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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

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.

**Baritone Saxophone** Cross-shaped noteheads indicate key-clicks.

**Electric Guitar** The electric guitar should be treated with 6 different colors, via effects pedal(s). The color to be used is indicated at the beginning of each section of the score. Pedal colors may include any combination of distortion, reverb or short delay (less than a quarter second). A volume pedal should be placed last in the effect chain, to control overall dynamic.

**Piano** Cross-shaped noteheads indicate glissandi on the tops of the keys, without depressing the keys, played with the flesh of the fingers, or fingernails. A flat or natural sign above the glissandi determines whether to play on the black or white keys.

**Percussion** Instrumentation is somewhat up to the discretion of the performer, but should obey the following guidelines:

- *4 wooden shakers*, bamboo wind-chimes, maracas, rainsticks, cabasa, etc. These can include metallic timbres (for example, if a cabasa is used), but should be primarily wood. The order of the shakers is not important. Instruments with a longer decay, and a more granular sound quality, such as rainsticks and bamboo windchimes are preferred.
- *5 wood blocks*, arranged from lowest to highest. The exact pitch is not important. These could also be temple blocks. The sound quality should be very dry.
- *3 large drums*, including at least one proper bass drum, arranged from lowest to highest.

Performance implements consist of hard mallets (for the wood blocks), and soft mallets, super-balls, stiff paint-brushes or wire brushes (whichever is louder), and styrofoam blocks for the bass drums. The wooden shakers may be played with the hand, or excited with mallets, as convenient.

Percussion grace notes may be played in any manner.

# PLAGUE WATER

for Ensemble Nike

Josiah Wolf Oberholtzer (1984)

**I**

$\frac{2}{4}$   $\text{♩} = 64$   $\frac{3}{8}$

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

4 wood shakers

5 wood blocks

3 bass drums

①

$\frac{2}{4}$   $\frac{3}{8}$   $\frac{3}{16}$

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

2

8  $\frac{3}{4}$  ♩ = 80

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

COLOR TWO

6:5 4:3 5:3 5:4 3:2 3:2 3:2 8:7 12:7

*mp* *f* *p* *p* *p*

10  $\frac{3}{4}$

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

5:3 5:4 3:2 4:3 6:5 4:3 5:4 5:3 4:3

*mp* *f* *p* *p* *p*

12  $\frac{3}{4}$

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

4:3 3:2 4:3

*mp* *f* *p* *p* *p*

# 3A

(14)

2/4 ♩ = 72

baritone saxophone *sfz* 3:2 4/4 3:2 4/4 4:3 5:3 *ff*

electric guitar **COLOR THREE** *p*

piano *p*

wood shakers

wood blocks *mp* 3:2 12:11

bass drums **SUPERRALL** *mp*

(16)

2/4 4:3 3/8 3:2 2/4 4:3

baritone saxophone *mf* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz*

electric guitar *p* *pp*

piano *p*

wood shakers *mf* *ff*

wood blocks *mp* *f*

bass drums *mp* *mp* *mp* 12:7

(20)

4/4

baritone saxophone *sfz*

electric guitar *p* 3:2 *p*

piano *p*

wood shakers

wood blocks *mp* 3:2 *mp*

bass drums *f* 6:5 *sfz* *mp* 16:9 *f*

(22)

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

*mf*

*mp*

4.3

*p*

(23)

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

*sf*

*p*

*mp*

3.2

3.2

3.2

3.2

3.2

(26)

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

*sf*

*ff*

*p*

*p*

*mp*

*f*

*mp*

8.5

3.2

3.2

3.2

3.2

20.11

(28)

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

*mf*

*sf*

*p*

*mp*

*f*

*mp*

6.5

3.2

3.2

3.2

3B

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

37  $\frac{2}{8}$   $\frac{2}{4}$

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

38  $\frac{4}{4}$

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

4  $\frac{2}{4}$   $\frac{7}{8}$  ♩ = 96

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

BRUSH

COLOR FOUR

BRUSH



44

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

45

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

48

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

51  $\frac{7}{8}$   $\frac{3}{16}$

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

54  $\frac{11}{16}$   $\frac{5}{16}$

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

57  $\frac{3}{16}$   $\frac{7}{8}$

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

59

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

61

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

63

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

(66)

7/8 3/16

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

3:2 4:3 3:2 8va 8vb

(69)

5/16 3/16 3/4 ♩ = 80

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

3:2 8va 8vb COLOR TWO 5:4 5:3 4:3 4:3 3:2 p mp f

(72)

