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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.

# PLAGUE WATER

*for Ensemble Nike*

Josiah Wolf Oberholtzer (1984)

[illegible]

2

6

2

3

8

3

6

16

♩ = 80

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

L.V.

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

11

3

6

16

4

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

3A

14  $\frac{9}{16}$   $\frac{2}{8}$   $\text{♩} = 72$   $\frac{2}{4}$   $\frac{2}{8}$

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

19  $\frac{4}{16}$   $\frac{4}{4}$   $\frac{2}{4}$

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

23

4/4

2/4

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

*Sua-*

*Sua-*

*Sua-*

The musical score is written for six instruments: baritone saxophone, electric guitar, piano, wood shakers, wood blocks, and bass drums. The score is divided into measures with time signatures 2/8, 4/16, 4/8, 4/4, and 2/8. The piano part includes a trill marked '8va' in the first measure of the 4/16 time signature section. The wood shakers, wood blocks, and bass drums parts are synchronized, playing a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes and quarter notes. The baritone saxophone and electric guitar parts are also synchronized, playing a melodic line with various intervals and accidentals. The piano part provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

3B

32

$\frac{4}{4}$

$\frac{4}{16}$

$\frac{2}{8}$  ♩ = 72

$\frac{2}{4}$

baritone  
saxophone

electric  
guitar

piano

wood  
shakers

wood  
blocks

bass  
drums

37

$\frac{2}{8}$

$\frac{4}{4}$

$\frac{2}{4}$

$\frac{2}{8}$

$\frac{2}{4}$

baritone  
saxophone

electric  
guitar

piano

wood  
shakers

wood  
blocks

bass  
drums

42

2

8

416

48

44

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

47

416

48

716

316

716

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums



53

7 8 3 16 7 16 7 8

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

3:2

3:2

4:3

3:2

4:3

3:2

PEGS

KEYS

8va

8va

8va

8va

8va

8va

Sub

Sub

Sub

3:2

4:3

3:2

3:2

3:2

57

5 16 7 8

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

3:2

3:2

4:3

8:5

4:3

4:3

PEGS

PEGS

KEYS

8va

8va

8va

8va

8va

KEYS

PEGS

4:3

3:2

4:3

3:2

60

3/16 7/8 3/16 7/16

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

8:5 8:5

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

PEGS KEYS KEYS KEYS

8va 8va 8va 8va

8vb 8vb

66

3/8 7/8 3/16 7/16 4:3 4:3

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

8:5 3:2 8:7

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

KEYS KEYS KEYS

8va 8va 8va 8va

8vb 8vb

70

11  
16

7  
16

7  
8

5  
16

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

5

74

3  
4

8

8

6  
16

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

78

34

38

34

7:6

5:4

4:3

5:4

7:6

3:2

8vb

8vb

8vb

8vb

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

6

82

38

♩ = 112

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

10

7

88  $\frac{2}{4}$  ♩ = 48

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

8

92  $\frac{9}{16}$  ♩ = 80

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

9  
16

3

34

(99)

9

**2**  
**4** ♩ = 64

2

24

12

## IOA

[illegible]

## 10B

109

5/16

7/16

5/16

2/4 ♩ = 48

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

4:3

3:2

3:2

3:2

3:2

4:3

3:2

8va

8va

6:5

8va

3:2

8va

3:2

8va

12:7

8:5

4:3

4:3

3:2

114

3/4

5/16

7/16

5/16

2/4 ♪ = 48

10C

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

3:2

4:3

8va

8va

3:2

8va

8:5

4:3

8:7

3:2

[illegible]



123

34

516

716

516

3:2

4:3

3:2

3:2

3:2

4:3

3:2

8va

8va

8va

3:2

8va

3:2

8va

6:5

12:7

8:5

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

II

128

24

8

24

8

3:2

3:2

5:4

3:2

3:2

9:8

5:3

5:4

5:3

5:4

5:3

5:3

5:4

5:3

8vb

4:3

3:2

4:3

3:2

mp

mp

f

mp

p

mp

f

L.V.

L.V.

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

(134)

144

4

4

4

16

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

8va-

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

12B

147

4

4

♩ = 72

8

4

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

8va-

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

150

2

2

2

4

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

8va

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

154

2

2

2

2

4

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

Handwritten musical score on a single staff. The notation includes various notes, rests, and bar lines. A large number "13" is written in a box above the staff. The tempo marking "♩ = 80" is present. The time signature changes from 3/4 to 2/4. The score is written in a cursive, handwritten style.

Handwritten musical score on a single staff. The notation includes various notes, rests, and bar lines. A large number "13" is written in a box above the staff. The tempo marking "♩ = 80" is present. The time signature changes from 3/4 to 2/4. The score is written in a cursive, handwritten style.

