A CELTIC CHRISTMAS FANTASY

JOY TO THE WORLD • O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

Arranged by **Brian Balmages**

Instrumentation

- 1 Conductor's Full Score
- 8 Violin 1
- eduires 8 - Violin 2 (Viola T.C.)
- 5 Viola
- **5 Violoncello**
- **5 Double Bass**
- 1 Piano



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The Arranger

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 the 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 the 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 including 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 and Director of the Symphonic Band at Towson University in Maryland.

Currently, Mr. Balmages is the Director of Instrumental Publications for The FJH Music Company Inc. in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He resides in Baltimore with his wife, Lisa, and their son, Jacob.

About the Music

Incorporating both *Joy to the World* and *O Come All Ye Faithful*, this arrangement draws loosely on Celtic traditions and incorporates the sounds of bagpipe drones throughout. As melodies unfold, slight variations in both melody and harmony appear. As the second carol begins, the piece modulates to a new key center of G, though it never fully remains in that key but ultimately returns to its original key of D major. The end of the arrangement refers briefly to *Jingle Bells*, where violin 2 and violas are encouraged to play out.

String Editing: Soon Hee Newbold

Approx. Performance Time = 1:40



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