6/16 3/8 3/4

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

4p 5:4 6:5 6:5 8:5 4:3 p mp

75  $\frac{3}{8}$   $\frac{9}{16}$

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

5:4

6:5

3:2

mp

f

p

sub

4:3

pp

3:2

p

6

76  $\frac{3}{4}$   $\frac{3}{8}$  ♩ = 112

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

3:2

4:3

6:5

3:2

mp

fp

f

COLOR FIVE

p

8:5

3:2

p

sub

6:5

p

8:5

pp

77

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

84

7

$\frac{5}{16}$  ♩ = 48

7

$\frac{7}{16}$

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

*p*

3.2

**COLOR SIX**

*fff*

*ppp*

15ma

3.2

*pp*

8va

*p*

**STYROFOAM**

*mp*

6.5

*fp*

8.5

87

$\frac{2}{4}$

$\frac{3}{4}$

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

*pp*

*p*

15ma

*ppp*

8va

*pp*

3.2

*pp*

L.V.

3.2

*pp*

4.3

6.5

*mp*

*f*

8

89  $\frac{5}{16}$   $\frac{3}{4}$  ♩ = 80  $\frac{6}{16}$

baritone saxophone *ppp* *mp* *f* 5.3

electric guitar *pp* 4.3 3.2 **COLOR TWO** *mp* *f* 5.3

piano *p* 15ma 3.2 *p* 3.2 *ppp* 3.2 8va *p* 8vb

wood shakers *p* 3.2 *p* 4.3

wood blocks *p* 3.2

bass drums *mp* 8.5

92  $\frac{3}{8}$   $\frac{3}{4}$

baritone saxophone *mp* 6.5 *mp*

electric guitar *mp* 6.5

piano *p* 8.5 *p*

wood shakers *p* 3.2

wood blocks *p* 3.2

bass drums

94

3/8 6/8

baritone saxophone *mp* *f*

electric guitar *mp* *f*

piano *pp* *p* *mf*

wood shakers *pp* *p*

wood blocks *p*

bass drums *p*

95

3/8 3/4

baritone saxophone *mp*

electric guitar *mp* *f*

piano *p*

wood shakers

wood blocks *p* *pp* *mp*

bass drums *p*

9

98 2/4 ♩ = 64 2/8

baritone saxophone *sfz*

electric guitar **COLOR ONE** *sfz*

piano *sfz* *f*

wood shakers *mp*

wood blocks **SOFT MALLETS** *mp*

bass drums *mp*





108

3

4

baritone saxophone

*ppp*

*p*

electric guitar

*pp*

*ppp*

piano

*p*

*pp*

*ppp*

*p*

L.V.

*p*

*ppp*

wood shakers

*p*

*ppp*

wood blocks

bass drums

*mp*

*f*

*mp*

10B

110

7

16

baritone saxophone

*p*

electric guitar

*ppp*

*ppp*

piano

*pp*

*p*

L.V.

*p*

wood shakers

*ppp*

wood blocks

bass drums

*f*

*pp*

*mp*

112  $\frac{3}{4}$

baritone saxophone *pp* *ppp*

electric guitar *p* *pp* 3:2

piano *ppp* 15ma 3:2 8va 3:2 *p* 15ma 3:2 8va 4:3 *ppp* L.V.

wood shakers *pp* 3:2 *p*

wood blocks

bass drums *mp* *mp* *p* *mp* 4:3 8:5

114  $\frac{2}{4}$   $\frac{5}{16}$

baritone saxophone *p*

electric guitar *ppp*

piano *pp* 15ma 15ma 8va *p* L.V.

wood shakers *ppp* 4:3

wood blocks

bass drums *f* 10:9 *mp* *f* 3:2 *fp*

117

10C

2/4 ♩ = 48

3/4

baritone saxophone

*p*

COLOR SIX

4:3

electric guitar

*ppp*

*p*

piano

15ma

3:2

*pp*

8va

*p*

3:2

8va

*pp*

L.V.

wood shakers

*ppp*

*pp*

wood blocks

STYROFOAM

3:2

bass drums

*mp*

*f*

*fp*

*mp*

119

2/4

5/16

baritone saxophone

*ppp*

3:2

electric guitar

*pp*

piano

15ma

*p*

8va

*ppp*

8va

*pp*

L.V.

