

UINTAH HS MUSIC
DEPARTMENT PRESENTS:

PEACE LOVE & MUSIC



Thursday May 18, 2023
7:00 pm UHS Auditorium
Free Admission

ORCHESTRA
CONCERT BAND
& PANDEMONIUM

Uintah Orchestra

Forever Joyful

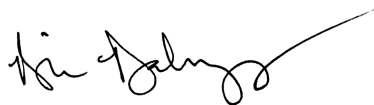
Brian Balmages

About the Music

The music for *Forever Joyful!* was written during a particularly wonderful stretch of experiences. We had recently adopted a puppy and it was wonderful to see how she changed our family and inspired my children to be more responsible and caring. We got her in the fall, and on beautiful days I would take her for a walk around the neighborhood. The fresh air was good for both of us and helped inspire me with new ideas when I got back to my studio. Rather than write a programmatic piece, I decided to develop a piece based on the emotion of joy itself. The music is uplifting and lighthearted, yet also includes moments of "intense happiness" and euphoria. Basically, it seeks to explore the various aspects of joy (I think we can all agree that there are numerous levels of feeling "joyful").

Forever Joyful! was commissioned by the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association District 7. It was made possible with additional sponsorship from the following school programs:

Fremont Middle School Orchestra
Greenville Middle School Orchestras
Grand Haven Lakeshore Middle School Orchestra
Mona Shores Middle School Orchestra
Muskegon Middle School Orchestra



Luminosity

Liam Ramsey-White

One of the last classes I took while I was a student at Indiana University was a course on astronomical imaging. I learned about the objects in our universe through the literal lens of some of our most advanced telescopes and cameras. Many people have seen the colorful, magical, and often mysterious photographs created by famous telescopes such as the Hubble Space Telescope. The luminosity of a star is simply how bright it is. The bigger or hotter the star, or the higher number of stars in a cluster, the brighter it is. Inspired by the many images I saw of these majestic star formations; this piece explores the brightness of stars with its twinkling-like opening created by the Violin's bell tone. It is also a great piece to develop the off-the-string stroke for both 8th notes and 16th notes. All 16th notes are in groups of four except for one short figure (M.13 and M.36). The opening bell tones evolve into harmonic bell tones at the end. Fading into silence, the end of the piece suggests the slow fading of stars as the night sky turns to day and the sun rises.

Greater Than...

Brian Balmages

Greater Than... is about inclusion, diversity, acceptance, and the resulting beauty that emerges when all of these elements come together. It reminds us how beautiful the world can be when we embrace each other's differences, share our passions, and support each other.

(You Are) Amazing

Brian Balmages

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

Concert Band

(not) Alone

Randall D. Standridge

Why I wrote (not) Alone

Many who live with mental health conditions experience a profound sense of isolation. Discussing these issues and more so, identifying as someone who lives with them, has been extremely taboo in our society. Thus, many suffer in silence, facing their troubles with no support. But, as the title of the work implies, they are not alone.

I live with depression and anxiety. I have tried to use my platform to normalize discussions about mental health and to help start conversations about this issue. Here are some statistics you may or may not be aware of:

1 in 5 of adults in the US experience mental health issues each year.

1 in 6 youths in the US experience mental health issues each year.

90% of suicides worldwide are attributable to mental illness.

Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death in the United States.

With statistics like this, it is shocking and frustrating that so many people are reluctant to acknowledge, discuss, and address these issues.

In 2021, I was asked to create a work for wind ensemble addressing mental illness. The resultant work, "unBroken", is one of my favorite works I have ever created, both from an aesthetic and personal perspective. However, this work is very advanced (Grade 5), which limits its demographic for performers and, thus, audiences.

Those of us that teach or have taught middle school and high school know that there is a need to address this issue at younger ages, and to make such tools available to middle schools and developing high school ensembles.

I decided to make this work a consortium, expecting there would be 20-30 schools that would support such a piece. 40 tops.

The consortium included over 300 schools.

This is an issue whose time has come. The time is now. We need to talk about this, and we are going to talk about this. We are going to show them all that they are not alone.

About the work

The piece starts very softly, with both beauty and dissonance. The individual is aware that something is wrong but is trying to bravely persist. A soloist introduces the main theme of the work, a bittersweet melody that is lovely and vulnerable. As the first segment continues, dissonant elements and a three note descending theme signals the onset of a mental health crisis.

The second segment is manic and violent. The individual struggles with their condition as everything seems to be in darkness. The piece builds to a thunderous moment before dying away to a cloud of confusion. Their heartbeat is heard racing and then slowing. The individual is broken.

