



A SOLITARY WISH

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.





The Composer

Brian Balmages (b. 1975) is an award-winning composer, conductor, producer, and performer. The music he has written for winds, brass, and orchestra has been performed throughout the world with commissions ranging from elementary schools to professional orchestras. World premieres include prestigious venues such as Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, and Meyerhoff Symphony Hall. His music was also performed as part of the 2013 Presidential Inaugural Prayer Service, which was attended by both President Obama and Vice President Biden. He received his bachelor's degree in music from James Madison University and his master's degree from the University of Miami in Florida. He is a recipient of the prestigious A. Austin Harding Award from the American School Band Directors Association and in 2016 was awarded the James Madison University Distinguished Alumni Award from the School of Visual and Performing Arts (the first year the award was given). In the same year, he was commissioned by his other alma mater, the University of Miami, to compose music for the inauguration of the institution's 6th president, Dr. Julio Frenk.

As a conductor, Mr. Balmages enjoys regular engagements with all-state and region bands and orchestras, as well as university and professional ensembles throughout the world. Notable guest conducting appearances have included the Midwest Clinic, Western International Band Clinic, College Band Directors Conference, American School Band Directors Association National Conference and others. Additional conducting appearances have included the Kennedy Center and Meyerhoff Symphony Hall as well as engagements in Australia, Canada and Italy. Currently, he is Director of Instrumental Publications for The FJH Music Company and Assistant Director of Bands and Orchestras at Towson University.

About the Music

I learned an amazing lesson before I began this piece. While I consider myself to be a "good" person, I read a friend's comment about seeing a homeless woman named Joyce outside of Target. Joyce needed a new pair of shoes because it was getting cold outside and she only had sandals. My friend decided to get her some shoes, but also decided to buy her lunch and some extra food. During this time, my friend asked Joyce, "How will you heat up canned soup?" and she replied, "Usually the microwave at 7-Eleven works." My friend continued, "Why don't you get the big peanut butter?" and Joyce replied, "Because it is too heavy to carry around." While the two shopped, my friend noticed that every single person around them averted their eyes as they walked by. It gave her a tremendous amount of perspective and a desire to be much more empathetic in the future. Hearing this, I thought the same thing.

A few hours later, I was standing outside a food store with my kids and there was a man outside asking for food. I watched quite a few people walk by him, some saying "Sorry" as they passed by, but most of them not even looking at him or acknowledging him when he spoke to them. Finally, with my new "perspective" in hand, I walked up to the man and asked him if he was okay. All he needed was something to drink and a little bit of food. I took him into the store with me and bought him something.

The man's name was Bruce. He was 32 years old. He had three kids – two in elementary school and one in middle school. He acknowledged that he made plenty of mistakes in life, but said he is trying really hard to get back up on his feet and live in the area so he can be close to his kids. We chatted for a bit before I had to run and get my youngest to a soccer game. As we were leaving, he held the door open for us and said thanks. "It's hard when people ignore you all day long. Thanks for stopping."

With the holiday season approaching, the contrast struck me hard. Many of us are already making our "lists" and others are bugging us for them so they can start their shopping early. We are annoyed because we have to go to several houses on Thanksgiving Day, or open gifts at several homes (or travel) during the holiday season. And then the reality of someone like Joyce or Bruce – they wish for food, water, and for someone to notice them.

There are many holiday pieces about everything you can imagine. This one begins with a single individual (a cello soloist) just asking to be noticed while everyone walks by – some dropping a few coins or a dollar but avoiding conversation at all cost. As the music develops, we experience a wide range of emotions as the joy of the holidays is juxtaposed with solitude. Ultimately, in this particular story, the individual is joined by another, and eventually there are four of them together (the quartet). As a couple people begin to leave, one stays behind (a violin soloist) and the person's wish comes true.

Please share this story with your audience. It is my hope that this piece will spread awareness and help individuals all over the world. Donate your time, donate a small amount to a charity or shelter, or just smile and say hello. You just may make someone's wish come true.

Brian Balmages

A SOLITARY WISH

BRIAN BALMAGES
(ASCAP)

Peaceful, yet lonely (♩ = 132)

pizz.
p
pp
pp
pizz.
p
p
Solo
p

Violin 1
Violin 2
Viola
(Violin 3)
Violoncello
Double Bass
Piano

2 3 4 5

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
D.B.
Piano

6 7 8 9 10

2 2 2 2
2 2

Hear and download this
piece at www.fjhmusic.com

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ST6427

Vln. 1
 Vln. 2
 Vla.
 Vcl.
 D.B.
 Piano

rit.
 mp
 mp
 tutti
 mp
 arco
 mp
 p
 mp

(Solo)
 (section)

16 17 18 19 20

21 Flowing (♩ = 144)

arco

V

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Piano

p

p

p

p

p

21 22 23 24 25

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Piano

div.

p

26 27 28 29 30

Score for measures 31-35. Instruments: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vcl., D.B., Piano.

