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FJH BEGINNING STRINGS

Grade 1.5

VELOCITY

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.

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The Composer



Brian Balmages (b. 1975) is an award-winning composer, conductor, producer, and performer. He holds a bachelor's degree in music from James Madison University and a master's degree from the University of Miami in Florida. His compositions have been performed worldwide at the state, national and international level. His active schedule of commissions and premieres has incorporated groups ranging from elementary schools to professional ensembles, including the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Miami Symphony Orchestra, University of Miami Wind Ensemble, Boston Brass, and the Dominion Brass Ensemble. In 2012, Mr. Balmages received the prestigious Albert Austin Harding Award from the American School Band Directors Association. He is also a 2010 winner of the Harvey G. Phillips Award for Compositional Excellence, presented by the International Tuba-Euphonium Association.

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, National Association for Music Educators, American School Band Directors Association, CBDNA, 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 two sons.

About the Music

As the title implies, *Velocity* is a piece about constant movement and rhythmic energy. Rather than being melodically based, the music is developed around the rhythmic motif in the first 2 measures of the piece. As the music develops, tonal clusters begin to form and eventually a secondary idea emerges (which happens to be the first presentation of an actual melodic theme). A bit later in the work (measure 25), the music is developed further with the presence of the original rhythmic figure in low strings, a contrasting rhythmic figure in the upper voices, and a harmonized melodic statement that moves between violins and violas. This vivid orchestration quickly moves into a unison statement as the music takes a more subdued tone and secondary theme.

This second section, while brief, still manages to move between two tonalities (A minor and D minor) before the opening rhythmic motif comes back a final time. This time, the harmonic clusters are developed just a bit further before the piece comes to a powerful conclusion.

Velocity was commissioned by the Valley Orchestra Guild and the West Des Moines (Iowa) Community Schools Elementary String Staff. It was premiered by their district orchestra with the composer conducting.

VELOCITY

BRIAN BALMAGES
(ASCAP)

Allegro brillante (♩ = 144)

div.

3

(1)

Violin 1

Violin 2

Violin 3
(Viola T.C.)

Viola

Violoncello

Double Bass

Piano

3

3

2

3

4

5

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vln. 3
(Vla. T.C.)

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Piano

9

10

6

7

8

2

4

f



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ST6349

non div.
3

non div.
3

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.)

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Piano

11 12 13 14 15

17 L2

4 0 L2 4

4 0 L2 4

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.)

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Piano

16 18 19 20

Musical score page 5, measures 21-25. The score includes parts for Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.), Vla., Vcl., D.B., and Piano. The key signature is one sharp. Measure 21: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vln. 3 play eighth-note patterns. Vla., Vcl., D.B. play quarter notes. Piano provides harmonic support. Measure 22: Similar patterns continue. Measure 23: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vln. 3 play eighth-note patterns. Vla., Vcl., D.B. play quarter notes. Piano provides harmonic support. Measure 24: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vln. 3 play eighth-note patterns. Vla., Vcl., D.B. play quarter notes. Piano provides harmonic support. Measure 25: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vln. 3 play eighth-note patterns. Vla., Vcl., D.B. play quarter notes. Piano provides harmonic support. A large red diagonal watermark "Preview Requires Purchase" is overlaid across the page.

Musical score page 5, measures 26-30. The score includes parts for Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.), Vla., Vcl., D.B., and Piano. The key signature is one sharp. Measure 26: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vln. 3 play eighth-note patterns. Vla., Vcl., D.B. play quarter notes. Piano provides harmonic support. Measure 27: Similar patterns continue. Measure 28: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vln. 3 play eighth-note patterns. Vla., Vcl., D.B. play quarter notes. Piano provides harmonic support. Measure 29: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vln. 3 play eighth-note patterns. Vla., Vcl., D.B. play quarter notes. Piano provides harmonic support. Measure 30: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vln. 3 play eighth-note patterns. Vla., Vcl., D.B. play quarter notes. Piano provides harmonic support. A large red diagonal watermark "Preview Requires Purchase" is overlaid across the page.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vln. 3
(Vla. T.C.)

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Piano

31 32 33 34 35 36

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vln. 3
(Vla. T.C.)

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Piano

37 38 39 40 41 42

45

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.)

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Piano

43 44 45 46 47

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.)

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Piano

48 49 50 51 52

53

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.)

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Piano

div.

54

55

56

57

Waves Purchase

The musical score for orchestra and piano spans six systems. The instrumentation includes Violin 1, Violin 2, Violin 3 (also labeled as Viola in parentheses), Cello, Double Bass, and Piano. The score is in common time for the first four systems and switches to 3/4 time for the last two. Dynamics such as *f* (fortissimo) and *p* (pianissimo) are indicated throughout. The piano part is prominent, featuring sustained notes and chords. A large red watermark reading "Waves Purchase" is diagonally across the page.

non div.
1

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vln. 3
(Vla. T.C.)

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Piano

f

This image shows a page from a musical score. The score is for seven instruments: Violin 1, Violin 2, Violin 3 (Viola Tuning C), Viola, Cello, Double Bass, and Piano. The key signature is one sharp. The music is divided into measures by vertical bar lines. The first measure (measures 1-4) starts with eighth-note patterns in the upper voices and sixteenth-note patterns in the lower voices. Measure 5 begins with a dynamic marking 'f'. Measure 6 contains a rehearsal mark '2'. The score features a large red watermark reading 'Pirated Use Request' diagonally across the page.