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FJH BEGINNING STRINGS

Grade 1/2

IMPULSE

Brian Balmages

Instrumentation

1 - Conductor's Full Score
8 - Violin 1
8 - Violin 2 (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.

T H E
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C O M P A N Y
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

The title of this piece ironically came from the impulse I had to write the piece. I wanted to write something that had great energy, yet was *extremely* playable by students. Here is a list of specific features:

All instruments use notes within a one octave D major scale (and most use far less). There are no eighth notes and all musical lines primarily involve stepwise motion. All string crossings involve an open string (cello and bass have a few exceptions) and all instruments (including bass) stay in 1st position.

- Violin 1 - Full D Major scale
- Violin 2 / Viola - 5 notes (D through A)
- Cello / Bass - 6 notes (D through B)

Encourage students to capture the energy of the title and play aggressively. While not marked, I encourage musical phrasing to give the piece more life. A couple of suggestions:

- Measure 1-2: the melody in violin 1 and 2 can crescendo (so the peak of the phrase is on the 5th note). This continues throughout the piece.
- Measures 39-40: crescendo into measure 41.

IMPULSE

BRIAN BALMAGES
(ASCAP)

Driving and spirited (♩ = 144)

The musical score is written for a string quartet and piano. It is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked 'Driving and spirited' with a quarter note equal to 144 beats per minute. The score is divided into two systems. The first system contains measures 1 through 6, and the second system contains measures 7 through 12. The instruments are Violin 1, Violin 2 (Viola T.C.), Viola, Violoncello, Double Bass, and Piano. The score includes dynamic markings such as *f* (forte) and *V* (accents). A large red watermark 'Preview Only - Legal Use Requires Purchase' is overlaid diagonally across the score.



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17

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

13 14 15 16 17 18

This musical score block covers measures 13 through 18. It features five staves for strings: Violin 1, Violin 2 (Viola T.C.), Viola, Violoncello, and Double Bass. The Piano part is shown in grand staff notation. A rehearsal mark '17' is placed above the first measure of the second system. A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid diagonally across the score.

21

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

19 20 21 22 23 24

This musical score block covers measures 19 through 24. It features the same five string staves and Piano part as the previous block. A rehearsal mark '21' is placed above the first measure of the second system. A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid diagonally across the score.

25

Vln. 1

Vln. 2 (Vla. T.C.)

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Piano

25 26 27 28 29 30

33

Vln. 1

Vln. 2 (Vla. T.C.)

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Piano

31 32 33 34 35 36

41

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

37 38 39 40 41 42

This block contains the musical score for measures 37 through 42. It features six staves: Violin 1, Violin 2 (Viola T.C.), Viola, Violoncello, Double Bass, and Piano. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#). The score includes various rhythmic patterns and dynamics. A red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

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

43 44 45 46 47 48

This block contains the musical score for measures 43 through 48. It features the same six staves as the previous block. The key signature remains two sharps. Measure 46 includes a 'div.' (divisi) marking above the Violin 1 staff. The score continues with various rhythmic patterns and dynamics. A red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid diagonally across the page.