wood shakers

*p*

wood blocks

bass drums

8:7

*f*

## 10D

122

$$\frac{2}{4} \text{ ♩} = 48$$

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

*p*

**COLOR SIX**

*ppp*

*pp*

*p*

*ppp*

**STYROFOAM**

*mp* *f*

124

48

24

5  
16

The musical score for 'The Sound of Silence' by Simon & Garfunkel is presented in a multi-staff format. The instruments and their parts are as follows:

- baritone saxophone:** Plays a melodic line in the right hand, starting with a *pp* dynamic and a 4:3 ratio. The second measure features a *pppp* dynamic and a 3:2 ratio.
- electric guitar:** Plays a melodic line in the right hand, starting with a *p* dynamic and a 15ma (15th harmonic) articulation. The second measure features a *pp* dynamic and a 15ma articulation.
- piano:** Plays a complex melodic line in the right hand, starting with a *pppp* dynamic and a 8va (8th harmonic) articulation. The second measure features a *p* dynamic and a 8va articulation. The left hand plays a bass line with a 4:3 ratio.
- wood shakers:** Play a rhythmic pattern in the right hand, starting with a *pp* dynamic and a 3:2 ratio. The second measure features a *p* dynamic and a 3:2 ratio.
- wood blocks:** Play a rhythmic pattern in the right hand, starting with a *p* dynamic and a 4:3 ratio. The second measure features a *p* dynamic and a 3:2 ratio.
- bass drums:** Play a rhythmic pattern in the right hand, starting with a *mp* dynamic and a 4:3 ratio. The second measure features a *mp* dynamic and a 4:3 ratio.

The score includes various dynamics (*pp*, *pppp*, *p*, *mp*, *f*) and articulations (*15ma*, *8va*) to guide the performance. The tempo is marked as *Andante* at the beginning.

127

719

5  
16

24

The musical score is arranged in a multi-stem format. The instruments and their parts are as follows:

- baritone saxophone:** Plays a melodic line in the right hand, starting with a *p* (piano) dynamic and moving to *pp* (pianissimo).
- electric guitar:** Plays a melodic line in the right hand, starting with a *ppp* (pianississimo) dynamic and moving to *pp*.
- piano:** Features a complex melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The right hand starts with *ppp* and moves to *pp*, while the left hand starts with *pp* and moves to *p*. The score includes time signatures of 3/2 and 6/5.
- wood shakers:** Play a rhythmic pattern in the right hand, starting with a *ppp* dynamic.
- wood blocks:** Play a rhythmic pattern in the right hand, starting with a *ppp* dynamic.
- bass drums:** Play a rhythmic pattern in the right hand, starting with a *mp* (mezzo-piano) dynamic and moving to *fp* (fortissimo).

The score includes various musical notations such as dynamics (*p*, *pp*, *ppp*, *mp*, *fp*), time signatures (3/2, 6/5), and articulation marks (accents, slurs). The overall style is a detailed musical score for a live performance or recording.

**II**

(130)  $\frac{2}{4}$   $\text{♩} = 64$

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

(133)

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums



The musical score is for the song "The Sound of Silence" by Simon & Garfunkel. It is written for a band consisting of baritone saxophone, electric guitar, piano, wood shakers, wood blocks, and bass drums. The score is in 4/4 time and includes dynamic markings such as *sfz*, *ff*, *mf*, *p*, and *mp*. The baritone saxophone and electric guitar parts are in 2/4 time, while the piano, wood shakers, wood blocks, and bass drums are in 4/4 time. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings.

[illegible]

12B

151

4/4 ♩ = 72

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

COLOR THREE

16.11 4.3

p

p

p

3.2

p

L.V.

4.3 3.2

mp

8.5

f

SUPERBALL

mp

fp



153

$\frac{4}{4}$

2

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

mp

f

16.9

3.2

8oz

L.V.

[illegible]

157

8

4

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

*ff*

*p*

*p*

*mp*

*mp*

*f*

*mp*

*mp*

3.2

4.3

L.V.

3.2

6.5

3.2

161  $\frac{2}{8}$   $\frac{2}{4}$   $\frac{2}{8}$

baritone saxophone *sfz* *ff* *sfz* 3:2

electric guitar

piano *p* 4:3 *p*

wood shakers L.V. L.V.

wood blocks

bass drums *p*

165  $\frac{4}{16}$   $\frac{4}{4}$   $\frac{2}{8}$

baritone saxophone *sfz* 8:7 4:3

electric guitar

piano *p* 4:3

wood shakers L.V.

