WATER

for solo television performer.

JOHN CAGE
Milano 1959

COPYRIGHT © 1964 BY RENNER PRESS INC., 373 PARK AVE. SO., NEW YORK 16, N. Y.
PROPERTIES AND INSTRUMENTS USED IN WATER WALK

1 Chronometer (Stop-watch)
2 Tables 6' x 2' (approx. 2' - 3' high)
1 Table large enough for a tape-machine
1 Bath tub 3/4 filled with water
1 Toy Fish (automotive in water; i.e. mechanical and to be wound up, having movable tail fins; or preferably electrical, battery-run, the fish made of rubber with movable tail fins, activated by connecting wires which are attached to it)
1 25¢ piece (optional)
1 Grand Piano with lid removed so that there is free access to the strings, having a keyboard lid not hinged, so that it may be effectively slammed closed; no piano bench; arrange pedal with weight or other means so that resonance is not stopped by dampers
1 Tape Machine running at 7¾ i.p.s.
1 Tape recording entitled Water Walk made especially for this composition
1 Explosive Paper Bottle (exploded by pulling a string) which ejects confetti (not bits of paper, but streamers), obtained in party shops; several will be needed for rehearsal
1 Electric Hot Plate
1 Pressure Cooker with hot water having removable cap or valve at center of lid
1 Supply of Ice Cubes and means for containing them (Ice Bucket or Insulated Paper Bag)
1 Ordinary Drinking Glass (approx. 8" high)
1 Pitcher (approx. 12" high with an opening at least 6" in diameter) with handle
1 Whistle (nondescript)
1 Toy Rubber Duck which sounds when squeezed
1 Vase (approx. 18" high) with water if fresh roses are used
1 Dozen Red Roses (fresh or artificial)
1 Garden Sprinkling Tin Can with handle and water
1 Chinese Gong 12"-16" in diameter with gong beater (yarn-covered) and having string for holding it suspended
1 Bottle of Campari
1 Electric Mixer (with ice cubes in it) capable of breaking up ice
1 Iron pipe (at least 12" long, 1" in diameter)
5 Portable radios of inferior quality
1 Turkish cymbal approx. 12" in diameter with handle
1 Soda Syphon (a second will be required for rehearsal
1 Quail Call activated by squeezing a rubber bulb
1 Goose Whistle

FOR SUGGESTED PLACEMENT OF ABOVE PROPERTIES AND INSTRUMENTS, SEE DIAGRAM.
NOTES REGARDING SOME OF THE ACTIONS TO BE MADE IN THE ORDER OF OCCURRENCE

Start watch and then time actions as closely as possible to their appearance in the score where each page = 1 minute.

1. After starting fish, place on strings of piano, low or middle register, so that movable tail fins set strings vibrating.
2. Friction: Scraper on bass string lengthwise with fingernail or coin.
3. Slam piano keyboard lid closed.
4. Make pizz. on high piano string with fingernail or coin.
5. Explode bottle up and over piano.
6. If fish is electrical, no winding is necessary before placing it in bath tub.
8. Pizz. on low piano string with finger tip.
9. Place ice in glass (preparing a drink).
10. Fill pitcher with water from bath tub.
11. Glissando on strings (low or middle register up or down) with tympani stick.
12. Place vase with roses in tub so that it remains upright.
14. Lower gong into tub while constantly sounding it with beater. Leave gong in tub.
15. Pour sufficient Campari for a "Campari Soda."
16. The dominant seventh should be a simple chord doubled at the octave, middle register both hands. Open lid to do this, then slam closed again.
17. Hit edge of bath tub with pipe.
18. Radios are to be slapped if they are to be pushed off tables later (this should not be rehearsed since it smashes radios). In this case, the radios need not be functioning. If radios are to be played, tune each one differently, to stations or static or both.
19. Begin whistling near pitcher and then submerge whistle in water while still blowing through it.
20. Simply replace vase and roses back of tub.
21. Grasping symbolic handle, crash instrument against surface of water in tub.
22. Syphon soda into glass where ice and campari have already been put.
23. Any 2 pizz. with fingernails on piano strings, together or in succession.
24. Open lid to produce single notes. Use both forearms for cluster.
25. Drink Campari Soda which is ready, not entirely, for there is insufficient time.
26. 'Goose' is a goose whistle.
27. Remove valve for steam production, this time entirely, replacing it at end after other business is finished.

Since floor becomes wet during rehearsal and performance, an assistant should be provided who mops up.
0  5  10  15  20  25  30
FRICITION  SPAT  LID  TAPE  SPAT  STEAM  FISH IN GLASS  ICE IN
30  35  40  45  50  55  60
GLASS  DUCK  (SQUEEZED)  VASE  SPARINKE  STEAM
FILL  PITCHER + PUT NEAR WHISTLE
ROSES IN TUB
1. Soda syphon & glass of drinks + ice
2. Ice in frullatore
3. Vase da bagno
4. Radios
5. Whistles (suck, grunt, goose, water)
6. Water gun
7. Vase with roses
8. Washing machine
9.2 2 eggs, pan, & hot water
10. Coffee maker + hot water
11. Water boiler with whistle + hot plate
12. Mechanical fish
13. Rubber duck

- Take recorder
- Recording loop
- Fountain
- Transfer water
- Towel
- Ig. flat metal pan (pizza?)}