



Kyiv, 2022: A Sequel to Moscow, 1941

Music by: Brian Balmages (1975)

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Instrumentation/Voicing: Concert Band

Broad Description & Type/Genre: Programmatic symphonic work

[Full Score](#)

[Recording](#)



BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Composer



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 regional 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.

**The
Composition**

Notes from the composer:

“Like so many around the world, I believe strongly in the ability of one person to make a difference for those in Ukraine. To that end, after 16 years, I have decided that it is now time for an official ‘sequel’ to one of my most popular pieces for young band - Moscow, 1941. This work was composed in the first weeks of the Russian invasion into Ukraine, during which the entire world has seen senseless tragedy, humanitarian crises, and incredible heroism and passion from the Ukrainian people. This piece, Kyiv, 2022, changes the narrative, where the theme from Moscow, 1941 (which is based on the Russian folk song ‘Meadowlands’) now becomes the aggressor, and the heroic people of Ukraine are represented by the Ukrainian National Anthem and the powerful song ‘Prayer for Ukraine’. Certainly, it will spark a lot of conversations about humanity, history, culture, and more. I hope directors are able to use this piece to help students see how music really can help us relate to the world around us, and also to offer a musical way to support the people of Ukraine.”

ELEMENTS OF MUSIC:

Form *Kyiv, 2022* follows a concert overture form similar to the 1812 Overture with musical source materials taken from *Meadowlands*, *Prayer for Ukraine* and *Ukrainian National Anthem*. The structure is loosely based on a Rondo form, although the A sections are not literal direct statements of the melody, but rather based on fragmented/extended melodies from each of the works.

Intro	m.1-11	Introduction - Meadowlands
A	m.11-29	Prayer for Ukraine theme
	m.29-34	Transition
	m.34-42	Continued transition using Fragments of UNA theme
B	m.42-50	Ukrainian National Anthem Theme
A	m.50-61	Prayer for Ukraine
C	m.61-72	Meadowlands theme in Augmentation
	m.72-82	Developmental
A	m.82-92	Prayer for Ukraine development (low brass/reeds)
A	m.92-100	Climax - Prayer for Ukraine (m25)
	m.100-112	Prayer for Ukraine/Coda

Melody

The melodies of *Kyiv, 2022* are derived from three sources; [Meadowlands](#) (a Russian folk song and the basis for *Moscow, 1941*), [Prayer for Ukraine](#) (Oleksandr Konysky & Mykola Lysenko), and [Ukrainian National Anthem](#).

Meadowlands is used as a foreboding and ever present threat to the peacefulness of the *Prayer for Ukraine* melody. The opening motif of *Meadowlands* is presented first in the low brass at



measure 1 and is used as fragmented material throughout. The first variation on this theme is presented in measure 7 with passing tones added between the 2nd and 3rd note. The same motif is presented two beats later in the saxophones, trumpets and horns moving in parallel major thirds. The opening *Meadowlands* theme is again presented in measure 21 by the muted trumpets. In measure 61, a full statement of the *Meadowlands* theme is presented in the bassoon, clarinet, tenor saxophone and euphonium.

Prayer for Ukraine constitutes the bulk of the melodic material for this work. The full statement of *Prayer* is heard at measure 11 in the flutes as the people of Ukraine are hopeful that violence will not be shed on their homeland. This opening four measure melody sets a peaceful mood as the



melody continues into the second and third phrases before the half cadence at m29.

In two referenced versions of *Prayer for Ukraine*, the phrase beginning at m25 has slight differences with the lowered 7th (Te) present in measure 26 in one, but not the other. Balmages



uses this material from *Prayer for Ukraine* as a two measure developmental fragment beginning at m84 in *Kyiv, 2022*

before a full statement of the phrase at measure 92. In *Kyiv, 2022* the lowered 7th is used in measure 94 which builds the tension and resolve. The English translation of this phrase is “Grant her freedom, grant her wisdom, grant illumination”, which is fitting for the build to the climax of the work.

The final phrase of *Prayer for Ukraine* is presented at measure 100 of *Kyiv, 2022* in the upper woodwinds and horns.

The final source for melodic material is the *Ukrainian National Anthem*, which is foreshadowed at measure 34 as it progresses through the keys of Bb, G, Ab, and A, before being presented in full at measure 42.

