



30,000 AND FOREVER

Brian Balmages

Instrumentation

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





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.

Program Notes

The original musical ideas for this piece began to flow during a flight to Australia in the summer of 2017. My son had been extremely sick for some time and had been in and out of the hospital as a result. He had finally come home for good, which happened to be just a few days before I had to leave on a 2-week trip to Australia. I love my family more than anything in the world, so the thought of leaving them in that instant tore me apart. I will never forget what it felt like to hug them goodbye as we all completely fell apart and lost it. The first 17 measures of this piece were written on that flight, but I was too unstable to continue so I let the piece rest.

Almost exactly a month after I returned, I was contacted by Holly Burton at Eaton High School in Haslet, Texas. She was looking to commission a piece to honor her first class of graduating seniors. For whatever reason, it took me back to my own graduation and how exciting it was, but also how tough it was to essentially say goodbye to so many people that I was used to seeing almost every day of my life. Like my trip to Australia, it represented a time of growth tempered by an underlying uncertainty at embarking on something new. I suddenly found the strength to go back to those opening measures and began writing with renewed vigor and purpose.

Originally titled *New Journeys*, the piece is reflective of our own life choices and the paths we take even when they are not the most comfortable. It symbolizes our growth as we take those courageous first new steps. In my own case, I had been with my son nearly the entire time he was sick. Because of that, it became that much harder to leave. I wound up changing the title to *30,000 and Forever* because of those first 17 measures – the idea of flying away from my family for what felt like forever. Looking back, I see how much I grew as a musician, father, husband, and more. Similar to the first steps those seniors will take as they graduate and head out all over the world for what seems like “forever” on their way to experiencing their own growth. However, the music reminds us – ALL of us – that there is peace, stability, and a quiet resolve at the end of the journey. And in this case, the new journey ends right back at home.

30,000 and Forever (or *New Journeys*) was commissioned by the V.R. Eaton High School Orchestra in Haslet, Texas; Holly Burton, conductor. It honors their first class of graduating seniors, and it brings me the personal closure that I so desperately needed. I will forever be grateful to Holly for helping me open the door to this piece once again. (And, for the record, my son is doing great.)

- Brian Balmages

*commissioned by the V.R. Eaton High School Symphony Orchestra
to honor its first class of graduating seniors in 2018
Haslet, Texas; Holly Burton, Conductor*

30,000 AND FOREVER

div. as needed



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ST6456

25

32

39

40

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

mf *f*

40 41 42 43 44 45

div. as needed

arco

46 *con moto, poco accel.*

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

molto espress. 3

rit. *ff* *f*

46 47 48 49

50 *a tempo* (V)

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

ff *stagger bow as needed* *bring out* *stagger bow as needed*

ff *div.* *(no broken chords)*

ff *(add low octave if available)*

50 51 52

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

53

54

55

agitato

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

56

57

58

59

f

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

60

61

62

63

64

calmando

poco rit.

a tempo

mf

mp

p

pizz.

rit. 67 a tempo

Vln. 1 *pp* *div.* (■) *dolce* *p* *pp* *p*

Vln. 2 *pp* *dolce* *p* *pp* *p*

Vla. *pp* *dolce* *p* *pp* *p*

Vcl. *pp* *dolce* *p* *pp* *p*

D.B. *pp* *arco* *p* *pp* *p*

65 66 67 68 69 70

rit.

Vln. 1 *mp* *mf* *mp*

Vln. 2 *mp* *mf* *mp*

Vla. *mp* *mf* *mp*

Vcl. *mp* *mf* *mp*

D.B. *mp* *mf* *mp*

71 72 73 74 75

76 **morendo** *stagger bow*

Vln. 1 *pp* *ten.*

Vln. 2 *pp* *p* *pp* *mp* *p* *pp*

Vla. *pp* *p* *pp* *mp* *p* *pp*

Vcl. *pp* *p* *pp* *mp* *p* *pp*

D.B. *pp* *p* *pp* *mp* *p* *pp*

76 77 78 79 80 81 82