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# PLAGUE WATER

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*A quartet for*  
Baritone saxophone,  
Electric guitar,  
Piano, and  
Untuned percussion

*Composed by*  
JOSIAH WOLF OBERHOLTZER

2014

*A water against the plague...*

From Volodimir Pavliuchuk's *Cordial Waters*:

No.1 Plague Water (1671, England)

- 150 gm scabious (*Scabiosa sp.*)
- 150 gm pimpernel (*Anagallis arvensis*)
- 150 gm tormentil root (*Potentilla erecta*)
- 4 litres 5% malt extract wash  
*(strong beer as in the original)*

Macerate for 12 hours and then distil.  
The recommended does is a spoonful every 4 hours.

No.2 Plague Water (1677, England)

- 100 gm rue
- 100 gm rosemary
- 100 gm sage
- 100 gm sorrel
- 100 gm celandine (*Chelidonium majus*)  
*(The leaves contain small amounts of toxic alkaloids  
which can be reduced greatly by drying the plant)*
- 100 gm mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*)
- 100 gm bramble (blackberry) tops
- 100 gm pimpernel (*Anagallis arvensis*)
- 100 gm dragons (*Dracunculus vulgaris.*)
- 100 gm agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*)
- 100 gm lemonbalm
- 100 gm angelica leaves
- 4 litres white wine  
*(substitute a 15% ABV sugar wash)*

Macerate for 5 days and then distil.

## for Ensemble Nickel

Josiah Wolf Oberholtzer (1984)

