

LITTLE CRITTERS

Brian Balmages

Instrumentation

1 - 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.

T H E
F · J · H
M U S I C
C O M P A N Y
I N C.
Frank J. Hackinson

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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

The vivid imagery of "little critters" scurrying about at night inspires the melodic lines and creative harmonies used throughout this programmatic work. Beginning with the tiniest sounds, the music builds as new critters join the fun in a playful dialogue between sections and techniques (alternating between arco and pizzicato). The harmonic language moves between moments of pleasant consonance and slight dissonance (because as we all know, some people love little critters and some people are terrified of them!). Dynamics also play a vital role in bringing the music to life as we celebrate the lives of these little critters and hear them in action!

I hope everyone will be a fan of *Little Critters*, regardless of whether you are a fan in "real life" or not!

- Brian Balmages

LITTLE CRITTERS

BRIAN BALMAGES
(ASCAP)

Mischievously (♩ = 108)

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola (Violin 3)

Violoncello

Double Bass

Piano

2 3 4 5

9 arco

V

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

6 7 8 9 10



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Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

f *mp*

f *mp*

f *mp*

11 12 13 14 15

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

17 *pizz.*

mf

mf

mf

arco

mf

arco

mf

mf

16 17 18 19 20

25 arco

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

21 22 23 24 25

f *mp* *mf* *mp*

pizz. *mf* *mp*

arco *mp* arco

4 pizz. arco

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

26 27 28 29 30

f *mp* *f* *mp*

35

Vln. 1 pizz. arco *mf* *f*

Vln. 2 pizz. arco *mf* *f*

Vla. pizz. arco *mf* *f*

Vcl. *mf* *p* *f*

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

Pno. *mf* *p* *f*

31 32 33 34 35

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

36 37 38 39 40

41

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

41 42 43 44 45

This block contains the musical score for measures 41 through 45. It features five staves for strings (Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Violoncello, and Double Bass) and a grand piano (Piano) section. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#). The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings. A large red watermark is overlaid on the page.

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

46 47 48 49 50

pizz.
mp
pizz.
mp
pizz.
mp
pizz.
mp

This block contains the musical score for measures 46 through 50. It continues with the same five string staves and piano section. The key signature remains two sharps. The score includes dynamic markings such as *mp* and *pizz.* (pizzicato). A large red watermark is overlaid on the page.

arco

v

Musical score for measures 51-55. The score includes staves for Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vcl., D.B., and Pno. Dynamics range from *mf* to *mp*. A box labeled '53' is positioned above the Vln. 1 staff at measure 53, with the word 'arco' written below it. A 'v' symbol is placed above the Vln. 1 staff at measure 54. A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid diagonally across the score.

Musical score for measures 56-61. The score includes staves for Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vcl., D.B., and Pno. Dynamics range from *p* to *pp*. A 'pizz.' marking is present above the Vln. 1 staff at measure 61. A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid diagonally across the score.