

(YOU ARE) AMAZING

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 and conductor. His music 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 is a recipient of the prestigious A. Austin Harding Award from the American School Band Directors Association, won the 2020 NBA William D. Revelli Composition Contest with his work *Love and Light*, 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

When the pandemic hit and the world began to shut down, I found myself in a similar position to many of my colleagues, friends and family. A loss of identity. A struggle to find a way forward. And like so many people have done for centuries, I turned to music as a way to find a path throughout a world of uncertainty. In the midst of this, I had a commission for the 75th anniversary season of the San Diego Youth Symphony. So, how does one go about writing a celebratory piece in the midst of a worldwide pandemic?

It did not take me long to realize some of the moments in my life that were game changers during the pandemic. Those words of encouragement we all have encountered throughout this whirlwind of emotions. I remember walking around my neighborhood in the spring and finding messages on the sidewalks written by elementary school kids throughout the development. One of them read, "You are amazing!" It made me tear up because I was one of countless people doubting myself and a way forward. I was feeling a loss of identity as a composer and conductor who was no longer able to have concerts. That chalk message, right next to another one that said "Be amazing!", helped recenter me. In a world where there can be so much negativity combined with current feelings of isolation, uncertainty and more, it was incredibly important to me that I "pay this message forward," but through music instead of words. It is my hope that the students playing this piece will experience great joy, that the conductors will find new purpose, that listeners (regardless of whether in person or remote) will remember how much beauty is in the world, and that everyone will take a moment to breathe, relax, and remember that they are amazing.

Many thanks to Dr. Michael K. Remson, President & CEO of the San Diego Youth Symphony and Conservatory, for reaching out to commission the work and to the wonderful students and conductors of the SDYSO for bringing this piece to life. And to every single person out there: no matter how difficult the days may get, I hope everyone is able to realize they bring something special to this world and are needed. That's right: *you are amazing*.

- Brian Balmages

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

10 11 12 13 14

f

non div.

15

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

15 16 17 18 19

22

Musical score for measures 20-24. The score includes parts for Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vcl., D.B., and Pno. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#). The time signature changes from 4/4 to 2/4, then 3/4, and back to 4/4. A large red watermark 'Preview Only Requires Purchase' is overlaid on the score.

28

Musical score for measures 25-29. The score includes parts for Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vcl., D.B., and Pno. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#). The time signature changes from 4/4 to 2/4, then 3/4, and back to 4/4. Dynamics markings include *mp* and *mf*. A large red watermark 'Preview Only Requires Purchase' is overlaid on the score.

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

mf
mf
mp
div.
mf
mf
mf

30 31 32 33 34 35

36
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
D.B.
Pno.

div.
f
f
f
f
f

36 37 38 39 40

43

41 43 44 45

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla. H3

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

46 47 48 49 50 51

Vln. 1

Vln. 2 div.

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

mf *mp*

66

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

mp

mp

mp

mp

mp

mp

div.

stagger bow

stagger bow

64 65 66 67 68 69 70

stagger bow

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

p *cresc. poco a poco*

p *cresc. poco a poco*

p *cresc. poco a poco*

p *cresc. poco a poco*

p *cresc. poco a poco*

p *cresc. poco a poco*

p *cresc. poco a poco*

4

4

4

4

4

4

71 72 73 74 75 76

79 (upper octave optional)

Musical score for measures 77-81. The score includes staves for Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vcl., D.B., and Pno. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#). Measure 79 is marked with a box and the text "(upper octave optional)". Dynamics include *f* and *div.*. A large red watermark "Preview Only" is overlaid on the score.

Musical score for measures 82-87. The score includes staves for Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vcl., D.B., and Pno. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#). Measure 85 is marked with a box and the number "85". Dynamics include *p* and *div.*. Time signatures change from 4/4 to 2/4, 3/4, and back to 4/4. A large red watermark "Preview Only" is overlaid on the score.

Vln. 1 *mp* *mf*

Vln. 2 *mp* *mf*

Vla. *mp* *mf*

Vcl. *mp* *mf*

D.B. *mp* *mf*

Pno. *mp* *mf*

88 89 90 91 92 93

Vln. 1 *f*

Vln. 2 *f*

Vla. *f*

Vcl. *f* *ff*

D.B. *f* *ff*

Pno. *f* *ff*

94 95 96 97 98

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

99 100 101 102 103

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

104 105 106 107 108

105

div.

ff

111

non div.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

109 110 111 112 113

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

114 116 117 118

121

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

119 120 121 122 123

f

f

f

pizz. *f* arco

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

124 125 126 127 128

non div.

pizz.

arco

129

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

129 130 131 132 133

This musical score covers measures 129 to 133. It features five staves for strings (Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Violoncello, and Double Bass) and a grand piano (Pno.) with two staves. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The score includes various musical notations such as eighth and sixteenth notes, rests, and dynamic markings like 'v' (piano) and 'f' (forte). A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid on the score.

136

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

134 135 137 138

This musical score covers measures 134 to 138. It features the same instrumentation as the previous section: five staves for strings and two staves for grand piano. The key signature remains one sharp (F#). The time signature changes from 4/4 to 2/4 at measure 136, then to 3/4 at measure 137, and returns to 4/4 at measure 138. The score includes various musical notations such as eighth and sixteenth notes, rests, and dynamic markings like 'v' (piano) and 'f' (forte). A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid on the score.

142

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

139 140 141 142 143 144

ff

This block contains the musical score for measures 139 through 144. It features six staves: Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Violoncello, Double Bass, and Piano. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature changes from 4/4 to 2/4, then 3/4, and back to 4/4. A box labeled '142' is positioned above the first staff. The dynamic marking *ff* (fortissimo) is present in measures 142, 143, and 144. A large red watermark 'Preview Requires Purchase' is overlaid diagonally across the score.

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

145 146 147 148 149 150 151

This block contains the musical score for measures 145 through 151. It features the same six staves as the previous block. The key signature remains two sharps, and the time signature continues to change from 4/4 to 2/4, then 3/4, and back to 4/4. The dynamic marking *ff* is not explicitly shown in this section, but the intensity remains high. A large red watermark 'Preview Requires Purchase' is overlaid diagonally across the score.