# (UP)LIFTED 

## BRIAN BALMAGES

## INSTRUMENTATION

1 Conductor Score
1 Piccolo
1 Flute 1
1 Flute 2
1 Oboe 1
1 Oboe 2
1 Bb Clarinet 1
1 Bb Clarinet 2
1 Bassoon 1
1 Bassoon 2
1 F Horn 1
1 F Horn 2
1 F Horn 3
1 F Horn 4
1 Bb Trumpet 1
1 Bb Trumpet 2
1 Bb Trumpet 3
1 Trombone 1
1 Trombone 2
1 Trombone 3

1 Tuba
1 Timpani
1 Percussion 1 (Bells, Chimes)
1 Percussion 2 (Crash Cymbals, Triangle)
1 Percussion 3
(Snare Drum, Suspended Cymbal, Tam-tam)
1 Harp
8 Violin 1
8 Violin 2
5 Viola
5 Violoncello
5 Double Bass

SUPPLEMENTAL and WORLD PARTS
Available for download from www.alfred.com/supplemental

Bb Bass Clarinet 1 (Bassoon 1)
Bb Bass Clarinet 2 (Bassoon 2)
Eb Alto Saxophone 1 (F Horn 1)
Eb Alto Saxophone 2 (F Horn 2)
Bb Tenor Saxophone 1 (F Horn 3)
Bb Tenor Saxophone 2 (F Horn 4)


## 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, 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 and MakeMusic.

## ABOUT THE MUSIC

A work several years in the making, (Up)Lifted was commissioned by the North Carolina Honors (All-State) Orchestra. The pandemic uprooted plans for the original premiere, and I wound up writing a piece for strings only called The Fire Within, which the students performed brilliantly as a virtual ensemble. We then turned our attention back to the original intent: a celebratory work for full orchestra that was not only exciting for the strings, but also very engaging for winds and percussion. The title comes from the change in mindset as ensembles started coming back after being away for so long. I wanted the music to reflect that positive feeling everyone experienced as orchestras took their first tuning notes in the same room; that moment when a conductor gave a downbeat and heard immediate feedback from the musicians in the room.

I put "up" in parentheses for several reasons. While I certainly wanted the music to be uplifting, I also sought to lift up those who were struggling and I wanted people to feel like they could finally look "up." It serves as a gentle reminder that it is our collective responsibility to lift others up and let them know that they are never alone.

The opening takes off immediately, with the first powerful chord moving quickly into a flurry of activity and energy. In my mind, this represents the pent-up energy in musicians all over the world, waiting for that very moment when they could make music with each other again after so long. This section builds twice before the brass present the powerful fanfare that recurs throughout the work. As the music continues, new lyrical melodies are introduced and become the focal point of the work.

The opening fanfare once again takes center stage, this time presented in a more delicate setting in the woodwinds. This begins a steady building of energy until the full orchestra is engaged with soaring countermelodies and sweeping melodic lines. The ending experience is much like the opening: a flurry of activity and excitement as the final chords usher in the powerful ending.
(Up)Lifted was commissioned by the 2021 North Carolina Honors Orchestra and was led by Ryan E. Ellefson, Chairperson, and Donald J. Walter, NCMEA Orchestra Section Chairperson.


Timpani
Percussion 1 （Bells，
Chimes）

Percussion 2 Crash Cymba
Triangle） Percussion 3





Perc. 3






