Measure 31: Vln. 1 (half note), Vln. 2 (half note), Vla. (half note), Vcl. (half note), D.B. (half note), Piano (half note).

Measure 32: Vln. 1 (half note), Vln. 2 (half note), Vla. (half note), Vcl. (half note), D.B. (half note), Piano (half note).

Measure 33: Vln. 1 (half note), Vln. 2 (half note), Vla. (half note), Vcl. (half note), D.B. (half note), Piano (half note). *unis.* (unison) is indicated for Vcl. and D.B.

Measure 34: Vln. 1 (half note), Vln. 2 (half note), Vla. (half note), Vcl. (half note), D.B. (half note), Piano (half note). *p* (piano) is indicated for D.B.

Measure 35: Vln. 1 (half note), Vln. 2 (half note), Vla. (half note), Vcl. (half note), D.B. (half note), Piano (half note). *(V)* (Vibrato) is indicated for Vln. 1 and Vln. 2.

Score for measures 36-40. Instruments: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vcl., D.B., Piano.

Measure 36: Vln. 1 (half note), Vln. 2 (half note), Vla. (half note), Vcl. (half note), D.B. (half note), Piano (half note).

Measure 37: Vln. 1 (half note), Vln. 2 (half note), Vla. (half note), Vcl. (half note), D.B. (half note), Piano (half note). *37* is indicated for Vln. 1.

Measure 38: Vln. 1 (half note), Vln. 2 (half note), Vla. (half note), Vcl. (half note), D.B. (half note), Piano (half note). *V* (Vibrato) is indicated for Vln. 1.

Measure 39: Vln. 1 (half note), Vln. 2 (half note), Vla. (half note), Vcl. (half note), D.B. (half note), Piano (half note).

Measure 40: Vln. 1 (half note), Vln. 2 (half note), Vla. (half note), Vcl. (half note), D.B. (half note), Piano (half note).

Score for measures 41 to 45. The score includes staves for Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vcl., D.B., and Piano. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The time signature is 13/8.

Measure 41: Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 play eighth notes. Vla. and Vcl. play half notes. D.B. plays a half note. Piano is silent.

Measure 42: Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 play eighth notes. Vla. and Vcl. play half notes. D.B. plays a half note. Piano is silent.

Measure 43: Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 play eighth notes. Vla. and Vcl. play half notes. D.B. plays a half note. Piano is silent.

Measure 44: Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 play eighth notes. Vla. and Vcl. play half notes. D.B. plays a half note. Piano is silent.

Measure 45: Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 play eighth notes. Vla. and Vcl. play half notes. D.B. plays a half note. Piano is silent.

Dynamic markings: *p* (piano) at the start of measure 41, *mp* (mezzo-piano) at the start of measure 43.

Performance instruction: *div.* (divisi) for Vla. and Vcl. in measure 43.

Score for measures 46 to 50. The score includes staves for Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vcl., D.B., and Piano. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The time signature is 13/8.

Measure 46: Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 play eighth notes. Vla. and Vcl. play half notes. D.B. plays a half note. Piano is silent.

Measure 47: Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 play eighth notes. Vla. and Vcl. play half notes. D.B. plays a half note. Piano is silent.

Measure 48: Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 play eighth notes. Vla. and Vcl. play half notes. D.B. plays a half note. Piano is silent.

Measure 49: Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 play eighth notes. Vla. and Vcl. play half notes. D.B. plays a half note. Piano is silent.

Measure 50: Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 play eighth notes. Vla. and Vcl. play half notes. D.B. plays a half note. Piano is silent.

Dynamic markings: *p* (piano) at the start of measure 47.

Performance instruction: *unis.* (unison) for Vla. and Vcl. in measure 47.

55

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Piano

mp

p

mp

p

pedal chord changes

51 52 53 54 55

Solo

V

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Piano

(pedal)

56 57 58 59 60

Sheet music for measures 61 to 65, featuring Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vcl.), Double Bass (D.B.), and Piano.

