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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 granular sound quality, like 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 and styrofoam blocks for the bass drums. The wooden shakers may be played with the hand, or excited with mallets, as convenient.

# PLAGUE WATER

*for Ensemble Nickel*

Josiah Wolf Oberholtzer (1984)

[illegible]

7 2 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

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

mp f mp f mp p p p p

11

3/4

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

3A

2/4 ♩ = 72

COLOR THREE

mp

f

sf

p

mp

p

mp

15

4/4

3:2

4:3

5:3

2/4

4:3

2/8

3:2

2/4

4:3

baritone saxophone

ff

mf

sfz

sfz

sfz

sfz

electric guitar

p

pp

4:3

piano

p

p

p

wood shakers

add. L.V.

wood blocks

mp

f

4:3

bass drums

mp

12:11

mp

8:5

mp

mp

12:7

mp

20

4/4

sfz

sfz

sfz

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

p

3:2

p

piano

p

add. L.V.

wood shakers

wood blocks

mp

mp

bass drums

f

6:5

sfp

mp

3:2

16:9

f

mp

4:3

p

23

2/8 2/4 2/8 4/4 2/8

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

*sfz* *ff* *p* *mp* *f* *mp* *ff*

3:2 3:2 3:2 8:5 3:2 3:2 3:2 20:11

**3B**

28  $\frac{4}{4}$

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

$\frac{3}{8}$   $\frac{2}{4}$   $\frac{4}{4}$  ♩ = 72

6:5 *mf* *sfz* 5:3 **COLOR THREE** *sfz* 4:3 8:5 *p* 8va *p* L.V. 3:2 *mp* 8:7 3:2 *mp* *f* 8:5 *mp* 8:5 *ff*

This musical score is for the song "The Sound of Silence" by Simon & Garfunkel. It is a 12-measure piece, divided into three 4-measure sections. The tempo is marked as "Moderato" and the key signature has one sharp (F#). The score is arranged for a baritone saxophone, electric guitar, piano, wood shakers, wood blocks, and bass drums.

**Baritone Saxophone:** The saxophone part begins with a 3:2 ratio, followed by a 16:11 ratio, and ends with a 3:2 ratio. It features a dynamic marking of *ff* (fortissimo) and a *mf* (mezzo-forte) marking.

**Electric Guitar:** The guitar part is marked *mf* and includes a 3:2 ratio. It features a dynamic marking of *p* (piano) and a *3:2* ratio.

**Piano:** The piano part is marked *p* and includes a 3:2 ratio. It features a dynamic marking of *p* and a *3:2* ratio.

**Wood Shakers:** The wood shakers part is marked *mp* and includes a 4:3 ratio.

**Wood Blocks:** The wood blocks part is marked *mp* and includes a 3:2 ratio.

**Bass Drums:** The bass drums part is marked *mp* and includes a 3:2 ratio.

The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings. It also includes a section labeled "Sua" and "L.V." (Lento Vivace).

37

3/4

2/4

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

8va 3:2

*p*

*sfz*

8:7

*sfz*

4:3

3:2

*p*

6:5

*sfz*

*mp*

*mp*

*mp*

*mp*

*f*

*sfz*

3:2

3:2

4:3

5:3

[illegible]

The musical score for "The Sound of Silence" by Simon & Garfunkel is presented for a full band arrangement. The score is divided into six staves, each representing a different instrument: baritone saxophone, electric guitar, piano, wood shakers, wood blocks, and bass drums. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings like "p" (piano) and "8va" (octave up). The score is divided into two systems, with the first system covering measures 1 through 8 and the second system covering measures 9 through 16. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings like "p" (piano) and "8va" (octave up). The score is divided into two systems, with the first system covering measures 1 through 8 and the second system covering measures 9 through 16.



