WINGS TO THE MIND

Brian Balmages

Instrumentation

- 1 Full Score
- 8 Flute
- 2 Oboe
- 2 Bassoon
- 10 Bb Clarinet
- 2 Bb Bass Clarinet
- 4 El Alto Saxophone
- 2 Bb Tenor Saxophone
- 2 Eb Baritone Saxophone
- 8 Bb Trumpet
- 4 F Horn
- 4 Trombone
- 2 Baritone / Euphonium
- 2 Baritone T.C.

- 4 Tuba
- 1 String Bass
- 1 Timpani
- 1 Bells
- 4 Percussion 1 Snare Drum Bass Drum
- 2 Percussion 2 Crash Cymbals Suspended Cymbal
- 1 Percussion 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.





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

Music is a moral law. It gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and charm to life and to everything.

- Plato

This quote was under the email signature when Korey J. Coffer emailed me about a possible commission months before the pandemic was on anyone's radar. Like so many of my colleagues, I have read that quote many times in the past; however, reading it again in the middle of a pandemic felt quite different. In a time when so many things have been shut down, people have been looking to music as a source of comfort, inspiration and stability. Artists have been sharing their gifts from their own personal spaces, giving others a glimpse into their creative worlds. And countless musicians have been creating incredible content in virtual spaces, collaborating in new ways. All of this has provided an amazing emotional boost at a time so many people need one – a true reminder that music really is the soul of the universe, bringing charm and life to everything. Music provides wings to the mind, allowing us to venture anywhere we can imagine. It is in this spirit that this fanfare-style work was written, and I hope students and conductors will approach it with that same enthusiasm in rehearsal and performance.

Wings to the Mind was commissioned by Harvard Community School District 50 and band directors Korey J. Coffer, Lindsey Boyette, and Erika Coffer.

- Brian Balmages

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BRIAN BALMAGES (ASCAP)

















Musical Jump Start

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL



