

# FIVE BEFORE BEETHOVEN

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

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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

After enjoying a concert at the Midwest Clinic by the Mount View Middle School String Orchestra (from my home state of Maryland!), I was speaking with one of the feeder school orchestra teachers who was very emotional seeing her former students performing at such a high level and at such a prestigious venue. That conversation inspired me to recognize the feeder programs for all the work they do to get students to the level necessary to play in such a high caliber ensemble. I wrote this piece for them, so they too can celebrate the Midwest Clinic achievement in their own way.

Enter *Five Before Beethoven*. While the piece is original, it pays homage to Beethoven's Fifth Symphony in many ways. The concept is that musicians need to start somewhere before they are ever ready to tackle a composer like Beethoven. This piece represents the journey students go through with their teachers on their way to playing those "big pieces." Conductors will surely notice the many nods (subtle and not so subtle) to the first movement of Beethoven's masterpiece, yet the music was written to sound entirely organic (and not watered down).

*Five Before Beethoven* is dedicated to the string programs at Manor Woods (Bonnie Zietler and Sarah Lahan), Waverly (Rebecca Dreyman), and West Friendship (Michael Diener) Elementary Schools in Howard County, Maryland. It honors their dedication and passion to educate the next generation of orchestral musicians.

- Brian Balmages

# FIVE BEFORE BEETHOVEN

BRIAN BALMAGES  
 (ASCAP)

**Allegro vivace (♩ = 144+)**

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

This is the first page of a musical score for five instruments: Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola (Violin 3), Violoncello, and Double Bass, plus a Piano. The key signature is A major (two sharps). The tempo is Allegro vivace (♩ = 144+). The score consists of five staves. The first four staves (string quartet) play eighth-note patterns. The piano staff plays eighth-note chords. Measure numbers 1 through 5 are indicated at the bottom of the page. A large red watermark 'Preview Requires Purchase' is diagonally across the page.

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

This is the second page of the musical score. The instrumentation remains the same: Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola (Violin 3), Violoncello, Double Bass, and Piano. The key signature changes to A minor (no sharps or flats). The score continues with eighth-note patterns. Measure numbers 6 through 11 are indicated at the bottom. A large red watermark 'Preview Requires Purchase' is diagonally across the page.



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 piece at [www.fjhmusic.com](http://www.fjhmusic.com)

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ST6513

17

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

17 18 19 20 21

Review Requested

25

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

22 23 24 25 26

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

27 28 29 30 31

33

Vln. 1 L2 *mf* *mp* *v* H2 *mf*

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

Vla. *mf* *mp* *mf*

Vcl. *mf* *v* *mp* *mf*

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

Pno. *mf* *mp* *mf*

32 33 34 35 36

41

Vln. 1 *mp* *f* *p*

Vln. 2 *v* *f* *p*

Vla. *mp* *f* *p*

Vcl. *mp* *f* *p*

D.B. *mp* *f* *p*

Pno. *mp* *f* *p*

37 38 39 40 41

42 43 44 45 46 47

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

48 49 50 51 52 53

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

D.C. al Coda

L2  
H2

*f*

Violin 1: *p* *cresc. poco a poco*

Violin 2: *p* *cresc. poco a poco*

Cello: *p* *cresc. poco a poco*

Bassoon: *p* *cresc. poco a poco*

Piano: *p* *cresc. poco a poco*

64

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

64 65 66 67 68

opt. accel.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

69 70 71 72 73