The original theme sounds out again, unaccompanied, but others join in. The work rises to a triumphant climax, as a sense of solidarity is achieved. The work ends with the soloist again, but more confident and with others there for support.

Major Themes

There are four major themes that are used in the work.

The first, which I call "Shirley's Theme", after my mother who lives with severe depression, is first heard at measure 9. This work is used throughout, both in whole and in part, so signify the individual.

The second theme, a three note descending motif, appears throughout the work. It is twisted a minor second down and minor third, and it represents the darkness inside the individual's mind. This is the "Mental Illness Motif."

The third theme, the "hope" motif, is the five note motif that starts the work in the piano/mallets. It represents the individual trying to find hope for happiness and a better future.

Affirmation

Randall D. Standridge

Program Notes

This one is for all the outcasts, the geeks, the marginalized, the wallflowers, and the people who are "different."

Every once in a while, I believe you get to "say something" with a piece of music. When I was in High School, I was definitely NOT one of the popular crowd. My tastes in music, art, and movies were too weird. I was awkward. I was not a very attractive guy. Generally, I was that "gay, artsy kid." If I could go back in time, I would give that younger me a hug and say "you are FINE the way you are. You are AMAZING."

This new work, AFFIRMATION (Grade 3) commissioned by the Barrington Middle School Band and their director, Mr. David Triplett-Rosa, is an anthem for all the kids who ever felt like they didn't belong. It was originally scheduled to be premiered last year, but was pushed to this spring, and will be premiered April 8th. A huge thank you again to David and the band for letting me write this work and trusting me with its message.

It would have been easy to write something soft, lyrical, and saccharine, but I wanted to take a different approach...I wanted it to be a celebration. This is the single happiest thing I have ever written in my career.

So this one goes out to the band geeks, the nerdy kids, the art kids, the drama kids, the punk rockers, the LGBTQA+ kids, the kids of color, the kids on the spectrum, the differently abled kids, and all the people (kids and adults) who have ever been made to feel "less than" because of who they are.

You are beautiful. You are JUST FINE the way you are. And you are WORTH celebrating.

Peace, Love, and Music.

Choose Joy

Randall D. Standridge

Why Choose Joy?

Commissions can take many forms. I have written pieces that celebrate special occasions, I have written works that tackle serious issues, I have created commissioned pieces that commemorate historical events, and I have written commissions that encouraged me to just play around in my imagination.

I have also written too many that are memorial works. Each piece of this type is a reminder to me (and, I hope, to the audience and performers) that time is our greatest gift and most valuable asset, and we are always spending it, whether we intend to or not. When we ask someone for their hand in marriage, we are asking for and offering our most treasured possession. Our time. Our lives. When we choose a profession, we are agreeing to dedicate our time to this. When we lose someone, we are simultaneously grateful for the time we have had with them and grieving for that time being depleted.

We never get time back. Ever.

In May 2021, I was approached by Joe Glass of Salyards Middle School about a commission. Joe and I have collaborated on a work before (*Siege*), in which I spent a week with him, his staff, and his students to create a work. We created a fun piece of music, but more importantly we created a friendship that has continued ever since. It was time well spent.

Joe asked if I would be interested in a new commission, but that the circumstances were somewhat unusual. It is with his permission and the permission of the family involved that I am sharing these details. He told me about Nicole Crandall, a recent graduate from the high school that Joe's program feeds and his former student. Nicole had been battling Level 4 Glioblastoma, a very aggressive form of brain cancer. She was then 20 years old and had been moved into hospice care. To celebrate her, they have asked that I create a work in her honor. Illness is the thief of time.

In spite of this, Nicole and her family had created a motto that they used to navigate this difficult time. "Choose Joy". I was very moved by this, as I feel too many people waste their time (and their lives) choosing hate, choosing anger, choosing misery. Do those emotions legitimately exist? Absolutely, but I can safely say for myself that there have been moments where I gave energy to them and fed them, instead of shutting them down.

Choose Joy. I like that.

For those of you that may have been touched by cancer (either yourself or a loved one), I am sure you can agree that we never know how much time we are given on this Earth, but life events such as these can put a lot of things in perspective.

To Joe, thank you for trusting me with this project.

To Nicole and her family, thank you for reminding us that happiness can be a choice, even in the face of incredible adversity.

It is raining as I finish writing this, and I looked out my window just now. Instead of thunderheads, there is a rainbow shining in the heavens.

Even in the darkest clouds, there can be beauty and light.

