

105
10/1/53
10/1/53
OP 2

JOHN CAGE

WATER MUSIC

For a pianist, using also a radio, whistles, water containers,
a deck of cards, a wooden stick and objects for preparing a piano

duration: 6 minutes

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M25
C12W3
MUSIC
cop. 2

The ten accompanying sheets constitute the material for a single sheet of music for a pianist-musician, the title of which changes to be that of the place or date of its performance. David Tudor first performed it at the New School for Social Research in New York City and it was entitled 66 W. 12; at Woodstock, N.Y. it was entitled August 29, 1952.

Generally programmed as Water Music the ten sheets are numbered, five of them at the right corners, five of them at the left corners. When the same numbers are adjacent, the sheets are in order and a single page may be made by mounting these on a cardboard approximately 34 inches wide and 55 inches high. For a performance, these mounted sheets should be suitably suspended or affixed so that the notation is visible to the pianist and to the audience.

Three whistles are required: water warbler, siren and duck (plastic) whistle, obtainable in toy or five-and-dime stores; a bowl of water; two receptacles for receiving and pouring water; a radio; a pack of playing cards; a wooden stick; and 4 (four) objects for preparing a piano (e.g., bolts, screws, rubber strips, etc.).

The numbers refer to the time of initiating each sound or group of sounds, the numbers preceding a point being minutes, those following seconds. There are two half-systems on each of the ten sheets; a full system equals 40 seconds. A watch with a second hand is useful in performance.

Diagram for poster

1	1
2	2
2	2
3	3
3	3
4	4
4	4
5	5
5	5
6	6

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1
25
312
175
102

.245



.30

DUCK WHISTLE IN
BOWL OF WATER
(AS LONG AS BREATH HOLDS -
BUT NOT PAST 52.5)
mf

1.00



1.185



.....u.v.

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V125
10/13
60.2


RADIO AT 102.5
(DYNAMICS CHANGED AT DISCRETION OF PLAYER
.00 WITHIN RANGE OF 5 AND 6)

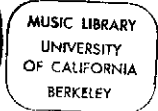
mp

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125
18W2
USP
p. 2

KEYBOARD LID SHUT (mf) (PEDAL)

DECK OF CARDS; DEAL }
 PIANO STRINGS; (ALL } mp
 3 RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE) } 

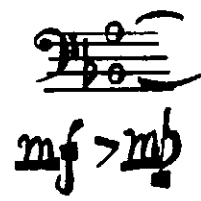


125
BW3
USC
P2

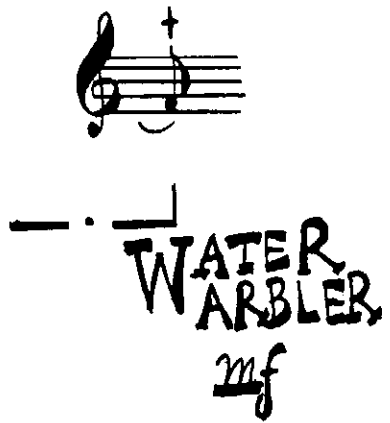
1.20
Pizz.



1.265



1.30 → 1.315



2.195
SLAM
SHUFFLE
7 INTO
THIS AS³

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2.4825



2.5475



PREPARE PIANO
WITH 4 OBJECTS

3.2175



(PREP. MUST BE
FINISHED BY THIS
TIME)

3.33



3
25
BW3
1/510
7.2

3.02 3.0425 3.0825

TUNE
RADIO
RAPIDLY
TO 75



TUNE RADIO
TO 88

3.43 3.47 3.49
3.4975



3.505

WOOD STICK
ON PN. KEYBD. LID
OPEN

TUNE RADIO
TO 102 AND
THEN OFF

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A25
18W3
MUSIC
OF C

4.0075 4.03
4.0375



4.4875

4.5675 45

4.5825



GRADUALLY CHANGE

POUR WATER FROM ONE
RECEPTACLE TO AN-
OTHER AND BACK
AGAIN

RADIO TO → 125 (FAST; SLOWER)

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125
18W3
MUSIC
7.2

4.3925; 4.3975



RADIO
ON; TUN
ED TO 133
(DYNAMICS 5-6)

775

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125.
18W3
MUSIC
172

6.0275



6.05

DUCK WHISTLE
GRADUALLY INTO
WATER

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