

A BEETHOVEN LULLABY

Air on Ode to Joy

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

FJH is now using a high-speed sorting system for parts.
As a result, all single page parts are collated before multiple page parts.



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. 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' compositions have been performed worldwide at conferences including the College Band Directors National Conference, the Midwest Clinic, American String Teachers Association National Conference, and the international trumpet, horn, trombone and tuba/euphonium conferences. His active schedule of commissions and premieres has incorporated groups ranging from elementary schools to professional ensembles, including the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, the Miami Symphony Orchestra, the University of Miami Wind Ensemble, Boston Brass, members of the United States Marine Band, and the Dominion Brass Ensemble. His music has been performed by members of leading orchestras throughout the country and he has enjoyed world premieres and performances in prestigious venues such as Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center, as well as performances at the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

As a conductor, Mr. Balmages enjoys engagements with numerous all-state and regional honor bands and orchestras along with university and professional groups. Notable guest conducting appearances have included the Midwest Clinic, Western International Band Clinic, College Band Directors Eastern Regional Conference, and MENC. Additional conducting appearances have included the Kennedy Center and Meyerhoff Symphony Hall. He has also served as an adjunct professor of instrumental conducting and Acting Symphonic Band Director 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.

About the Music

The final movement of Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9 in D Minor* contains the famous *Ode to Joy*, one of the best-known melodies ever written. Beethoven's piece was based upon a poem written by Friedrich Schiller in 1785 which Beethoven revised and supplemented with additional words. With all the variations this beautiful melody has seen over the years, I have always been struck by the way the piece maintains its wonderful lyrical quality regardless of the setting. It is in this spirit that I have chosen to set the melody in a contemporary lyrical way. The melody works its way through a series of transitions that occur along with the use of a substantial amount of surrounding original material. In order to preserve the melodic voice (which is augmented at measure 13), the music often indicates which instruments contain melodic material so the director can balance accordingly. No single section should ever project a great deal more than the others — it is more of a subtle shift in balance so that all sections seem to meld together and contribute to the overall texture.



String Editing: Carrie Lane Gruselle

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