wood blocks

bass drums *mp* 16:11 *f* *p*

168  $\frac{2}{4}$   $\frac{2}{8}$

baritone saxophone *sfz* 5:4 8:5 *ff*

electric guitar *p* 3:2

piano *p* 8va 3:2

wood shakers 3:2

wood blocks *mp*

bass drums *mp* 3:2 *f* 3:2 *sfz* 5:4



178  $\frac{3}{4}$

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

*mp* *f* *mp* *p* *pp* *p*

6.5 5.4 8.7

14

180  $\frac{7}{8}$   $\text{♩} = 96$

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

(sempre *ppp*) *ppp* *ppp* *ppp* *ppp* *ppp*

COLOR FOUR

BRUSH

3.2 3.2 3.2 3.2 3.2

181  $\frac{3}{16}$

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

15ma 8va 15ma 15mb

3.2

(184)  $\frac{5}{16}$   $\frac{7}{8}$

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

(186)  $\frac{7}{16}$

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

(188)  $\frac{11}{16}$   $\frac{7}{16}$

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

190  $\frac{7}{8}$   $\frac{3}{16}$   $\frac{7}{16}$

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

193  $\frac{5}{16}$   $\frac{7}{8}$

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

195  $\frac{3}{16}$   $\frac{7}{8}$   $\frac{3}{16}$

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

198 **7** **8** **3** **16**

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

3.2

8va

15ma

15mb

6.5

8.5

3.2

*p*

201 **7** **16** **8**

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

8va

3.2

8va

8va

15ma

8va

8va

8vb

8vb

6.5

3.2

203 **3** **16** **11** **16** **7** **16**

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

3.2

8va

8va

15ma

3.2

3.2

4.3

3.2

*p*

*p*

206

7/8

3/16

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

209

5/16

3/16

5/8

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

15

3/16

5/16

7/16

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

213

3/16

5/16

7/16

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

STYROFOAM

mp



218

2

4

5

16

baritone saxophone

*ppp*

*p*

3:2

electric guitar

*pp*

4:3

piano

*ppp*

*p*

3:2

15ma

L.V.

L.V.

wood shakers

*p*

wood blocks

bass drums

3:2

6:5

*f*

*fp*

*mp*

*f*

16

221

2

4

♩ = 64

2

8

baritone saxophone

3:2

*sfz*

3:2

*sfz*

3:2

*sfz*

*sfz*

electric guitar

COLOR ONE

3:2

*sfz*

*sfz*

5:4

*sfz*

*sfz*

piano

5:3

*sfz*

5:4

*sfz*

5:4

*sfz*

5:3

*f*

L.V.

wood shakers

*mp*

*mp*

wood blocks

SOFT MALLETS

4:3

bass drums

*mp*

*mp*

224

2/4 8 3/16

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

5.3 5.4 5.3 5.4

4.3 3.2

mp f

L.V.

17A

228

8 J = 96 3/16

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

(sempre **ppp**)

COLOR FOUR

8va

3.2

15ma

p

8va

3.2

8va

4.3

BRUSH

(sempre **ppp**)

3.2

230

8 3/16

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

3.2

8va

3.2

8va

3.2

15ma

8va

8va

6.5

3.2

3.2

4.3

3.2

(233)  $\frac{5}{16}$   $\frac{11}{16}$  6.5

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

(236)  $\frac{7}{8}$   $\frac{7}{16}$  3.2 3.2 15ma 15ma 8va 4.3 6.5

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

(238)  $\frac{7}{8}$  3.2 8va 4.3 15ma 3.2 8va 4.3 3.2

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

(240) 4.3 3.2 15ma 15ma 3.2 3.2 8va

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

(241)  $\frac{3}{8}$

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

(243)  $\frac{3}{16}$   $\frac{7}{8}$

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

(245)  $\frac{3}{16}$

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

(248)  $\frac{7}{8}$   $\frac{3}{16}$

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

3:2

3:2

8va-----

8va-----

8va-----

15mb-----

3:2

4:3

(250)  $\frac{5}{16}$   $\frac{7}{16}$   $\frac{17}{16}$  ♩ = 96

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

3:2

4:3

6:5

(sempre *ppp*)

COLOR FOUR

8va-----

3:2

8va-----

(sempre *ppp*)

8va-----

3:2

4:3

(sempre *ppp*)

(sempre *ppp*)

8vb-----

8:5

BRUSH

4:3

(sempre *ppp*)

(253)  $\frac{7}{8}$   $\frac{3}{16}$

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

3:2

3:2

15ma-----

8vb-----

255

8

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

3:2

15ma

3:2

8va

3:2

8va

[illegible][illegible]



2014-02-14

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

€25 / \$35