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# HUNTING THE WILD BEAST

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 - Piano
- 2 - Percussion
  - 2 Tom-toms
  - Snare Drum

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T H E  
F · J · H  
M U S I C  
C O M P A N Y  
I N C.

Frank J. Hackinson



## 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 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 such as Carnegie Hall.

As a conductor, Mr. Balmages enjoys engagements with numerous honor bands and orchestras, 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 acting 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 sons, Jacob and Collin.

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## About the Music

This work was designed to immerse listeners into a world of dragons, wizards, and knights. Its stately opening suggests the introduction and departure of the hunters. Once on their journey, the beast is spotted and the chase begins, punctuated by pulsating eighth notes and heavy ensemble hits. As the battle commences, the music moves into moments of intensity that are contrasted with more passive lines.

Ultimately, the battle reaches its peak, as both hunter and beast are stretched to their maximum physical capacities. As the piece comes to a close, the hunt ends. But the music never indicates which side is victorious—this imagery is left to the imaginations of the performers and audience.

While not required, percussion does play an important role in the overall texture and momentum of the piece. It is easily performed by one player, with snare drum and tom-toms set up together.

String Editing: Soon Hee Newbold

# HUNTING THE WILD BEAST

BRIAN BALMAGES  
(ASCAP)

Maestoso (♩ = 108)

The musical score is arranged in two systems. The first system (measures 1-5) includes staves for Violin 1, Violin 2, Violin 3 (Viola T.C.), Viola, Violoncello, Double Bass, Piano, and Percussion. The second system (measures 6-10) includes staves for Violin 1, Violin 2, Violin 3 (Viola T.C.), Viola, Violoncello, Double Bass, Piano, and Percussion. The score features various dynamics such as *mf* and *f*, and includes performance markings like *H2* and *9*. The percussion part is marked with *mf* and includes instructions for Tom-toms and Snare Drum.



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Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.)

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Piano

Perc.

11 12 13 14 15

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.)

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Piano

Perc.

16 17 18 19 20

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

25

L2

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.)

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Piano

Perc.

*mf*

*f*

21 22 23 24

molto rit.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.)

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Piano

Perc.

26 27 28 29 30

31 Vivace (♩ = 152)

Score for measures 31-35. Instruments include Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.), Vla., Vcl., D.B., Piano, and Perc. Dynamics range from *mf* to *f*. A large red watermark "Preview Only Requires Purchase" is overlaid on the score.

Score for measures 36-40. Instruments include Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.), Vla., Vcl., D.B., Piano, and Perc. Dynamics range from *f* to *mf*. A large red watermark "Preview Only Requires Purchase" is overlaid on the score.

41

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.)

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Piano

Perc.

41 42 43 44 45

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.)

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Piano

Perc.

46 47 48 49 50

div. 4

L2

4

4

div. H2

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

51 52 53 54 55

to S.D.

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

57 58 59 60

*mp*  
*p*  
*p*  
*p*  
*mp*  
*mp*  
*p*  
*mp*  
*mf*  
*mf*

S.D.



div.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.)

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Piano

Perc.

61 62 63 64 65

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.)

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Piano

Perc.

66 67 68 69 70

73

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.)

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Piano

Perc.

*ff*

div.

71 72 73 74 75

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.)

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Piano

Perc.

H2

76 77 78 79 80

82

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.)

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Piano

Perc.

81 82 83 84 85

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.)

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Piano

Perc.

86 87 88 89 90

94

Musical score for measures 91-95. The score includes parts for Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.), Vla., Vcl., D.B., Piano, and Perc. A dynamic marking of *f* is present in measures 94 and 95. A rehearsal mark 'V' is located above measure 92.

Musical score for measures 96-101. The score includes parts for Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.), Vla., Vcl., D.B., Piano, and Perc. Dynamic markings include *ff* and *div.* in measures 98 and 99.