## PLAGER NATER

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

Composed by JOSÉPHINE 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** Bartok-pizzicato indications above noteheads indicate slap tongues.

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, caxixi etc. These could include metal timbres, 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.

Percussion should be performed with bare hands. Wooden rings may be worn to increase the overall dynamic, especially on the wood blocks. Styrofoam blocks should be placed on the bass drums, to be used during the rehearsal marks indicated in the score (4, 14, 17a, 17b). Grace notes should always be played with the hands.

# PLAGEE NATER

 $for \, Ensemble \, Nikel$ 

Joséphine Wolf Oberholtzer (1984)

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