

SUNSET SUSPENDED

BRIAN BALMAGES

INSTRUMENTATION

- 1 Conductor 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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Please note: Our band and orchestra music is collated by an automatic high-speed system.
The enclosed parts are now sorted by page count, rather than score order.



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, the International Outstanding Contributor Award from Phi Beta Mu, won the 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 bands and orchestras as well as university and professional groups throughout the world. He has appeared in nearly all 50 states, with notable guest conducting appearances including "The President's Own" United States Marine Band, United States Air Force Band, the Midwest Clinic, Western International Band Clinic, Maryborough Music Conference (Australia), Teatro dell'Aquila (Italy), and others. Currently, he is Director of MakeMusic Publications and Digital Education for Alfred and MakeMusic.

ABOUT THE MUSIC

Sunsets can create incredible color combinations that leave us breathless. They provide a glimpse of nature's artistic eye, and I've often wished I could suspend time during a particularly brilliant sunset. On the other hand, suspensions in music also lead us to want more. They coax us to the next chord, create a beautiful tension at the end of a phrase, and ultimately help create some of the push and pull that can make harmonies so interesting and engaging.

I have long believed that artistic music can (and should) reach our youngest musicians. I also hold fast to the ideal that an ensemble should not need a vast amount of technique to be able to experience something transformative and have a profound impact on their listeners. Further, a piece should not need to be defined by its difficulty level. A truly musical work should appeal to groups at all levels, regardless of its technical simplicity. It is with this in mind that I have written *Sunset Suspended*.

The music does not get its identity from a catchy melody, but rather draws its DNA from a series of suspended harmonies that constantly flow throughout the ensemble. It is designed to expand the tonal "norms" often expected with music for younger groups, but can also be a powerful vehicle of expression for intermediate or even advanced orchestras.

The work is dedicated to the late Robert W. Smith. He was a mentor of mine, but more importantly was a friend and confidant. He was a bright light for many, and I know we all wish we could suspend that light to give us more time. He would be proud to know this work was written for younger musicians as he always considered himself a teacher first.

—Brian Balmages

for Robert
SUNSET SUSPENDED

BRIAN BALMAGES
(ASCAP)

Andante espressivo (♩ = 64)

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola
(Violin 3)

Violoncello

Double Bass

Piano

p

mp

pizz.

mp arco

p

mp

mp

2 3 5 6

[illegible]

rit.

17 a tempo

Score for measures 13 to 18, measures 17 and 18 marked **a tempo**.

Measures 13-14: *mf*

Measure 15: *mp* (Violins 1 & 2, Viola, Violoncello, Double Bass, Piano)

Measure 16: *p* (Violins 1 & 2, Viola, Violoncello, Double Bass, Piano)

Measure 17: *p* (Violins 1 & 2, Viola, Violoncello, Double Bass, Piano); *pizz.* (Double Bass)

Measure 18: *mp* (Violins 1 & 2, Viola, Violoncello, Double Bass, Piano)

Score for measures 19 to 24.

Measures 19-20: *p* (Violins 1 & 2, Viola, Violoncello, Double Bass, Piano)

Measure 21: *mp* (Violins 1 & 2, Viola, Violoncello, Double Bass, Piano); *arco* (Double Bass)

Measures 22-23: *mf* (Violins 1 & 2, Viola, Violoncello, Double Bass, Piano)

Measure 24: *mf* (Violins 1 & 2, Viola, Violoncello, Double Bass, Piano)

35 Tempo I (♩ = 64)

G.P.

rit. 40 a tempo

Vln. 1 stagger bow *pp* *p*

Vln. 2 *pp* *p*

Vla. div. *pp* *p*

Vcl. stagger bow *pp* *p*

D.B. stagger bow *p*

Pno. *pp* *p*

37 38 39 40 41 42 43

45 rit.

Vln. 1 stagger bow *pp* div.

Vln. 2 (V) *pp*

Vla. (V) *pp*

Vcl. *p* *pp*

D.B. *p* *pp*

Pno. *pp*

44 45 46 47 48 49