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FJH DEVELOPING STRINGS

Grade 2.5

PERPETUAL FIDDLE MOTION

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

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As a result, all single page parts are collated before multiple page parts.

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Frank J. Hackinson

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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

I have always been a fan of fiddle music, but when I had the opportunity to write for the South Carolina State Fiddling Champion, I immediately knew I wanted the piece to harness the folk nature of a fiddle tune along with some of the “twists and turns” that I often include in my music. In this particular case, I wanted to combine these influences with the nonstop energy characteristic of *moto perpetuo*. Thus, the title *Perpetual Fiddle Motion* was born.

The main theme (which is comprised of core melodic and rhythmic elements) is presented immediately. Then the elements are eventually broken down, individually developed, and finally put back together with new orchestration. Beginning at measure 26, the music focuses purely on rhythmic elements. The ensemble “interjections” alternate between two different rhythms — the first is a common fiddle rhythm, while the second (i.e. measure 30) seeks to “trip up” the pace, yet the music still maintains its intensity and pulse. This continues to build into measure 52, where a basic fugue develops. Ultimately, this moves into a more subdued section that remains energetic with the subtle rhythmic pulse of the opening in the background. Eventually, all the deconstructed elements begin to merge back together and ultimately move into rhythmic unison as the piece comes to a dramatic ending.

Perpetual Fiddle Motion was written for the Kelly Mill Middle School Orchestra (Blythewood, South Carolina) and director Kristen Harris. In September 2013, Kristen won the Second Annual South Carolina State Fiddling Championship.

PERPETUAL FIDDLE MOTION

BRIAN BALMAGES
(ASCAP)

Allegro vivace (♩ = 200+, or in cut-time)

Violin 1

Violin 2

Violin 3 (Viola T.C.)

Viola

Violoncello

Double Bass

Piano

2 3 4 5

9

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.)

Vla.

Vel.

D.B.

Piano

6 7 8 10 11

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ST6365

Score for measures 12 through 17. The score includes staves for Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.), Vla., Vcl., D.B., and Piano. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked *mf* (mezzo-forte). The score shows a complex orchestral arrangement with various rhythmic patterns and dynamics.

Measures 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17

Score for measures 18 through 23. The score includes staves for Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.), Vla., Vcl., D.B., and Piano. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked *f* (forte). The score shows a complex orchestral arrangement with various rhythmic patterns and dynamics.

Measures 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23

26

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.)

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Piano

24 25 27 28 29

34

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.)

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Piano

30 31 32 33 35

Violin 1
Violin 2
Violin 3 (Vla. T.C.)
Viola
Vcl.
D.B.
Piano

36 37 38 39 40 41

f

42
Violin 1
Violin 2
Violin 3 (Vla. T.C.)
Viola
Vcl.
D.B.
Piano

43 44 45 47

div.
f

52

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vln. 3
(Vla. T.C.)

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Piano

48 49 50 51 53

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vln. 3
(Vla. T.C.)

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Piano

54 55 56 57 58 59

L2

H2

64

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vln. 3
(Vla. T.C.)

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Piano

mf

mf

mf

mf

60 61 63 65

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vln. 3
(Vla. T.C.)

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Piano

mf

mf

66 67 68 69 70 71

76

div.

Vln. 1

f *dim.*

Vln. 2

f

Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.)

f

Vla.

f

Vcl.

f *mp*

D.B.

f *mp*

Piano

f *dim.* *p*

72 73 74 75

Vln. 1

mp

Vln. 2

mp

Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.)

mp

Vla.

mp *div.*

Vcl.

mp

D.B.

mp

Piano

mp

78 80 82 83

84

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.)

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Piano

p *mf*

85 86 87 88 89

90

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.)

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Piano

mf

91 92 93 94 95

96

102

110

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vln. 3
(Vla. T.C.)

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Piano

108

109

112

113

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vln. 3
(Vla. T.C.)

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Piano

114

115

116

117

118