## OPENING NIGHT

For Full Orchestra or Symphonic Band

## BRIAN BALMAGES

INSTRUMENTATION

| 1 | Conductor Score |
| :--- | :--- |
| 4 | Flute 1 |
| 4 | Flute 2 |
| 2 | Oboe |
| 2 | Bassoon |
| 5 | Bb Clarinet 1 |
| 5 | Bb Clarinet 2 |
| 2 | Bb Bass Clarinet |
| 2 | Eb Alto Saxophone 1 |
| 2 | Eb Alto Saxophone 2 |
| 2 | Bb Tenor Saxophone |
| 2 | Eb Baritone Saxophone |
| 4 | Bb Trumpet 1 |
| 4 | Bb Trumpet 2 |
| 2 | F Horn 1 |
| 2 | F Horn 2 |



## 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

When Tracey Filben approached me with the idea of writing a piece for band and orchestra in memory of her student Jim Gracey, she made a few things abundantly clear. They did not want the piece to be somber; rather, they wanted it to be more of a celebration of life. She told me that Jim was quite the character and was full of life. In addition to playing clarinet and viola, he had a strong affinity for the stage and loved musicals. He was certainly a bright light with a glowing personality.

In thinking about all of this, it became clear to me what direction this piece would go. I decided that this would be the overture to a yet-to-be-written musical, one that Jim would be starring in. It is exciting, full of life, and highly rhythmic and energetic. In addition, there are specific nodsto Jim's instruments, clarinet and viola. I view this as the ultimate celebration: when the curtain comes up, the spotlight turns on, and the magic begins as the show finally reaches its "opening night."

The piece is dedicated to the John Marshall High School Band and Orchestra, Jim Gracey, and his family. May this be one of countless opening nights as the piece continues to receive performances all around the country and the world.

## PERFORMANCE NOTES

This piece is designed to work in three different ensemble settings. It was originally conceived for a traditional full orchestra instrumentation (no bass clarinet, saxophones, or euphonium). Thus, it works exceptionally well in that scenario. It will also work for symphonic band alone (without strings). In that case, there are a few string cues provided in the band parts where necessary, and they should be played. Finally, groups may choose to combine symphonic band with strings.

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Cls. 1
A. Saxes 1 \#\#
T. Sax.
B. Sax.
(a)






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