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FJH STRING ORCHESTRA

Grade 3

STRINGS CUT LOOSE

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

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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I N C.

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

Strings Cut Loose is a marriage of my love for alternative styles and string orchestra. It is centered around a funk groove, yet is based loosely on blues form and its harmonic progression. The entire groove is created organically in the strings alone - I heard no percussion while writing the music. The intent was to write music that fits the string orchestra naturally while also exploiting the range of styles that are achievable in an orchestra without the use of percussion or rhythm section.

This piece should be performed with straight eighth notes. Given some of the blues influence, students may try to swing some of the rhythms, but they are not intended to be swung. At measure 43, the director may choose to turn around and get the audience involved with clapping. It adds a lot to that particular section. Encourage the audience to continue into measure 71.

Strings Cut Loose was written for the Southwest Middle School String Symphony (Orlando, Florida) and their director, Jennifer O. Erickson. The piece was premiered at the Florida Music Educators Association state conference in Tampa.

for the Southwest Middle School String Symphony
Orlando, Florida; Jennifer O. Erickson, Director

STRINGS CUT LOOSE

BRIAN BALMAGES
(ASCAP)

With attitude (♩ = 92)



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non div.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.)

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

17 18 19 20

div.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.)

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

21 22 23 24

23

H3

Musical score for measures 25-28. The score is in 4/4 time and G major. It features six staves: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.), Vla., Vcl., and D.B. Measures 25 and 26 show the initial entries of the strings. Measure 27 begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic and includes a *div.* (divisi) instruction for the violins. Measure 28 continues the *div.* section. A large red watermark 'Preview Only - Legal Use Requires Purchase' is overlaid on the score.

Musical score for measures 29-32. The score continues from the previous page. Measures 29 and 30 feature a *div.* section for the violins and violas. Measures 31 and 32 continue the *div.* section. A large red watermark 'Preview Only - Legal Use Requires Purchase' is overlaid on the score.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.)

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

33 34 35 36

37

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.)

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

37 38 39 40

43

1 per stand

Vln. 1

mf

Vln. 2

mf

Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.)

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

clap (get audience involved!)

f

clap (get audience involved!)

f

mf

mf

clap (get audience involved!)

f

clap (get audience involved!)

f

41 44

47

gradually move to playing position

Vln. 1

gradually move to playing position

Vln. 2

Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.)

Vla.

gradually move to playing position

Vcl.

gradually move to playing position

D.B.

tutti play

mf

tutti play

mf

play

mf

play

mf

45 46 47 48

opt. div.

Musical score for measures 58-61. The score includes staves for Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.), Vla., Vcl., and D.B. The key signature is one sharp (F#). Measure 58 shows the beginning of the section. Measure 59 features a dynamic marking of *mf*. Measure 60 includes a dynamic marking of *mf*. Measure 61 includes a dynamic marking of *mf*. The score contains various musical notations including notes, rests, and dynamic markings.

63 let loose!

Musical score for measures 62-65. The score includes staves for Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.), Vla., Vcl., and D.B. The key signature is one sharp (F#). Measure 62 includes a dynamic marking of *ff*. Measure 63 includes a dynamic marking of *ff*. Measure 64 includes a dynamic marking of *ff*. Measure 65 includes a dynamic marking of *ff*. The score contains various musical notations including notes, rests, and dynamic markings.

Musical score for measures 66-69. The score is arranged in six staves: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.), Vla., Vcl., and D.B. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. Measure 66 shows the beginning of a phrase with various articulations. Measures 67 and 68 continue the phrase with dynamic markings like *mp*. Measure 69 concludes the phrase with a final chord. A large red watermark 'Legal Use Requires Purchase' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

Musical score for measures 70-74. The score is arranged in six staves: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.), Vla., Vcl., and D.B. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. Measure 70 starts with a boxed measure number '71' above the first staff. Measures 71 and 72 continue the phrase. Measures 73 and 74 show a change in dynamics to *mp* and include crescendo hairpins. A large red watermark 'Legal Use Requires Purchase' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

75

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.)

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

p

cresc. poco a poco

75 *p* 76 *cresc. poco a poco* 78

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.)

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

ff

ff

ff

ff *mf* *ff*

ff *mf* *ff*

(opt. 8va on G)
div.

79 82