Rhythm *Kyiv, 2022* is written in common time with tempo changes at m30 and m72. The final 4 measures are performed very slowly giving dramatic resolve. There is a consistent triplet feel in the vibraphone against the eighth note melodies and 16th note figures in the timpani and snare drum. Throughout the work, the quarter note-two eighth rhythm from the opening of *Prayer for Ukraine* is used in its original form and in rhythmic augmentation. These eighth notes provide a deliberate marching feel at measure 30, implying the movement of the Russian army towards the city of Kyiv. In fragments of the *Ukrainian National Anthem* the dotted-quarter eighth note rhythm is prevalent, which gives the music forward motion and resolve. The *Meadowlands* theme at measure 61 is also presented in an augmented rhythm from the introductory statement. At measure 72, we are introduced to a rhythmic ostinato pattern, which provides an underlying feel of determination against the layered slower moving melody above it.



Harmony The Key Signature of *Kyiv, 2022* is Bb major/G minor however Balmages explores tonality with various tone clusters foreshadowing the growing tension in the piece. From the opening chords in measure 2, there is a sense of tension as Balmages stacks a perfect 4th over a perfect 5th a half step apart in a cluster effect. This technique is used throughout the work to increase tension, especially at friction points (measure 8, 21). The result is a minor second in the middle voices and a b9 (minor second + an octave) in the outside voices, providing multiple points of conflict. The same tension is used with the muted trumpets, set a minor second apart in measure 16.



At measure 30, the clarinets sustain a Fsus chord that shows instability without resolution.

Beginning at measure 34, Balmages takes us through several tonal centers with the fragmented melody. Measure 34 presents the Ukrainian National Anthem fragment in Bb, in measure 36 the same fragment is presented in G major, in measure 38 in Ab major, and in 40 in A major before returning to the full statement in the home key of Bb. The effect is the growing sense of urgency to create a unified front against the Russian oppressors.

Timbre A master at the use of the instrumental tone colors, Balmages creates effects using the vibraphone, trumpet straight mutes, woodwind vs brass choirs and tessitura. The low brass and reeds are used to signify a powerful ongoing threat of violence. The flute is used for the opening

statement of melody at m11, with a pure clear tone, against the tremolo of saxophones and tension of the clarinets moving against a steady tone. A triplet arpeggiation is present in the vibraphone, which is sustained to create a hypnotic wash of sound. The undertone of instability shows how fragile peace really is in the area. With the sting of muted trumpets in minor second harmony at m16 the threat of aggression is a very real shift from the peaceful nature of the opening themes. At m17, the woodwind alternates a chorale-like statement with the trills of the low reeds and low brass, signifying the growing unrest as the muted trumpets sound the Meadowland melody. Once again, the woodwind choir returns to complete the Prayer for Ukraine melody, with the brass used to highlight the last phrase at m25.

Texture *Kyiv, 2022* relies primarily on melody-driven Homophony for compositional texture. The melodies at measure 7 have an air of polyphony about them. As *Prayer for Ukraine* and *Ukrainian National Anthem* have been arranged for four part choir, this homophonic texture is used at sections beginning at m17, 23, 42, 92 and 108.

At measure 50, there are definite hints at polyphony with descending eighth note melodic lines contrasting the slower quarter note melodies of the upper woodwinds and chords in the brass. Balmages also uses some pyramid effects especially in the low reeds and brass starting at measure 61.

The textures alternate and vary from thin (measure 4, measure 11) to thickly scored (measure 30 and measure 42).

Dynamics The entire dynamic spectrum is explored throughout *Kyiv, 2022*. Alternating between the Fortissimo Marcato expressions of the Meadowlands theme, with the piano and mezzo-piano melodies from the woodwinds. The overall shape of the piece functions as a forte-piano crescendo.

Musical Selection *Kyiv, 2022* is a powerful example of a well crafted piece, demonstrating a masterful composer's ability to utilize various melodic material and create a wondrous expression of resolve and patriotism. Balmages use of tone clusters gives students an opportunity to explore harmonic tension, while still providing a solid sense of tonality.

Additional Considerations Requires 8 percussionists, however can be performed with 5 or 6. The percussion is essential to the successful performance of this piece, as it adds a timbral effect that adds depth and musicality to the work.

**THE HEART
STATEMENT**

The heart of *Kyiv, 2022* is the manipulation of harmony and timbre, which demonstrates the strength and resolve of a nation united in fighting for its sovereignty.

**Introducing
The Piece**

Discussion about World Events - How can we use music to relate to the world around us?

OUTCOMES:

Skill Outcome

Students will demonstrate various contrasting styles of articulation (timbre) and dynamics.

