

JUDITH SHATIN

Of Wells and Springs

Alto Sax & Percussion



Program Note

Exploration and collaboration with performers are central to my process. We often begin by chatting about ideas, both musical and personal. When Bent Frequency Duo and I first discussed this project, saxophonist Jan Baker mentioned that the topic of water was on her mind - ranging from its life-sustaining necessity to its potential for devastating floods. This immediately resonated with me. Like so many of us, I am deeply concerned about climate change and the increasing severity of drouth and flood cycles. *Of Wells and Springs* takes its title (and spelling of drouth) from environmental activist, writer and farmer Wendell Berry's poem, *Water*. Drawn from the series *Farming: A Handbook*, it tells of a terrible drouth, of the narrator's mother waiting for men to bring water from distant springs, of his fear of recurring drought and of his 'love of wells and springs.' He closes the poem with the line 'My sweetness is to wake in the night after days of dry heat, hearing the rain.' I have responded through music to the experiences that Berry details so vividly - the fear and anguish that drouth precipitates, the joy of the coming of rain, the worry of renewed dry spells, the relief of hearing rain. And, I have added to that the increasing drouths and obliterating floods that have become devastatingly common. *Of Wells and Springs* was commissioned by a consortium with the lead Bent Frequency Duo of saxophonist Jan Baker Berry and percussionist Stuart Gerber and saxophonists Kevin Norton, Nicole M. Roman and Drew Whiting. -JS

Instrumentation

Alto Sax
Percussion

Temple Blocks

Tom (low) Tom (high) Snare drum Bongo (low) Bongo (high) Vibraphone

World Premiere
Bent Frequency Duo
Florence Kopleff Recital Hall
Georgia State University
05/07/2023

Duration 8:00

A. Sax

16

f *mf*

Vib.

f *mf*

PERUSAL SCORE, NOT FOR PERFORMANCE

A. Sax

20

mp

Vib.

mp

PERUSAL SCORE, NOT FOR PERFORMANCE

A Fearful Drouth Year
Pushing forward

A. Sax

25

f

Vib.

f

Perc.

f

PERUSAL SCORE, NOT FOR PERFORMANCE

A. Sax

28

f

Vib.

f

Perc.

f

PERUSAL SCORE, NOT FOR PERFORMANCE

30

A. Sax

Vib.

Perc.

mf

f

6

3

6

6

32

A. Sax

Perc.

3

3

6

E

3

35

A. Sax

Perc.

smorz.

p

mf

pp

p

mf

pp

To vib.

37

A. Sax

Vib.

f

sf *mf*

Play top note fast as possible while repeatedly glissing up ca. 1/2 length of bar and back. Mallet head stays on key.

A. Sax 39 *mp* *dim.*

Vib. *f* *mf* ord.

Of Sun and Wind

A. Sax 42 *pp* *mf*

Vib. *mp*

Perc. *pp*

A. Sax 47 *Nervous* *f* *sf* *f* *mf*

Vib. *sf* *f* *mf*

Perc. *sf* *f* *mf*

A. Sax 51 *mf*

Vib. *mf*

Freely

54

A. Sax

Vib.

f

f

6

5

7

7

Tempo primo

57

A. Sax

mf

3

3

3

Perc.

Snares off

mf

mf

Fast tremolo across face medium to heavy pressure.

62

A. Sax

mf

3

f

mp

Perc.

mf

3

65

A. Sax

f

3

3

Perc.

mf

f

R

PERCUSSION SCORE, NOT FOR PERFORMANCE

67

A. Sax

Vib.

Perc.

flz.

mf

f

mf

mp

mf

71

A. Sax

Vib.

Perc.

mp

p

mf

mp

mf

p

74

A. Sax

Vib.

Perc.

Memories of Drouth

p

sf

mp

mf

mp

mf

f

mp

mp

79

A. Sax

Vib.

Perc.

mf

mf

mf

82

A. Sax

Vib.

Perc.

f

f

Fear of Dust
Increasingly Urgent

87

A. Sax

Vib.

Perc.

pp

f

pp

sf

f

mf

91

A. Sax

Vib.

Perc.

f

mf

f

flz.

3

3

95

A. Sax

Vib.

6

6

6

6

6

97

A. Sax

Vib.

6

6

6

3

3

99

A. Sax

Vib.

Perc.

E

E

flz.

3

3

6

3

3

PERFORMANCE

101

A. Sax

Perc.

mf

mp

104

A. Sax

Perc.

p

mp

mf

dim.

p

p

The Coming Rain ♩ = ca. 82

109

A. Sax

Perc.

pp

f

mf

f

flz.

Stick tip on top

Snares on

pp

sf

f

mf

112

A. Sax

Perc.

mp

p

mp

p

114

A. Sax

Perc.

mp

mf

f

flz.

Stick tip on top

mp

mf

f

CS

Increasingly Stormy

Timing is approximate.
Goal is increasing intensity to sonic downpour and release.

4" 4" 5" 5" 5" 5" 3" 5" 5"

A. Sax

117

Sonic droplet source does not prioritize scalar interpretation.

Randomly draw on pitches; Continue to build with tongue slaps, dryest to most pitched, registrally dispersed

Add intermittent normal pitches, still registrally dispersed. Add percussive key clicks.

Start pp; intersperse mf notes

Perc.

High bongo, Start with sticks very close together at edge; Intermittent buzz rolls gradually more connected.

Move towards opposite edge and back several times, closer to the far edge each time. Cresc. from p to mf at center, back to p at edge.

A. Sax

119

Intermittent tongue slaps, play with different note groups and durations. Large interval spread, irregular durations and rhythms.

Interject longer durations; Droplets splashing. Add sudden louder notes, and fltz. Extend falling pitch groups.

Perc.

Reach the far edge with increasing speed. Add gliss tremolo on the rim, moving from tip about 1/2" up stick shoulder and back. Fast as possible, increasing intensity.

Continue roll, move back onto face and again over the edge, roll on outer rim and metal collar, repeating quickly, ending on roll on face.

A. Sax

121

Increase size of falling pitch groups changing interval size among them, increasing intensity. Include fltz.

Ever greater intensity, add sporadic raucous multiphonics, including trills between them. Add breath accents. Increase intermittent loud key clicks *a piacere*. Stormy!

Perc.

Add irregular hits & rolls on low bongo; vary hit spots - on both drums - face, edge, rim, collar, occasional small breaks.

Expand to include all drums, gliss rolls on bongo edges and faces, and on rims and faces of other drums. Stormy!

A. Sax

123

Calming, move to lower register, longer notes, increasingly sparse.

Perc.

Snares off

Calming, move to snare + tomtoms, Shorter rolls, decrease to individual notes on low tom, increasingly sparse and quiet

4/4 4/4

*Of Wells and Springs*126 *Tempo primo*

A. Sax

Vib.

Perc.

p *pp* *p* *mf*

A. Sax

Vib.

Perc.

mf *f* *mf*

A. Sax

Vib.

Perc.

In Praise of Clouds

A. Sax

135

mf

Vib.

mf

Perc.

mp

A. Sax

138

p *mf* *mp*

Vib.

(mf)

Perc.

mf

A. Sax

141

mf *p*

Vib.

mf *p*

144

A. Sax *mp* *mf* *p* *mp*

Vib. 3 3 3

147

A. Sax 3 *cresc.* 3 *f* 3 *mp*

Vib. *f* 3

151

A. Sax *mf* 3 *f* *mf* **Hearing the Rain**

Vib. *mf* 3 *f*

156

A. Sax 3 *dim. al fine* *n*

Vib. *f* **E**

Perc. *ppp*