# THREE MINUTES TO MIDNIGHT

### **JAROD HALL**

#### INSTRUMENTATION

- 1 Conductor Score
- 1 Piccolo (opt.)
- 4 Flute 1
- 4 Flute 2
- 2 Oboe
- 2 Bassoon
- 5 B Clarinet 1
- 5 B Clarinet 2
- 2 Bb Bass Clarinet
- 2 El Alto Saxophone 1
- 2 E Alto Saxophone 2
- 2 By Tenor Saxophone
- 2 E Baritone Saxophone
- 4 B<sub>b</sub> Trumpet 1
- 4 B<sub>b</sub> Trumpet 2

- 4 F Horn
- 2 Trombone 1
- 2 Trombone 2
- 2 Euphonium
- 2 Baritone T.C.
- 4 Tuba
- 2 Marimba
- 1 Chimes
- 2 Percussion 1 (Tom-toms)
- Percussion 2
  (Hi-hat, Suspended Cymba Bass Drum)
- 3 Percussion 3 (Woodblocks [high/low], Tambourine, Triangle)

#### **SUPPLEMENTAL and WORLD PARTS**

Available for download from www.alfred.com/supplemental

- E Alto Clarinet
- E Contra Alto Clarinet
- B<sub>b</sub> Contra Bass Clarinet
- E♭ Horn
- Trombone in B, T.C.
- Trombone in B♭B.C.
- Euphonium in B, B.C.
- Tuba in B♭T.C.
- Tuba in B♭B.C.
- Tuba in E♭T.C.
- Tuba in E♭B.C.
- String Bass







#### THE COMPOSER

JaRod Hall (b. 1991) is a Texas-native educator, performer, and composer. He holds a bachelor's degree in music education from the University of North Texas where he studied conducting with Nicholas Williams and Dennis Fisher. JaRod's bands have received consistent sweepstakes awards at the Texas University Interscholastic League Concert and Sight-reading Evaluations and have been recognized at the state level. In 2018 and 2019, JaRod's bands at Griffin Middle School earned the Citation of Excellence award, honoring the top two non-varsity bands in the state of Texas.

A passionate performer, JaRod has been a part of many ensembles such as the North Texas Wind Symphony, 3 O'Clock Lab Band, Carrollton Wind

Symphony, and Metropolitan Winds. He served as drum major for the 2013 Crossmen Drum and Bugle Corps and was a member of the 2014 Disneyland All-American College Band.

As a composer, JaRod's compositions appear on the Texas Prescribed Music List, The J.W. Pepper Editors' Choice list, and the Bandworld Top 100. His piece *Through the Storm* won the 2021 Barbara Buehlman Prize for Composition, presented by the Midwest Clinic. JaRod is a nationwide marching band and WGI arranger and consultant. He resides in San Antonio, Texas with his wife Rachel.

#### ABOUT THE MUSIC

In a broad sense, this music depicts a countdown. As the work progresses, the woodblock "clock" begins to tick. Eerie apprehension first forms as the trombones interrupt the flute statement of the melody in measure 12 (note: this gliss should happen simultaneously with the crescendo, both taking place at the last possible moment). Once the low voices commandeer the melody later on, more instruments interject to build the tension. The first big arrival point at 42 should be heavy and raucous, but it is important to note that the climax of the piece does not occur until 90–94, after a swirling middle episode of mixed meter and morphing melody. Listeners will hear the *Dies Irae* theme everpresent, popping in and out of the texture; a sinister motif that actually indicates something much darker.

Another interpretation of "midnight" is that of the global Doomsday Clock, indicating how close the world is to catastrophe and ruin. Often associated with war and climate change, midnight on the clock symbolizes the end of the world. The clock measures our distance from doomsday in minutes and seconds, hence the title *Three Minutes to Midnight*. In this regard, an expansive and heavy ending would symbolize destruction. I have chosen to conclude the piece with a weighted, yet understated punctuation; rather than ending with a musical exclamation mark, the music ends with a period. In my mind, there is always hope, but sometimes at a heavy cost.

—JaRod Hall

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