Strategies

1. **Articulation Posters** - Use the visual diagrams of various articulations to help students understand air.
2. **Breathing Gym** - Apply strategies from Breathing Gym for articulations. Paper airplane air, bow and arrow air, etc.
3. **Apply Articulations to Warm-Ups** - Students will take turns deciding how to use articulations and dynamics in foundation warm-ups. This will be applied to scales, chords and the Prayer for Ukraine chorale.
4. **Tabuteau System** - Apply the Tabuteau (Sound in Motion)

Assessments

1. Informal classroom observation and performance (Formative)
2. **Individual Performance Assessment** - Students will record the melody demonstrating their understanding of phrase shaping (Summative)

**Knowledge
Outcome**

Students will explore the compositional concepts of melodic fragmentation, melodic extension, rhythmic augmentation and diminution.

Strategies:

1. **Prayer for Ukraine** - Rehearse Prayer for Ukraine as a chorale warm-up for source material. Compare and contrast how Balmages uses the melodies/harmonies in the composition.
2. **Simple Melodies - How many ways can we alter a melody?**
Take a simple melody that would inspire you if you were in a similar situation where your homeland was attacked (ex. Yankee Doodle) and perform in rhythmic augmentation and diminution. Create variations with the following compositional concepts: Rhythmic Variation, Repetition, Inversion, Retrograde, Note Substitution, Change Key (Major to Minor), Sequence, etc.
3. **Exploring and Composing Melodies** - Students will compose a simple melody and notate in Flat.io. From there, they will create variations on the melody by using fragmentation, extension, augmentation and diminution.

Assessments

1. **Prayer for Ukraine** - Informal discussion and score marking (Formative)
2. **Simple Melodies Project** - Group Project (Formative)
3. **Exploring and Composing Melodies** - Guided worksheet (Formative)

Affective Outcome

Students will explore how their individual actions contribute to a greater sense of Unity and Resolve (Building Community - Agency/Social Change SEL).

Strategies:

- 1. Individual Actions** Students will reflect on individual contributions that they make to their community, family, organizations. Connect with the Holocaust experience from the 8th Grade ELA Curriculum. How did the individual actions of individuals help others?



- <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/proof-that-one-person-can-make-a-difference/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AKe0SMPzIVQ>
- <https://encouragingmomsathome.com/10-ways-teens-can-make-a-difference/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nv0KO7InfhQ>

- 2. Project Kyiv, 2022: How can we make a difference?** Students will reflect on how our small group can have an impact on a crisis halfway around the world. From this they will research and organize a relief project as part of our spring band concert. Involve social workers, ELA Teachers, NJHS, International aid organizations, etc.



- <https://padlet.com/brank5/5clcducyd4sc2zq6>
- <https://www.npr.org/2022/02/25/1082992947/ukraine-support-help>

- 3. United We Stand** How does volunteering or advocacy help us feel united? How does it strengthen our own resolve?

Assessments

- **Journal Reflections**
- **Volunteering/Advocacy Efforts**
- **Padlet Brainstorm** for Group Service Project
- **Collective Group Project:** The students have decided to support "Save the Children" as our Humanitarian Relief Organization and are using our concert as an opportunity to sell Sunflower Seeds that can be planted in a garden. Each package will contain three sunflower seeds, wrapped with Yellow and Royal Blue ribbon. The students will also wear a double ribbon on their music polo shirts in support of the



brave people that are defending their homeland and those that have been displaced.

On Wednesday, May 4, students will be dividing into 4 groups to complete the following:

- a. Assemble Sunflower Seed Packets with Tissue Paper and blue/yellow ribbon
- b. Make Blue/Yellow Ribbons to wear in support for the performance
- c. Create Posters to advertise for the Performance/Fundraiser
- d. Write Articles for the Principal's Weekly Newsletter, the School Newspaper, local newspapers/Patch/etc

**10 Ways To
Take Out The
Piece**

1. Was written as a sequel to a previous work by the same composer
2. Utilizes a national anthem as thematic material
3. Employs the use of tone clusters
4. Uses drastic changes in Timbre and Articulations
5. Uses rhythmic augmentation and diminution
6. Employs a syncopated Rhythmic Ostinato
7. Was written in 2022
8. Portrays conflict through music
9. Embodies the resolve of a nation under attack
10. Thoughtfully uses minor seconds to build tension

**Additional
Concepts &
Ideas That Can
Be Taught
With This
Piece**

**NTS
(note to self)
and other
Resources**

**Checklist
of Items
Needed To
Teach This
Piece**

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|---|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ● Printed scores/parts | ● Notecards | ● Padlet |
| ● Prayer for Ukraine
Parts/Score | ● Journals, Pencils | ● Composing Melodies
Worksheet |
| ● Google Forms & Questions
Set Up in Advance | ● Rubrics | |
| | ● Materials for Service Project | |