

VARIATIONS ON AN IRISH TUNE

Brian Balmages

Instrumentation

1 - Conductor's Full Score

8 - Violin 1

8 - Violin 2

5 - Violin 3 (Viola T.C.)

5 - Viola

5 - Violoncello

5 - Double Bass

1 - Rehearsal Piano

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 active composer, conductor, producer, and performer. He received his bachelor's degree in music from James Madison University and his master's degree from the University of Miami in Florida. Mr. Balmages's works for symphonic band, orchestra, and brass have been performed throughout the world, including College Band Directors National and Regional Conferences, the Midwest Clinic, the International Tuba/Euphonium Conference, the International Trombone Festival, and the International Trumpet Guild Conference. His active schedule of commissions has included groups ranging from elementary schools to professional ensembles, including Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Miami Symphony Orchestra, the University of Miami Wind Ensemble, Dominion Brass, and others. He has also enjoyed world premieres in prestigious venues such as Carnegie Hall.

As a conductor, Mr. Balmages enjoys engagements with numerous honor bands, university groups, and professional ensembles throughout the country. Notable guest conducting appearances have included the Midwest Clinic, College Band Directors Regional Conference, Mid-Atlantic Wind Conductors Conference, the Atlantic Classical Orchestra Brass Ensemble, and Meyerhoff Symphony Hall in Baltimore. He has also served as an adjunct professor of instrumental conducting at Towson University in Maryland.

Currently, Mr. Balmages is director of instrumental publications at The FJH Music Company Inc. in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He resides in Baltimore with his wife, Lisa.

About the Music

Variations on an Irish Tune is based on *The Minstrel Boy* by Thomas Moore, one of the most important figures in 19th-century Irish music. After a brief, heralding introduction, the piece moves into a drone, simulating the sound of bagpipes. At this point, the original tune is presented in its entirety. Slight variations on the opening motif then begin to appear as the work moves into a lyrical section.

The second section is not a literal variation of *The Minstrel Boy*; rather, the melody is based on altered fragments of the original tune. In measure 44, a minor version of the opening material is heard; and at measure 55, hints of the second half of the tune are heard. These different motifs are combined with original material to create the entire scope of the second variation.

The third variation restates elements of the drone, but also introduces fiddle-style playing. The rhythmic intensity continues to build until violin 1 introduces the final variation. The entire ensemble then builds to an exciting hoedown conclusion.

Observe all accents, particularly those in the third section that occur on offbeats. This accented syncopation is vital to the style and should be exaggerated as much as possible. The cello and bass lines should really "dig in" and soar at measure 93, while upper strings perform long, accented quarter notes.

String Editing: Soon Hee Newbold

Brian Balmages

VARIATIONS ON AN IRISH TUNE

BRIAN BALMAGES
(ASCAP)

Allegro non troppo (♩ = 132)

Violin 1

Violin 2

Violin 3 (Viola T.C.)

Viola

Violoncello

Double Bass

Rehearsal Piano

2 3 4 5

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.)

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Reh. Piano

6 7 8 9 11

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ST6116

13

Vln. 1 *mf*

Vln. 2 *mf*

Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.) *mp*

Vla. *mp*

Vcl. *mp* *pizz.*

D.B. *mp*

Reh. Piano

13 14 15 16 17

21

Vln. 1

Vln. 2 *V V*

Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.)

Vla.

Vcl. *V*

D.B.

Reh. Piano

18 19 20 21 22 23

ST6116

Vln. 1
 Vln. 2
 Vln. 3
 (Vla. T.C.)
 Vla.
 Vcl.
 D.B.
 Reh.
 Piano

molto rit.

40 Andante (♩ = 72)

Score for measures 36 to 41. The score includes parts for Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.), Vla., Vcl., D.B., and Reh. Piano. The tempo is marked *molto rit.* and the time signature is 4/4. The key signature is one sharp (F#).

Measures 36-41 show a gradual deceleration. Dynamics include *mf*, *mp*, and *p*. A large red watermark "Preview Requires Purchase" is overlaid on the score.

Score for measures 42 to 47. The score includes parts for Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.), Vla., Vcl., D.B., and Reh. Piano. The tempo is marked *Andante* (♩ = 72). The key signature is one sharp (F#).

Measures 42-47 continue the deceleration. Dynamics include *mp*, *mf*, and *div.* (divisi). A large red watermark "Preview Requires Purchase" is overlaid on the score.

rit. 51 A Tempo poco rit.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.)

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Reh. Piano

48 49 50 51 52 53

A Tempo poco rit. 59 più mosso

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.)

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Reh. Piano

54 55 56 57 58 59

Vln. 1
 Vln. 2
 Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.)
 Vla.
 Vcl.
 D.B.
 Reh. Piano

div.
 div.
 div.
 div.

60 61 62 63 64 65

Vln. 1
 Vln. 2
 Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.)
 Vla.
 Vcl.
 D.B.
 Reh. Piano

Tranquillo (♩ = 72)
 69 Vivace (♩ = 172+)

p
 p
 p
 p
 mp
 mp

66 67 68 69 71

77

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vln. 3
(Vla. T.C.)

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Reh.
Piano

mf

mf

mf

mf

72 73 75 76 77

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vln. 3
(Vla. T.C.)

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Reh.
Piano

78 79 80 81 83

85

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.)

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Reh. Piano

f

mf

mf

mf

pizz.

f

f

f

84 85 86 87 88 89

93

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.)

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Reh. Piano

f

f

f

arco

arco

90 91 92 93 94 95

101

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.)

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Reh. Piano

96 97 98 99 100 101

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.)

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Reh. Piano

102 103 104 105 106 107

109

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.)

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Reh. Piano

108 109 110 111 112

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.)

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Reh. Piano

113 114 115 116 117