



# INSTINCT

## Brian Balmages

### Instrumentation

1 - Conductor's Full Score  
8 - Violin 1  
8 - Violin 2 (Viola T.C.)  
5 - Viola  
5 - Violoncello  
5 - Double Bass  
2 - Percussion (opt.)  
    Low Tom  
    Floor Tom  
1 - Piano (opt.)

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

In the wild, many animals survive at least partially on instincts. While learned behaviors also come into play, nothing can replace those initial instincts—behaviors and actions that are performed without being learned ahead of time. This work portrays those inherent, and sometimes raw behaviors that help a species survive. All string parts move almost entirely by stepwise motion to facilitate reading and strengthening the left hand. Further, any string crossings involve an open string and everyone (including basses) stays in first position. Violin 1 uses all the notes of the D major scale while all other instruments use just D through B in half and quarter notes.

At measure 37, students have the opportunity to explore the fingerboard and get away from 1st position. By having students move up and down the neck, teachers are able to reinforce a loose wrist and relaxed thumb (preventing students from using too much tension and getting stuck in 1st position). An optional percussion part is included (if only one player is available, use the low tom part). The percussion parts are written to be quite easy so no extra rehearsal is needed to put everything together. In addition, a background track is provided on the FJH website should a teacher want to use a recording of the percussion part.

*Instinct* was written for the Pinewood Elementary String Orchestra. Their band and orchestra director, Karen Seward, has now taught both of my kids and it has been wonderful to be an "instrumental music parent"! Even though both of my sons chose to be in band, there was no question that the orchestra musicians should get some love as well!

- Brian Balmages

*for the Pinewood Elementary String Orchestra  
Timonium, Maryland; Karen Seward, conductor*

**BRIAN BALMAGES**  
(ASCAP)

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This image shows a musical score for measures 6 through 10 of the piece 'The Rose Tree'. The score is arranged for a full orchestra and piano. The instruments and their parts are as follows:

- Vln. 1 & 2:** Violins 1 and 2, both in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). They play a melody of quarter notes.
- Vla.:** Viola, in alto clef with a key signature of two sharps. It plays a melody of quarter notes.
- Vcl.:** Violoncello, in bass clef with a key signature of two sharps. It plays a melody of quarter notes.
- D.B.:** Double Bass, in bass clef with a key signature of two sharps. It plays a melody of quarter notes.
- Perc.:** Percussion, in common time. It plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes.
- Pno.:** Piano, in grand staff (treble and bass clefs) with a key signature of two sharps. It plays a harmonic accompaniment.

The score is marked with a large red watermark that reads 'Preview Legal Use Required' diagonally across the page. The measures are numbered 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 at the bottom.



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Score for measures 11 through 15. The score includes parts for Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vcl.), Double Bass (D.B.), Percussion (Perc.), and Piano (Pno.). The key signature is one sharp (F#). The time signature is 3/4. The score shows a crescendo from measure 11 to 13, marked with a hairpin and a *f* dynamic. From measure 13 to 15, there is a decrescendo, marked with a hairpin and a *mf* dynamic. The Percussion part features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The Piano part features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes.

Score for measures 16 through 20. The score includes parts for Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vcl.), Double Bass (D.B.), Percussion (Perc.), and Piano (Pno.). The key signature is one sharp (F#). The time signature is 3/4. The score shows a crescendo from measure 16 to 18, marked with a hairpin and a *f* dynamic. From measure 18 to 20, there is a decrescendo, marked with a hairpin and a *mf* dynamic. The Percussion part features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The Piano part features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes.

21

Vln. 1 *p*

Vln. 2 *p*

Vla. *p*

Vcl. *p*

D.B. *p*

Perc. *f* *p* *rim*

Pno. *p*

21 22 23 24 25 26

29

Vln. 1 *mf* *f* *mf*

Vln. 2 *mf* *f* *mf*

Vla. *mf* *f* *mf*

Vcl. *mf* *f* *mf*

D.B. *mf* *f* *mf*

Perc. *mf* *f* *mf* *head*

Pno. *mf* *f* *mf*

27 28 29 30 31 32

Score for measures 33 to 38. The score includes parts for Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vcl.), Double Bass (D.B.), Percussion (Perc.), and Piano (Pno.).

Measure 33: Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 play a half note G4. Vla. plays a half note G3. Vcl. and D.B. play a half note G2. Perc. plays a quarter note G2. Pno. plays a half note G2.

Measure 34: Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 play a half note A4. Vla. plays a half note A3. Vcl. and D.B. play a half note A2. Perc. plays a quarter note A2. Pno. plays a half note A2.

Measure 35: Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 play a half note B4. Vla. plays a half note B3. Vcl. and D.B. play a half note B2. Perc. plays a quarter note B2. Pno. plays a half note B2.

Measure 36: Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 play a half note C5. Vla. plays a half note C4. Vcl. and D.B. play a half note C3. Perc. plays a quarter note C3. Pno. plays a half note C3.

Measure 37: Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 play a half note D5. Vla. plays a half note D4. Vcl. and D.B. play a half note D3. Perc. plays a quarter note D3. Pno. plays a half note D3.

Measure 38: Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 play a half note E5. Vla. plays a half note E4. Vcl. and D.B. play a half note E3. Perc. plays a quarter note E3. Pno. plays a half note E3.

Dynamic markings: *f* (forte) for measures 33-34, *mf* (mezzo-forte) for measures 35-36, and *f* for measures 37-38.

Performance instructions: "tremolo (bow quickly back and forth) slide up and down any string" is written above the string parts in measures 37 and 38.

Score for measures 39 to 44. The score includes parts for Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vcl.), Double Bass (D.B.), Percussion (Perc.), and Piano (Pno.).

Measure 39: Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 play a half note F5. Vla. plays a half note F4. Vcl. and D.B. play a half note F3. Perc. plays a quarter note F3. Pno. plays a half note F3.

Measure 40: Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 play a half note G5. Vla. plays a half note G4. Vcl. and D.B. play a half note G3. Perc. plays a quarter note G3. Pno. plays a half note G3.

Measure 41: Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 play a half note A5. Vla. plays a half note A4. Vcl. and D.B. play a half note A3. Perc. plays a quarter note A3. Pno. plays a half note A3.

Measure 42: Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 play a half note B5. Vla. plays a half note B4. Vcl. and D.B. play a half note B3. Perc. plays a quarter note B3. Pno. plays a half note B3.

Measure 43: Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 play a half note C6. Vla. plays a half note C5. Vcl. and D.B. play a half note C4. Perc. plays a quarter note C4. Pno. plays a half note C4.

Measure 44: Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 play a half note D6. Vla. plays a half note D5. Vcl. and D.B. play a half note D4. Perc. plays a quarter note D4. Pno. plays a half note D4.

Dynamic markings: *f* (forte) for measures 39-40, *mf* (mezzo-forte) for measures 41-42, and *f* for measures 43-44.

Performance instructions: "tremolo (bow quickly back and forth) slide up and down any string" is written above the string parts in measures 39 and 40. "any note!" is written above the string parts in measures 41-44.

45 as written

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Perc.

Pno.

*f* as written

45 46 47 48 49

51

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Perc.

Pno.

*mf* *f*

50 51 52 53 54