

FIRST FINGER ROCK

Brian Balmages

Instrumentation

1 - Conductor's Full Score
8 - Violin 1
8 - Violin 2 (Viola T.C.)
5 - Viola
5 - Violoncello
5 - Double Bass
1 - Drum Set (opt.)
1 - Piano

Extra Conductor Score: \$5.00
Extra Parts: \$2.50

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As a result, all single page parts are collated before multiple page parts.

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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

This piece began as a personal challenge – could it be possible to compose a piece that sounded like real music while only using open strings and first finger in every instrument? Never one to back down from a challenge, I decided to see how innovative I could be with this small palette in front of me. As it turns out, this piece was extraordinarily fun to compose and successfully uses only open strings and 1st finger in all instruments. It is a great vehicle for teachers who like to introduce all strings from the outset, and it is also an effective tool for students who are learning new strings or are just starting to use the bow.

Set to a simple rock beat, the piece is based on a four note motif, presented immediately by the entire orchestra in unison. Following a classic rock chord pattern, the music soon enters a simple development section where the melody is expanded while the harmony avoids the tonic key (serving as a modified “bridge”). Following a powerful crescendo, the entire ensemble brings back the joyous opening motif before moving into a brief coda to end the work.

First Finger Rock is dedicated to the Pinewood Elementary School Orchestra in Timonium, Maryland; Karen Seward, conductor.

Reproduction Prohibited *Brian Balmages*

FIRST FINGER ROCK

BRIAN BALMAGES
(ASCAP)

Hard rock (♩ = 164)

Violin 1

Violin 2 (Viola T.C.)

Viola

Violoncello

Double Bass

Drum Set (Opt.)

Piano

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

D. S.

Piano

2 3 4 5 6

7 8 9 10 11 12

crash cym.



Hear and download this piece at www.fjhmusic.com

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13

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

D. S.

Piano

closed hi-hat

13 14 15 16 17 18

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

D. S.

Piano

19 20 21 22 23 24

25

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

D. S.

Piano

ride cym.

25 26 27 28 29

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

D. S.

Piano

30 31 32 33 34

35

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
D.B.
D. S.
Piano

Musical score for measures 35-40. The score includes staves for Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Violoncello, Double Bass, Double Bass Drum, and Piano. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The dynamic marking is *f* (forte). The score shows a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in the strings and a more complex pattern in the D.S. and Piano parts.

35 36 37 38 39 40

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
D.B.
D. S.
Piano

Musical score for measures 41-45. The score includes staves for Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Violoncello, Double Bass, Double Bass Drum, and Piano. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The dynamic marking is *f* (forte). The score shows a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in the strings and a more complex pattern in the D.S. and Piano parts. There are some markings above the strings in measures 43 and 44.

41 42 43 44 45

47

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

D. S.

Piano

46 47 48 49 50

This block contains the musical score for measures 46 through 50. It features five staves for strings: Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Violoncello, and Double Bass. A sixth staff is for Drums (D.S.) and a seventh for Piano. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. A box containing the number '47' is positioned above the first measure of the Violin 1 staff. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

D. S.

Piano

51 52 53 54 55 56

f

f

f

This block contains the musical score for measures 51 through 56. It features the same five string staves and Drum and Piano staves as the previous block. The key signature remains one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings. The dynamic marking *f* (forte) is present in measures 51, 52, and 53. A large watermark reading 'Reproduction Prohibited' is overlaid across the center of the page.

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