

Brian Balmages

## Instrumentation

1 - Conductor's Full Score	
8 - Flute	1 - String Bass
2 - Oboe	1 - Timpani
2 - Bassoon	1 - Bells (Small Suspended Cymbal)
5 - B $\flat$ Clarinet 1	1 - Marimba (Medium Suspended Cymbal)
5 - B $\flat$ Clarinet 2	2 - Vibraphone Chimes (Large Suspended Cymbal)
2 - B $\flat$ Bass Clarinet	4 - Percussion 1 Snare Drum Bass Drum Triangle Hi-Hat Suspended Cymbal
4 - E $\flat$ Alto Saxophone	
2 - B $\flat$ Tenor Saxophone	4 - Percussion 2 China Cymbal Splash Cymbal Suspended Cymbal
2 - E $\flat$ Baritone Saxophone	
4 - B $\flat$ Trumpet 1	
4 - B $\flat$ Trumpet 2	
4 - F Horn	
4 - Trombone	
2 - Baritone / Euphonium	
2 - Baritone T.C.	
4 - Tuba	

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. 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.

## About the Music

*Thunderbolt Fanfare* was inspired by an event I experienced roughly two years ago – when my home was hit by lightning! I had never heard such a loud and powerful sound. It sent my heart racing. Amazingly, both my kids slept through the entire thing, including when the firemen were in their rooms using heat sensors on the walls! To this day, they do not even know it happened. That moment of adrenaline, fear and awe is captured in this fanfare.

Based on clusters of sound and an unrelenting rhythmic drive, the music has an urgency about it that is juxtaposed with brief moments of release before tension begins to build again. A modular twist occurs toward the end of the work as the inexhaustible energy moves into a fiery conclusion. Percussion plays a big role throughout, adding both rhythmic drive and big splashes of color.

*Thunderbolt Fanfare* was commissioned by the West Valley Middle School Bands in Yakima, Washington; Maegan Ley, conductor. They premiered the work at the 2019 NAfME All-Northwest Conference.

- Brian Balmages

# THUNDERBOLT FANFARE

BRIAN BALMAGES  
(ASCAP)

Unrelenting (♩ = 140)

Flute

Oboe

Bassoon

1 B♭ Clarinets

2 B♭ Clarinets

B♭ Bass Clarinet

E♭ Alto Saxophone

B♭ Tenor Saxophone

E♭ Baritone Saxophone

1 B♭ Trumpets

2 B♭ Trumpets

F Horn

Trombone

Baritone / Euphonium

Tuba

String Bass

Timpani

Bells (Small Sus. Cym.)

Marimba (Med. Sus. Cym.)

Vibraphone Chimes (Large Sus. Cym.)

Percussion 1 (Snare Drum, Bass Drum, Triangle, Hi-Hat, Suspended Cymbal)

Percussion 2 (China Cymbal, Splash Cymbal, Suspended Cymbal)

China Cym. Splash Cym. (w/ sticks)

2 3 4 5



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Fl. *mp cresc. poco a poco*

Ob. *mp cresc. poco a poco*

Bsn. *mp cresc. poco a poco*

1 Cl. *mp cresc. poco a poco*

2 Cl. *mp cresc. poco a poco*

B. Cl. *mp cresc. poco a poco*

A. Sax. *mp cresc. poco a poco*

T. Sax. *mp cresc. poco a poco*

B. Sax. *mp cresc. poco a poco*

1 Tpt. *mp cresc. poco a poco*

2 Tpt. *mp cresc. poco a poco*

Hn. *mp cresc. poco a poco*

Tbn. *mp cresc. poco a poco*

Bar. / Euph. *mp cresc. poco a poco*

Tuba St. B. *mp cresc. poco a poco*

Timp. *mp cresc. poco a poco*

Bls. *mp cresc. poco a poco*

Mar. *mp cresc. poco a poco*  
roll between both pitches

Vib. Ch. *mp cresc. poco a poco*

Perc. 1 *mp cresc. poco a poco*

Perc. 2 *mp cresc. poco a poco*



24

Fl.

Ob.

Bsn.

1 Cl.

2 Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

24

1 Tpt.

2 Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn.

Bar. / Euph.

Tuba St. B.

Timp.

Bs.

Mar.

Vib. Ch.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

21

22

23

24

25

26

Fl.

Ob.

Bsn.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

B. Cl.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Hn.

Tbn.

Bar. / Euph.

Tuba St. B.

Timp.

Bsn.

Mar.

Vib. Ch.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

div.

*p*

*p*

*p*

*p*

*p*

*p*

*p*

*p*

*pp*

*mp*

*pp*

*p*

*p*





Fl. *mp*

Ob. *mp*

Bsn.

1 *div.* *mp*

Cl. 2 *mp*

B. Cl.

A. Sax. *play* *mp*

T. Sax.

B. Sax. *mp*

1 *mp*

Tpt. 2

Hn.

Tbn. *mp*

Bar. / Euph. *mp*

Tuba St. B. *mp*

Timp. *mp*

Bls.

Mar.

Vib. Ch.

Perc. 1 *Tri.* *p* (China)

Perc. 2 *p*

*div.* #8

45

Fl. *f*

Ob. *f*

Bsn. *f*

1 Cl. *f*

2 Cl. *f*

B. Cl. *f*

A. Sax. *f* div. play

T. Sax. *mf* *f*

B. Sax. *f*

1 Tpt. *mf* *f* div.

2 Tpt. *mf* *f*

Hn. *mf* *f*

Tbn. *f*

Bar. / Euph. *f*

Tuba St. B. *f*

Timp. *mp* *f* *mp*

Bls. -

Mar. -

Vib. Ch. Chimes *f*

Perc. 1 *f*

Perc. 2 Sus. Cym. (mallets) *f*

44 *mp* *f* 46 47 *mp*







Fl.

Ob.

Bsn.

1  
Cl.

2

B. Cl.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

1  
Tpt.

2

Hn.

Tbn.

Bar. /  
Euph.

Tuba  
St. B.

Timp.

Bls.

Mar.

Vib.  
Ch.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

*ff*

*pp*

*ff*

Small Sus. Cym.

*p*

*ff*

Medium Sus. Cym.

*p*

*ff*

Large Sus. Cym.

*p*

*ff*

Sus. Cym.

*pp*

*ff*