Measures 61-65 show the following instrumentation and dynamics:

- Vln. 1:** Treble clef, key of D major. Measures 61-62: eighth notes. Measure 63: half note, marked *p*. Measure 64: half note, marked *p*. Measure 65: quarter notes.
- Vln. 2:** Treble clef, key of D major. Measures 61-62: whole rests. Measure 63: eighth notes, marked *p*. Measure 64: eighth notes. Measure 65: quarter notes.
- Vla.:** Alto clef, key of D major. Measures 61-62: whole rests. Measure 63: half note, marked *p*. Measure 64: half note, marked *p*. Measure 65: quarter notes.
- Vcl.:** Bass clef, key of D major. Measures 61-62: whole rests. Measure 63: half note, marked *p*. Measure 64: half note, marked *p*. Measure 65: quarter notes.
- D.B.:** Bass clef, key of D major. Measures 61-62: whole rests. Measure 63: half note, marked *p*. Measure 64: half note, marked *p*. Measure 65: quarter notes.
- Piano:** Grand staff, key of D major. Measures 61-62: eighth notes. Measure 63: eighth notes. Measure 64: eighth notes. Measure 65: eighth notes.

Measures 61, 62, 63, 64, and 65 are indicated at the bottom of the staves.

Sheet music for measures 66 to 70, featuring Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vcl.), Double Bass (D.B.), and Piano.

Measures 66-70 show the following instrumentation and dynamics:

- Vln. 1:** Treble clef, key of D major. Measures 66-67: eighth notes. Measure 68: eighth notes. Measure 69: eighth notes. Measure 70: eighth notes.
- Vln. 2:** Treble clef, key of D major. Measures 66-67: eighth notes. Measure 68: eighth notes. Measure 69: eighth notes. Measure 70: eighth notes.
- Vla.:** Alto clef, key of D major. Measures 66-67: eighth notes. Measure 68: eighth notes. Measure 69: eighth notes. Measure 70: eighth notes.
- Vcl.:** Bass clef, key of D major. Measures 66-67: eighth notes. Measure 68: eighth notes. Measure 69: eighth notes. Measure 70: eighth notes.
- D.B.:** Bass clef, key of D major. Measures 66-67: eighth notes. Measure 68: eighth notes. Measure 69: eighth notes. Measure 70: eighth notes.
- Piano:** Grand staff, key of D major. Measures 66-67: eighth notes. Measure 68: eighth notes. Measure 69: eighth notes. Measure 70: eighth notes.

Measures 66, 67, 68, 69, and 70 are indicated at the bottom of the staves.

Violin 1
Violin 2
Viola
Violoncello
Double Bass
Piano

71 72 73 74 75

Violin 1
Violin 2
Viola
Violoncello
Double Bass
Piano

76 77 78 79 80

div.

Vln. 1 *mp* *p* (V) *mp*

Vln. 2 *mp* *p* (V) *mp*

Vla. *p* *mp*

Vcl. *mp* *p* (V) *mp*

D.B. *mp* *p* (V) *mp*

Piano *mp* *p* *mp*

81 82 83 84 85

unis.

Vln. 1 *p* unis.

Vln. 2 *p* unis.

Vla. *p*

Vcl. *p*

D.B. *p*

Piano *p*

86 87 88 89 90

93

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Piano

91 92 93 94 95

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Piano

96 97 98 99 100

opt. solo

mp

105

Vln. 1
 Vln. 2
 Vla.
 Vcl.
 D.B.
 Piano

101 102 103 104 105

Vln. 1
 Vln. 2
 Vla.
 Vcl.
 D.B.
 Piano

cresc. poco a poco
cresc. poco a poco
cresc. poco a poco
cresc. poco a poco
tutti
p cresc. poco a poco
p cresc. poco a poco
 pedal chord changes

106 107 108 109 110

111 112 113 114 115

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Piano

sim.

116 117 118 119 120

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Piano

div.

f

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Piano

sim.

121 122 123 124 125

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Piano

126 127 128 129 130

[illegible]

div.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla. (V)

Vcl.

D.B.

Piano

141 142 143 144 145

poco rit.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Piano

146 147 148 149 150

151 **Dolce** (♩ = 88)

Sheet music for measures 151-156. The score includes staves for Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vcl., D.B., and Piano. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#). The tempo/mood is **Dolce** (♩ = 88). The dynamics are *p* (piano). The word **Solo** is written above the first measure of each string part. The piano part is marked with rests.

Measures: 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156

Sheet music for measures 157-162. The score includes staves for Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vcl., D.B., and Piano. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#). The tempo/mood is **meno mosso**. The dynamics are *pp* (pianissimo). The word **Solo** is written above the first measure of each string part. The piano part is marked with rests.

Measures: 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162

Vln. 1
 Vln. 2
 Vla.
 Vcl.
 D.B.
 Piano

tutti pizz.
pp
pp
 pedal

163 164 165 166 167

Vln. 1
 Vln. 2
 Vla.
 Vcl.
 D.B.
 Piano

tutti
 tutti
 tutti
 arco
p
p
p
p
p

169 171 172 173 174

a tempo

Vln. 1 *pp*

Vln. 2 *pp*

Vla. *pp*

Vcl. *pp*

D.B. *pp*

Piano

8va freely (out of time)

180 181 182 183