

THRILL RIDE

Brian Balmages

Instrumentation

1 - Conductor's Full Score	2 - Baritone / Euphonium
8 - Flute	2 - Baritone T.C.
2 - Oboe	4 - Tuba
2 - Bassoon	1 - String Bass
5 - B \flat Clarinet 1	1 - Timpani
5 - B \flat Clarinet 2	2 - Bells
2 - B \flat Bass Clarinet	2 - Xylophone
4 - E \flat Alto Saxophone	4 - Percussion 1 Snare Drum Bass Drum
2 - B \flat Tenor Saxophone	4 - Percussion 2 Triangle Ratchet Crash Cymbals Suspended Cymbal Brake Drum
2 - E \flat Baritone Saxophone	
4 - B \flat Trumpet 1	
4 - B \flat Trumpet 2	
4 - F Horn	
4 - Trombone	

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.

About the Music

Fear, anxiety, adrenaline, and a sheer rush of excitement all take center stage in this musical depiction of a rollercoaster ride. As many weary riders know, there is a certain amount of anxiety that people feel while waiting in line and hearing people scream. The opening slow section captures that feeling and builds as the rider gets closer and closer to front of the line. Percussion then simulates the lift hill (the mechanism that pulls the cars up the initial hill) before the ride "officially" begins and riders race down the first hill and into a series of drops, turns and loops.

In my own experience, there always comes a part of the ride when I am no longer terrified, but start to feel exhilarated and smile. This moment occurs at measure 32, when riders like me finally start to appreciate the rush of wind and the absolute thrill of the ride.

Suddenly the brakes slam on and the ride slows down immensely, but a final musical moment reminds the listener of the excitement they just experienced.

Thrill Ride was commissioned by the Veterans Elementary School Band (Ellicott City, Maryland) and their conductor Tim Viets.

- Brian Balmages

rit.

9 a tempo

ca. 15 secs.

Fl.

Ob.

1 Cl.

2 Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

rit.

9 a tempo

ca. 15 secs.

1 Tpt.

2 Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn. Bar. / Euph. Bsn.

Tuba St. B.

Timp.

Bs.

Xylo.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Cr. Cym.

Ratchet

Brake Drum

stick shots multiple players at random speeds (to imitate the initial lift hill of a roller coaster)

S.D.

multiple players at random speeds (to imitate the initial lift hill of a roller coaster)

6

7

8

9

10

22

Fl.

Ob.

1
Cl.

2

B. Cl.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

22

1
Tpt.

2

Hn.

Tbn.
Bar./
Euph.
Bsn.

Tuba
St. B.

Timp.

Bls.

Xylo.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

21

Sus. Cym.

mf

f

23

24

25

f

Fl.

Ob.

1
Cl.

2

B. Cl.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

1
Tpt.

2

Hn.

Tbn.
Bar.
Euph.
Bsn.

Tuba
St. B.

Timp.

Bls.

Xylo.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

26 27 29 30

mf *f*

div. 32

Fl.

Ob.

1 Cl.

2 Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

ff

ff

ff

ff

32

1 Tpt.

2 Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn. Bar. / Euph. Bsn.

Tuba St. B.

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

Timp.

Bls.

Xylo.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

mf *f*

f *ff*

mf *f*

crash (strike hard with both mallets!) *mf* *f*

(roll) *mf* *f*

Tri.

33 *mf* *ff* 35

Fl.

Ob.

1
Cl.

2

B. Cl.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

1
Tpt.

2

Hn.

Tbn.
Bar.
Euph.
Bsn.

Tuba
St. B.

Timp.

Bls.

Xylo.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

48

48

Fl.

Ob.

1
Cl.

2

B. Cl.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

1
Tpt.

2

Hn.

Tbn.
Bar.
Euph.
Bsn.

Tuba
St. B.

Timp.

Bs.

Xylo.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

46

47
(hit with mallets)

48

49

50

molto rit.

Fl. *f*

Ob. *f*

1 Cl. *f*

2 Cl. *f*

B. Cl. *f*

A. Sax. *mf* *f*

T. Sax. *f*

B. Sax. *f*

Hn. *f*

Tbn. Bar. / Euph. Bsn. *f* play

Tuba St. B. *f*

Timp. *f*

Bls. *f*

Xylo. *mf* *f*

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

mp *f*

molto rit.

