FANTASY ON ALOHA 'OE

QUEEN LILI'UOKALANI

Arranged by BRIAN BALMAGES

INSTRUMENTATION

- 1 Conductor Score
- 8 Violin
- 8 Violin 2
- 5 Violin 3 (Viola T.C.
- 5 Viola
- 5 Violoncello
- 5 Double Bas
- i Piano (opt





THE ARRANGER

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

Few people know that the popular song Aloha 'Oe, a major cultural symbol of Hawaii, was written by Queen Lili'uokalani when she was the Princess of the Hawaiian Kingdom in 1878. Translated as "Farewell to Thee," the music and lyrics are quite nostalgic and say farewell "until we meet again."

This fantasy takes the familiar melody and spins a web of contemporary harmonies, countermelodies, and episodes of thematic development. It walks a careful line between saying "goodbye" and "see you soon."

Fantasy on Aloha 'Oe is dedicated to Charlie McCashin. Charlie was a friend, and also wife to my college orchestra conductor, Robert McCashin. I spent countless hours speaking with her and Bob between my time as a student at James Madison University and later as Bob's publisher through my longtime association with The FJH Music Company. Charlie passed away rather suddenly from cancer. She was the administrative director of the JMU Spring String Thing (a popular 3-day event for students in grades 7 through 12) for twenty-four years, and was one of the most genuine people I have ever known. For her visitation, Bob McCashin asked everyone to be dressed very informal – no fancy clothes and nothing black. Most attendees wore a Spring String Thing T-shirt, jeans, shorts, or something colorful and comfy. This is how Charlie would have shown up, and while the music here reflects the sadness of her passing, its source material represents the carefree attitude and relaxed style that characterized everything she did throughout life.

The following donors were involved in bringing this piece to life:

Gary Price, Jeffrey Ohmart, Meredith Kohut, Lindsay Lam, Jacob Roege, Foster Beyers, Michael Diecchio, Polly Sibert, David Ward, Katherine Antis, Sara Boyce, Starlet Smith, Laura Boch, Meghan Gomen, Allison Devereux, Wendy Whitford, Joseph Eriksen, Christopher Dixon, Stephen Carver, Kathy Smith, Karen Bell, Abbey Dupuy, Michael and Alan Kirkdorffer, Robert McCashin, and two anonymous donors.

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