

# (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

**Extra Conductor Score: \$6.00**

FJH is now using a high-speed sorting system for parts.  
As a result, all single page parts are collated before multiple page parts.



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

## (YOU ARE) AMAZING

BRIAN BALMAGES  
(ASCAP)With strength ( $\text{J}=144$ )

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola (Violin 3)

Violoncello

Double Bass

Piano

7

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

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piece at [www.fjhmusic.com](http://www.fjhmusic.com)Copyright © 2021 The FJH Music Company Inc. (ASCAP).  
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ST6529

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl. *f*

D.B. *f*

Pno.

10 11 12 13 14

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

15

15 16 17 18 19

22

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

20            21            22            23            24

28

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

25            26            27            28            29

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

30      31      32      33      34      35

36

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

36      37      38      39      40

43

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

41                          43                          44                          45

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

46                          47                          48                          49                          50                          51

53

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

This section shows six staves of musical notation. Measures 52-53 feature eighth-note patterns in 2/4 time. Measures 54-55 show sustained notes and eighth-note chords. Measure 56 includes a dynamic marking 'pizz.' and measure 57 concludes with a forte dynamic. Measure 53 is labeled with a box containing '53'.

52      53      54      55      56      57

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

This section shows six staves of musical notation. Measures 58-61 feature eighth-note patterns. Measures 62-63 show sustained notes and eighth-note chords. Measure 62 includes dynamics 'p' and 'arco', and measure 63 includes a dynamic 'p'. Measure 58 is labeled with a box containing '58'.

58      59      60      61      62      63

66

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

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

4

(p) cresc. poco a poco

p cresc. poco a poco

71 72 73 74 75 76

79 (upper octave optional)

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

77 78 79 80 81

85

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

82 83 84 85 86 87

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

88            89            90            91            92            93

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

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.

105

104                    105                    106                    107                    108

111

non div.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla. 8

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

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

124      125      126      127      128

129

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

129 130 131 132 133

136

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

134 135 136 137 138

142

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

139      140      141      142      143      144

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

145      146      147      148      149      150      151