**$\frac{3}{4}$  ♩ = 72**

3/4 ♩ = 72

5/16

2/4

7/16

2/4

5/16

saxophone

e-guitar

piano

shakers

drums

⑦  $\frac{3}{4}$  ♩ = 72

7  $\frac{3}{4}$  ♩ = 72

saxophone

e-guitar

piano

shakers

drums

$\frac{2}{4}$

$\frac{3}{4}$  ♩ = 72

## 3A

**3**  
**4** ♩ = 72

11

24

8

516

34

saxophone

e-guitar

piano

shakers

drums

16

516

34

516

34

saxophone

e-guitar

piano

shakers

drums

3B

21

516

8

34

72

24

saxophone

e-guitar

piano

shakers

drums

26

68

516

34

saxophone

e-guitar

piano

shakers

drums

30

516

34

516

34

4

72

24

saxophone

e-guitar

piano

shakers

drums

35

68

516

34

516

saxophone

e-guitar

piano

shakers

drums

40

34

516

34

516

saxophone

e-guitar

piano

shakers

drums

5

45

8

34

72

24

8

saxophone

e-guitar

piano

shakers

drums

6

7

50

34

72

516

34

72

24

saxophone

e-guitar

piano

shakers

drums



10A

71

3/4 ♩ = 72

2/4

8

5/16

3/4

saxophone

e-guitar

piano

shakers

drums

76

5/16

3/4

5/16

3/4

saxophone

e-guitar

piano

shakers

drums

10B

81

5/16

8

3/4 ♩ = 72

saxophone

e-guitar

piano

shakers

drums



86

24

8

516

34

saxophone

e-guitar

piano

shakers

drums

91

516

34

516

34

saxophone

e-guitar

piano

shakers

drums

10C

96

516

8

34

24

♩ = 72

saxophone

e-guitar

piano

shakers

drums

101

6

5

16

3

4

saxophone

e-guitar

piano

shakers

drums

10D

105

5

16

3

4

5

16

3

4

72

2

4

saxophone

e-guitar

piano

shakers

drums

110

6

5

16

3

4

5

16

saxophone

e-guitar

piano

shakers

drums

115

34

516

34

516

saxophone

e-guitar

piano

shakers

drums

II

120

68

34

24

68

saxophone

e-guitar

piano

shakers

drums

12A

125

34

24

68

516

34

saxophone

e-guitar

piano

shakers

drums

I2B

130

5/16

3/4

5/16

3/4 ♩ = 72

musical staff system 130-134

instruments: saxophone, e-guitar, piano, shakers, drums

measures: 130, 131, 132, 133, 134

135

2/4

6/8

5/16

3/4

musical staff system 135-139

instruments: saxophone, e-guitar, piano, shakers, drums

measures: 135, 136, 137, 138, 139

140

5/16

3/4

5/16

3/4

musical staff system 140-144

instruments: saxophone, e-guitar, piano, shakers, drums

measures: 140, 141, 142, 143, 144

I3

145

5  
16

8

3  
4

♩ = 72

2  
4

saxophone

e-guitar

piano

shakers

drums

I4

150

6  
8

3  
4

♩ = 72

2  
4

6  
8

5  
16

saxophone

e-guitar

piano

shakers

drums

155

3  
4

5  
16

3  
4

5  
16

saxophone

e-guitar

piano

shakers

drums

160

3

4

5

16

6

8

saxophone

e-guitar

piano

shakers

drums

165

3

4

7

16

5

16

6

8

saxophone

e-guitar

piano

shakers

drums

15

170

3

4

2

4

6

8

5

16

3

4

♩

= 72

saxophone

e-guitar

piano

shakers

drums

175

$\frac{5}{16}$

$\frac{3}{4}$

$\frac{5}{16}$

I6

$\frac{3}{4}$  ♩ = 72

musical score for measures 175-176, featuring saxophone, e-guitar, piano, shakers, and drums. The score includes various rhythmic notations and time signatures.

**Measure 175:**  $\frac{5}{16}$  and  $\frac{3}{4}$  time signatures. The saxophone, e-guitar, piano, shakers, and drums all have rests.

**Measure 176:**  $\frac{3}{4}$  time signature, ♩ = 72. The saxophone has a triplet of eighth notes (3:2). The e-guitar has a half note. The piano has a triplet of eighth notes (3:2) and a quarter note. The shakers have a triplet of eighth notes (3:2) and a quarter note. The drums have a triplet of eighth notes (3:2) and a quarter note.

180

$\frac{5}{16}$

$\frac{2}{4}$

$\frac{7}{16}$

$\frac{2}{4}$

$\frac{5}{16}$

I7A

$\frac{3}{4}$  ♩ = 72

musical score for measures 180-181, featuring saxophone, e-guitar, piano, shakers, and drums. The score includes various rhythmic notations and time signatures.

**Measure 180:**  $\frac{5}{16}$  and  $\frac{2}{4}$  time signatures. The saxophone has a triplet of eighth notes (3:2) and a quarter note. The e-guitar has a half note. The piano has a triplet of eighth notes (3:2) and a quarter note. The shakers have a triplet of eighth notes (3:2) and a quarter note. The drums have a triplet of eighth notes (3:2) and a quarter note.

**Measure 181:**  $\frac{7}{16}$  and  $\frac{2}{4}$  time signatures. The saxophone has a triplet of eighth notes (3:2) and a quarter note. The e-guitar has a half note. The piano has a triplet of eighth notes (3:2) and a quarter note. The shakers have a triplet of eighth notes (3:2) and a quarter note. The drums have a triplet of eighth notes (3:2) and a quarter note.

186

$\frac{2}{4}$

$\frac{6}{8}$

$\frac{5}{16}$

$\frac{3}{4}$

musical score for measures 186-187, featuring saxophone, e-guitar, piano, shakers, and drums. The score includes various rhythmic notations and time signatures.

**Measure 186:**  $\frac{2}{4}$  time signature. The saxophone, e-guitar, piano, shakers, and drums all have rests.

**Measure 187:**  $\frac{6}{8}$  time signature. The saxophone, e-guitar, piano, shakers, and drums all have rests.

191

516

34

516

34

saxophone

e-guitar

piano

shakers

drums

I7B

196

516

8

34

♩ = 72

24

saxophone

e-guitar

piano

shakers

drums

201

68

516

34

516

saxophone

e-guitar

piano

shakers

drums



saxophone

e-guitar

piano

shakers

drums

Jamaica Plain  
December 2013 - February 2014

2014-02-14

*Scores available from the composer at*  
[www.josiahwolfoberholtzer.com](http://www.josiahwolfoberholtzer.com)

€25 / \$35