

FIRST FINGER ROCK

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 - Drum Set (opt.)
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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M U S I C
C O M P A N Y
I N C.
Frank J. Hackinson

2525 Davie Road, Suite 360
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33317-7424
www.fjhmusic.com



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

This piece began as a personal challenge – could it be possible to compose a piece that sounded like real music while only using open strings and first finger in every instrument? Never one to back down from a challenge, I decided to see how innovative I could be with this small palette in front of me. As it turns out, this piece was extraordinarily fun to compose and successfully uses only open strings and 1st finger in all instruments. It is a great vehicle for teachers who like to introduce all strings from the outset, and it is also an effective tool for students who are learning new strings or are just starting to use the bow.

Set to a simple rock beat, the piece is based on a four note motif, presented immediately by the entire orchestra in unison. Following a classic rock chord pattern, the music soon enters a simple development section where the melody is expanded while the harmony avoids the tonic key (serving as a modified “bridge”). Following a powerful crescendo, the entire ensemble brings back the joyous opening motif before moving into a brief coda to end the work.

First Finger Rock is dedicated to the Pinewood Elementary School Orchestra in Timonium, Maryland; Karen Seward, conductor.

Brian Balmages

FIRST FINGER ROCK

BRIAN BALMAGES
(ASCAP)

Hard rock (♩ = 164)

Violin 1

Violin 2 (Viola T.C.)

Viola

Violoncello

Double Bass

Drum Set (Opt.)

Piano

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

D. S.

Piano

crash cym.

2 3 4 5 6

7 8 9 10 11 12



Hear and download this piece at www.fjhmusic.com

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13

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

D. S.

Piano

closed hi-hat

13 14 15 16 17 18

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

D. S.

Piano

19 20 21 22 23 24

25

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

D. S. ride cym.

Piano

25 26 27 28 29

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

D. S.

Piano

30 31 32 33 34

35

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

35 36 37 38 39 40

This block contains the musical score for measures 35 through 40. It features six staves: Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Violoncello, Double Bass, and Drums. The Piano part is shown in grand staff notation. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The dynamic marking *f* (forte) is present at the beginning of each staff. The score shows a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some rests and accents. A large red watermark is overlaid on the page.

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

41 42 43 44 45

This block contains the musical score for measures 41 through 45. It features the same six staves as the previous block. The key signature and time signature remain the same. The dynamic marking *f* is still present. The score continues with similar rhythmic patterns, including some accents and rests. A large red watermark is overlaid on the page.

47

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

D. S.

Piano

46 47 48 49 50

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

D. S.

Piano

51 52 53 54 55 56

f

f

f