168

 $\frac{6}{16}$  $\frac{3}{8}$  $\frac{3}{4}$  $\frac{3}{8}$ baritone  
saxophoneelectric  
guitar

piano

wood  
shakerswood  
blocksbass  
drums

172

 $\frac{3}{4}$  $\frac{9}{16}$ 

14

 $\frac{7}{8}$  $\text{♩} = 96$ baritone  
saxophoneelectric  
guitar

piano

wood  
shakerswood  
blocksbass  
drums

KEYS

8va-

PEGS

8vb-

PEGS

8vb-

175

175

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

3:2

3:2

3:2

7/16

4:3

3/16

PEGS

8va

KEYS

8vb

3:2

6:5

3:2

6:5

4:3

179

[illegible]

185

78

716

78

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

KEYS

PEGS

8va

8vb

4:3

8:5

3:2

6:5

8:7

188

316

716

85

78

316

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

PEGS

KEYS

8va

8vb

4:3

3:2

8:5

3:2

4:3

8:7



193

7/16 5/8 7/8 7/16

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

4:3

3:2

3:2

3:2

3:2

PEGS

PEGS

KEYS

PEGS

8va

8va

8va

8va

8vb

8vb

8vb

4:3

6:5

3:2

3:2

3:2

197

7/8 3/16 7/16

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

piano

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

3:2

3:2

3:2

4:3

3:2

3:2

3:2

3:2

PEGS

KEYS

PEGS

PEGS

8va

8va

8va

8va

8vb

8vb

8vb

4:3

3:2

3:2

4:3

12:7

3:2

3:2

baritone  
saxophone

electric  
guitar

piano

wood  
shakers

wood  
blocks

bass  
drums

PEGS

KEYS

PEGS

KEYS

PEGS

KEYS

The musical score is divided into two sections, I5 and I6, each with a specific tempo and time signature.

**Section I5:** Tempo is 2/4, with a note value of 48. The score features a baritone saxophone, electric guitar, piano, wood shakers, wood blocks, and bass drums. The piano part includes a complex rhythmic pattern with a 3:2 ratio. The wood shakers and wood blocks play a steady 3:2 rhythm. The bass drums play a 3:2 rhythm.

**Section I6:** Tempo is 2/4, with a note value of 64. The score features a baritone saxophone, electric guitar, piano, wood shakers, wood blocks, and bass drums. The piano part includes a complex rhythmic pattern with a 5:3 ratio. The wood shakers and wood blocks play a steady 3:2 rhythm. The bass drums play a 4:3 rhythm.

The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings. The piano part includes a complex rhythmic pattern with a 3:2 ratio. The wood shakers and wood blocks play a steady 3:2 rhythm. The bass drums play a 3:2 rhythm.

211

2

2

2

3

17A

7

8

♩ = 96

baritone  
saxophone

electric  
guitar

piano

wood  
shakers

wood  
blocks

bass  
drums

217

3

7

5

7

baritone  
saxophone

electric  
guitar

piano

wood  
shakers

wood  
blocks

bass  
drums

The musical score is arranged for the following instruments:

- baritone saxophone
- electric guitar
- piano
- wood shakers
- wood blocks
- bass drums

The score includes time signatures (3/16, 5/16, 7/16, 11/16, 3/16) and various musical notations such as rests, notes, and dynamic markings (8va, 8vb). The piano part includes labels for 'KEYS' and 'PEGS'.

229

7  
16

7

3  
16

baritone  
saxophone

electric  
guitar

piano

wood  
shakers

wood  
blocks

bass  
drums

PEGS

KEYS

8va

8vb

6:5

3:2

3:2

4:3

3:2

[illegible]

241

 $\frac{7}{16}$  $\frac{3}{16}$  $\frac{5}{16}$ 

17B

 $\frac{7}{8}$  ♩ = 96baritone  
saxophoneelectric  
guitar

piano

wood  
shakerswood  
blocksbass  
drums

PEGS

KEYS

KEYS

PEGS

KEYS

PEGS

PEGS

PEGS

246

 $\frac{3}{16}$  $\frac{11}{16}$  $\frac{7}{16}$  $\frac{11}{16}$ baritone  
saxophoneelectric  
guitar

piano

wood  
shakerswood  
blocksbass  
drums

PEGS

KEYS

PEGS

KEYS

251

7/8

3:2

4:3

3:2

3/16

5/16

3:2

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

KEYS

PEGS

8va

8va

PEGS

KEYS

PEGS

KEYS

8va

8va

8vb

8vb

8vb

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

3:2

3:2

4:3

4:3

3:2

3:2

4:3

3:2

255

11/16

7/16

3:2

8:5

3:2

3/16

baritone saxophone

electric guitar

PEGS

KEYS

PEGS

8va

8va

8va

8vb

8vb

8vb

wood shakers

wood blocks

bass drums

4:3

3:2

Jamaica Plain  
December 2013 - February 2014



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

€25 / \$35