[illegible][illegible]

62

7/16 3/16 7/8

4:3 3:2 4:3 3:2

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

8vb 3:2 8vb 8vb

8:5 8:5

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

5

67 5/16 3/16 3/4 ♩ = 80 6/16 3/8 3/4

5:4 5:3 6:5 4:3 4:3 5:4 6:5 8:5

mp f mp mp mp p p p p

COLOR TWO

8va 8va 8va 8vb 8vb 8vb 8vb 8vb

3:2 3:2 4:3 6:5 8:5

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

[illegible]

77

6

$\frac{3}{8}$  ♩ = 112

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

COLOR FIVE

COLOR SIX

15ma

8va

3:2

3:2

6:5

*pp*

*ppp*

*p*

*mp*

*sfz*

7

$\frac{5}{16}$  ♩ = 48

[illegible]

[illegible][illegible]

[illegible]

14



The musical score continues from measure 110. The baritone saxophone part has dynamics *pp*, *ppp*, and *p*. The electric guitar part has dynamics *p* and *pp*. The piano part features trills labeled "15ma" and "8va" with various articulations like accents and slurs. The wood shakers part has dynamics *pp* and *p*. The bass drums part includes complex rhythmic patterns with ratios like 4:3, 8:5, and 10:9, and dynamics *mp* and *f*.

10C

baritone  
saxophone

electric  
guitar

piano

L.V.

wood  
shakers

wood  
blocks

bass  
drums

*p*

*pp*

*ppp*

COLOR SIX

*ppp*

*p*

*pp*

15ma

*pp*

*ppp*

15ma

*p*

8va

*p*

*pp*

8va

*ppp*

L.V.

*ppp*

*pp*

*p*

*mp*

*f*

*fp*

*mp*

*f*

ioD

baritone  
saxophone

3:2 3:2  
*p*

*pp* 4:3  
*ppp*

electric  
guitar

COLOR SIX  
*ppp*

*p* 3:2  
*pp*

piano

8va- 15ma-  
*pp* *pp*  
*p*

15ma- 8va-  
*ppp* *p*  
*ppp* 4:3 4:3

L.V.

L.V.

L.V.

wood  
shakers

*ppp*

*pp* 3:2  
*p* 3:2

wood  
blocks

bass  
drums

3:2  
*mp* *f*

4:3  
*mp* *mp* *mp* *f*

II

2/4 ♩ = 64

7/16 5/16 2/4 2/4 3/8

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

*p* *pp* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz*

*ppp* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz*

*pp* *p* *sfz* *sfz* *f*

*ppp* *mp* *mp*

*mp* *sfz* *mp*

15ma- 15ma- 8va- 3:2 3:2 5:3 5:4 5:4 5:3 5:4 5:3 3:2 4:3

COLOR ONE

L.V. L.V.

8vb-

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

12A

 $\frac{4}{4}$ 

♩ = 72

 $\frac{2}{8}$ baritone  
saxophoneelectric  
guitar

piano

wood  
shakerswood  
blocksbass  
drums

COLOR THREE

137

4/4 2/8 4/4 2/8

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

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

*fz* *f* *fz* *f*

*p* *p* *p*

*p* *p*

*mp* *mp* *mp*

*mp* *f* *mp* *f*

L.V. L.V.

2/4

2/8 2/4 2/8 2/4 2/8

12:7

8va

L.V.

L.V.

L.V.

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

*sfz* *ff* *mf* *sfz* *sfz* *p* *pp* *p* *p* *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *p* *mp* *sfz* *mp* *4:3* *3:2* *3:2* *3:2* *12:7* *4:3* *3:2* *12:7*

## 12B

149

 $\frac{2}{4}$  ♩ = 72 $\frac{2}{8}$  $\frac{4}{4}$  $\frac{2}{8}$ 

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

3:2

3:2

ff

mf

sfz

16:9

5:4

4:3

p

8va

3:2

p

4:3

p

L.V.

L.V.

mp

4:3

mp

6:5

mp

f

155

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

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

6:5

4:3

sfz

sfz

4:3

6:5

ff

8va

3:2

p

p

L.V.