Peace, Love, and Music

About the Work

The piece uses elements of Beethoven's Ode to joy along with a five note motive representing the five family members of Nicole's immediate family. A trio is heard near the beginning, representing Nicole and her siblings; the parts have been written for the instruments they played in band (Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone). The work alternates between a rhythmic and joyful intensity and a more nostalgic and bittersweet lyrical moment in the middle. There are moments of happiness, humor, worry, pain, and determination. I hope this work serves as a fitting tribute to all of those who choose joy in times of darkness.

About the unBroken Project

The unBroken Project began with the composition of my work, *unBroken*. The work was my first to deal with mental health struggles and, inspired by its reception, I have created a series of works for performers, conductors, and audiences to use as conversational starting points for these issues. As of this writing, there are 5 works in the series, and I anticipate creating at least 2 more: *unBroken (Grade 5)*, *Choose Joy (Grade 3)*, *(not) Alone (Grade 2.5)*, *Blue Sky Horizon (Grade 2)*, and *Fragile (Grade 1.5-2)*.

Choose Joy connects to this project by encouraging us all to find happiness and positivity where we can. This is not to dismiss mental health conditions or dire situations, but rather a reminder that moments of joy should be treasured and that, with help, those of us who live with these conditions can move closer to happiness.

Note that *unBroken* (the grade 5 work) is available as a free rental for university, professional, community, and accomplished high school bands. Please message me for details.

Mr. Gibson's Thoughts:

It has been my personal soapbox for the last several years to try and impart to my students the importance of being kind to everyone. We are living in a world full of hate and turmoil. Everyone is choosing sides, are unwilling to listen and accept that others are different, and it is ok.

We began using Randall's music for our marching band shows a few years ago with the iBand show. We took a few years off from his stuff, but when we returned to his works with The Maiden and the Samurai we started to score better. Every time we have used his music we have done well.

Because of this I have become "friends" with Randall through social media. I learned of his unBroken project and was intrigued. Mental illness is in my family, and probably somewhere in yours. So the idea of helping spread the word of making it ok to talk about seemed like a good idea.

This concert idea started with unBroken, but I knew we could not pull that piece off. So we went to (not) Alone. At that point I needed to flesh out the concert. With the help of Brian Balmages' music (who I also program a lot) it was easy to come up with the theme.

Randall signs everything Peace, Love, and Music. With my personal soap box and his need to share about mental health, it seemed the appropriate title for a concert. So in the words of Randall:

Peace, Love, and Music

Pandemonium

Whiplash

Hank Levy
Arranged by Erik Morales

Roman McAlexander - Feature

Duet - Rhyan Pratt and Tavin Sowell Tenor Sax Solo - Landon Powell

Information: Most music is written in 4, 3, or 2. This song is in an easy 7.

Dos Gatos Bailando
(Two Cats Dancing)

Roy Phillippe

Rhyan Pratt & Boston Clark -
Feature

The Way We Were

Marvin Hamlisch
Arranged by Mark Taylor

Brighton Wells - Feature

Information: From the Emotion Picture The Way We Were.

Summer Wind

Henry Mayer
Arranged by Dave Wolpe

Ellaina Merryweather - Feature

Information: Lyrics were originally written in German by Hans Bradtke. English lyrics written by Johnny Mercer

The Mad Hatter Rides Again *Jeff Coffin*
Arranged by David Deacon-Joyner

Landen Powell - Feature

Information: The Whiplash 7 wasn't hard enough so Landen chose a song in an easy 17. At least to start it changes to 4, 9, 8, 7, and 18. A little challenge in the meter on this one. Don't try and tap your foot, you'll have a seizure.

Blue Skies *Irving Berlin*
Arranged by Roger Holmes

Sam Helco - Feature

Caravan *Duke Ellington*
Arranged by Mike Tomaro

All Seniors - Feature

Solos - Every Senior. Trio - Boston, Ellaina, and Rhyan

Information: This version was recorded by CHICAGO on their album Night and Day.

Tentative Schedule 23-24

May 30 - June 2	Marching Band Camp
June (Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays)	Marching Band Practice 9am - noon
July 4	Parade
July 24	Parade
July 31 - August 5	MB Sweat Week
Aug 23	1st Day of School
Sept 16, 23, 30	MB Competitions
Oct 7, 14, 28	MB Competitions
November 1	Fall Review
Nov 2-5	St. George Trip
Nov 8	Fall Concert
Nov 14	Concert
February 21	Jazz Dinner Concert
Feb 29	Region S&E
Mar 6	Region Jazz
Mar 27	Region Band
Apr 18	Region Orchestra
April 27	State S&E
May 16	Concert

