

FJH BEGINNING STRINGS

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.



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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

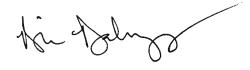
The title of this piece ironically came from the impulse I had to write the piece. I wanted to write something that had great energy, yet was *extremely* playable by students. Here is a list of specific features:

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.



IMPULSF

BRIAN BALMAGES (ASCAP)





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