L.V.

mp

8:5

mp

3:2

f

mp

mp

4:3

4:3

p



[illegible]

[illegible]

171

3/4

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

6:5

mp

3:2

mp

6:5

mp

3:2

f

3:2

mp

6:5

f

3:2

p

8vb-----

pp

8:5

p

4:3

p

3:2

pp

8:7

14

7/8 ♩ = 96

COLOR FOUR

176

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

5:4

mp

6:5

3:2

8va-----

8va-----

8va-----

3:2

15ma-----

3:2

8vb-----

3:2

8vb-----

3:2

3:2

6:5

p

[illegible][illegible]

The musical score for "The Sound of Silence" by Simon & Garfunkel is presented for a full band arrangement. The score includes parts for baritone saxophone, electric guitar, piano, wood shakers, wood blocks, and bass drums. The tempo is marked as 190. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major/D minor). The score features various musical notations, including rests, notes, and dynamic markings such as *p* (piano) and *8va* (octave up). The score is divided into measures, with some measures containing multiple notes and rests. The score is written for a full band, including a baritone saxophone, electric guitar, piano, wood shakers, wood blocks, and bass drums. The score includes various musical notations, including rests, notes, and dynamic markings such as *p* (piano) and *8va* (octave up). The score is divided into measures, with some measures containing multiple notes and rests. The score is written for a full band, including a baritone saxophone, electric guitar, piano, wood shakers, wood blocks, and bass drums.

The musical score for "The Sound of Silence" by Simon & Garfunkel is presented for a full band arrangement. The score is organized into six staves, each representing a different instrument. The instruments are: baritone saxophone, electric guitar, piano, wood shakers, wood blocks, and bass drums. The score begins with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a time signature of 4/4. The tempo is marked as "Moderato". The score includes various musical notations such as rests, notes, and dynamic markings like "8va" and "8sub". The score is divided into measures by vertical bar lines. The first measure is marked with a "196" in a circle, indicating the year of the recording. The score is written in a standard musical notation style, with notes and rests clearly visible on each staff. The piano part features a prominent bass line with a "8sub" marking, indicating a sub-octave. The electric guitar part includes a "8va" marking, indicating an octave higher. The wood shakers and wood blocks provide a rhythmic accompaniment. The bass drums provide a steady beat. The score is a faithful representation of the original recording, capturing the essence of the song's sound.

3/16 7 3/16 5 5/16

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

8va

8va

8va

8va

8va

15ma

8va

8vb

8vb

8:5

3:2

6:5

4:3

3:2

p

The musical score is arranged in six staves. The top staff is for baritone saxophone, followed by electric guitar, piano (grand staff), wood shakers, wood blocks, and bass drums. The time signatures are 3/16, 7/16, 3/16, 5/16, and 5/16. The score includes various musical notations such as eighth notes, sixteenth notes, and rests. Performance instructions like '8va', '8vb', '15ma', and 'p' are used throughout. Rhythmic markings like '3:2', '6:5', '4:3', and '3:2' are also present.

15

baritone  
saxophone

electric  
guitar

piano

wood  
shakers

wood  
blocks

bass  
drums

Baritone saxophone: *ppp*, *p* (3:2), *sfz* (3:2), *sfz* (3:2), *sfz*

Electric guitar: *pp* (4:3), **COLOR ONE**, *sfz* (3:2), *sfz*, *sfz* (5:4)

Piano: *ppp* (3:2), *p* (15ma), *p*, *sfz* (5:3), *sfz* (5:4), *sfz* (5:4), *f* (5:3), L.V.

Wood shakers: *p*, *mp*, *mp* (3:2)

Wood blocks: (rest)

Bass drums: *f* (3:2), *sfz*, *mp* (6:5), *mp* (4:3), *mp*



baritone  
saxophoneelectric  
guitar

piano

wood  
shakerswood  
blocksbass  
drums

COLOR FOUR

8va-----

15ma---

8vb-----

L.V.

[illegible]

233

7/8 3/16 7/16 5/16 11/16

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

8va

15ma

8vb

3:2

4:3

8:5

6:5

[illegible][illegible]

11  
16

5  
16

316

17B

$$\frac{11}{16} \text{ ♩} = 96$$

$\bullet = 96$

716

**COLOR FOUR**

5  
16

316

78

5  
16

11  
16

*p*

260

7  
16

7  
8

5  
16

3:2

8va

4:3

8va

8va

15ma

3:2

4:3

3:2

8va

8va

8va

15ma

15ma

8vb

8vb

6:5

12:7

3:2

3:2

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

265

7  
16

3  
16

3:2

15ma

8va

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

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

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