

MUSIC SESSION

[Recording Link](#)

Passion and Possibility

July 20, 2021

The intersection of our musical being and creativity can provide a new, refreshing, and confident outlook on the way forward. In fact, this “great reset” can usher in a revitalized, newly inspired approach to music making. Let the possibilities begin!

Presenter: Brian Balmages



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 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 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.

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, numerous state ASTA conferences and others. Additional conducting appearances have included the Kennedy Center and Meyerhoff Symphony Hall as well as band and orchestra 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.

Session Links, Materials, and Resources

- [Session Recording Link](#)
- [Brian Balmages Official Website](#)
- [Creative Repertoire Initiative \(CRI\)](#) - includes resources for educators and composers with adaptable music for ensembles
- [Putting the E in Ensemble - Alex Shapiro](#)

Driving Questions

- Can you identify new possibilities for the year ahead? What lessons have you learned over the past year that will make you a better teacher with pandemic life moving into the rearview mirror?
- How has the past year reminded you of your WHY? How can passion and possibility become a larger part of your ensemble experiences and guide you toward more meaningful musical experiences?