Members

Concert Band and Percussion

*Madison Christianson	9	Flute	*Isaac Carbine	10	Trombone
*Elizabeth Hirschi	9	Flute	Kasey Partlow	10	Trombone
*Makaeli Lay	10	Flute	Ross Partlow	10	Trombone
*Jordan Teague	10	Oboe	Brennon Searle	12	Trombone
Aden Anderson	10	Clarinet	Micah Wells	9	Trombone
*Kyan Hiatt	10	Clarinet	Isaac Weston	11	Trombone
*Declan O'Brien	11	Clarinet	*Anthony Bristol	11	Tuba
*Za'Quirah Pigge'e	10	Clarinet	*Breanna Helm	11	Tuba
*Alyssa Unck	11	Clarinet	*Mason Antillon	11	Percussion
Theo Wheeler	10	Clarinet	*Owen Carbine	10	Percussion
*Rhyan Pratt	12	Bass Clarinet	Jason Cordova	11	Percussion
*Kristina Herbert	10	Bassoon	Lucas Gibson	9	Percussion
*Lily Hawk	12	Alto Sax	Cody Kolkman	9	Percussion
Caelden Poulson	9	Alto Sax	*Roman	12	Percussion
Jacob Wagner	9	Alto Sax	*Max McAllister	12	Percussion
*Heber Taylor	9	Baritone Sax	*Angelina Nading	11	Percussion
*Koby Vargas	12	Baritone Sax	*Landen Powell	12	Percussion
*Aeris Larson	11	Horn	*Nathan Pratt	9	Percussion
*Kloee Thomas	10	Horn	*MacKenzy Runnels	10	Percussion
*Karson Drake	11	Trumpet	*Tavin Sowell	11	Percussion
*Phoenix Furrh	11	Trumpet	Sadielynn Thomas	9	Percussion
Grayson Harrington	9	Trumpet	Aubree Thompson	9	Percussion
*Colby Huffaker	10	Trumpet	Kailani Wold	9	Percussion
*Jonas Labrum	9	Trumpet	*Mia Zapata	12	Percussion
*William Oldaker	12	Trumpet			



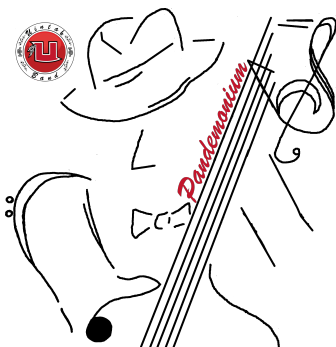
Orchestra

Karli Arias	11	Violin
*Isabella Atherton	12	Viola
*Ryanna Baldwin	10	Viola
*Anya Brown	12	Violin
Kingston Bullock	9	Cello
Hailey Cook	9	Violin
Dylan Coon	10	Violin
*EmmaLyn Day	12	Cello
Joshua Ek	12	Violin
*Victoria Hall	12	Violin
*Breanna Hatch	11	Violin
*Aubrey Jelte	10	Violin
Samantha Jenne	9	Viola
Braeli Johnson	9	Violin
Lois Lyman	10	Violin
Shannyn Madsen	11	Cello
*Jackson Meanea	11	Bass
*Morgan Mold	12	Violin
Isabella Morrill	10	Violin
Cramion Poulson	11	Viola
Hailey Rasmussen	9	Viola
*Alec Rimmasch	12	Cello
Rylee Slaugh	12	Violin
Alexis Tingey	11	Violin
Bryton Weaver	12	Violin



Pandemonium

*Gavin Bain	11	Bone 3
*Anthony Bristol	11	Trumpet 1
*Boston Clark	12	Trumpet 3
*Tyler Franklin	11	Piano
*Samuel Helco	12	Guitar/Vocals
*Breanna Helm	11	Bass Bone
*Kristina Herbert	10	Tenor 2
*Roman McAlexander	12	Drums
*Gwendalyn McCurdy	11	Alto 2
*Jackson Meanea	11	Bass
*Ellaina	12	Bone 1
*Landen Powell	12	Tenor 1
*Rhyan Pratt	12	Alto 1
*Tavin Sowell	11	Trumpet 2
*Pierson Watkins	10	Bari Sax
*Brighton Wells	12	Bone 2
*Isaac Weston	11	Trumpet 4



Awards

Band / Orchestra Letter Indicated in lists
with *

Louis Armstrong Jazz Award

Roman McAlexander

John Phillip Sousa Band Award

Ellaina Merryweather

National Orchestra Award

Isabella Atherton

Instrumentalist Merit Award

Max McAllister

Instrumentalist Musician Award

Lily Hawk