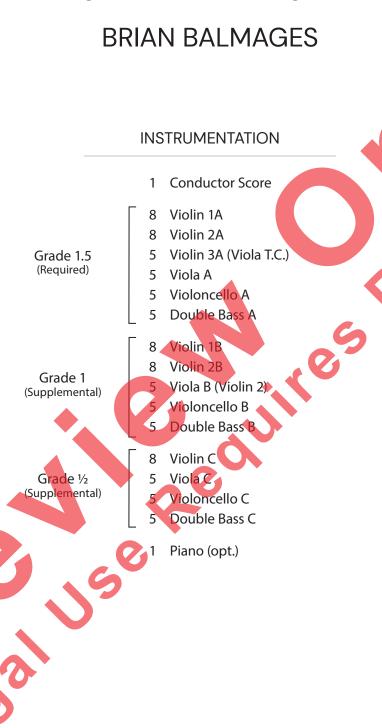
GOLDEN GROVE

For Single or Multi-Level String Orchestra







THE COMPOSER

Brian Balmages is known worldwide as a composer and conductor who equally spans the worlds of orchestral, band, and chamber music. His music has been performed by groups ranging from professional symphony orchestras to elementary schools in venues such as Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, Sydney Opera House, Toronto Centre for the Arts, and many more. He is a recipient of the 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 is an elected member of the prestigious American Bandmasters Association. Balmages was awarded the inaugural James Madison University Distinguished Alumni Award from the School of Visual and Performing Arts. 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. 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.

As a conductor, Mr. Balmages enjoys regular engagements with all-state and regional ensembles as well as university and professional groups throughout the world. Notable guest conducting appearances have included the Midwest Clinic, Western International Band Clinic, Maryborough Music Conference (Australia), College Band Directors Conference, American School Band Directors Association National Conference, numerous state ASTA conferences, Teatro dell'Aquila (Italy), and others. Currently, he is Director of MakeMusic Publications and Digital Education for Alfred Music and MakeMusic.

ABOUT THE MUSIC

This spirited work was written in honor of the 50th anniversary of the Spring Grove Area School District String Program in Pennsylvania (Susan Gross, Director). As part of their annual festival, students from elementary through high school come together to perform, and they felt the 50th anniversary was the perfect occasion to commission a new work for multi-level (or "festival") string orchestra. The title, *Golden Grove*, captures this unique milestone. The piece itself is powerful and majestic, moving through a series of peaks and valleys as the music develops. Ultimately, a final dramatic statement brings the piece to a spectacular and festive conclusion.

Golden Grove has three different sets of parts, each at a specific grade level. It is rather unique in that the most difficult level still falls into a grade 15-2 range, so this can either be used in a festival setting, or can also be an option for younger orchestras that may have a few students who need a part that is not as technical. The grading/technical requirements are as follows:

A parts - Grade 1.5. These parts are playable alone, without the need of any other parts. At a bare minimum, the piece requires all of these A parts to be covered.

B parts - Easy Grade 1. These parts are supplemental to the A parts. The music contains a lot of stepwise motion, and any string crossings use an open string.

C parts - Grade ½ (open strings only). These parts can be played either arco or pizzicato depending on the level of the students. As with the B parts, these are supplemental to the A parts.

The music was designed to sound complex despite how approachable it is from a technical standpoint. Thus, even high school students can enjoy performing the piece, making it an ideal option for a festival orchestra setting as it does not require an excessive amount of rehearsal.

DURATION: 2:20

Multi-Level Full Score

GOLDEN GROVE

A parts—Grade 1.5 (playable alone)
B parts—Grade 1 (supplemental)
C parts—Grade 0.5 (open strings only)

for single or multi-level string orchestra

BRIAN BALMAGES































