

cool water do not drink

for string quartet

(2024)

Joel Rust

This version of the score is optimized for performing on a tablet (e.g. an iPad). For other sizes, or for material to print, please contact the composer.

Duration: 13 minutes

Performance Notes

All grace notes should come before the beat.

Trills should go to the natural note above, if otherwise unspecified.

Commas indicate a brief lift in one instrument's part (akin to a breath mark), *not* a pause.

* Viola, bb. 2-46: a practice mute is required. Metal is preferred, but other materials are acceptable. The given dynamics are "absolute," i.e. a note at **pp** should be roughly equivalent to an unmuted instrument's **pp**, which may require playing as if at a higher dynamic level.

† All *pizzicato* notes should be let ring for the longest possible duration. For open strings or harmonics, efforts should be made to avoid damping them when playing other notes.

‡ bb. 213–25, 262–66: Gradually move between the pressure required for harmonics and normal pressure. While transitioning, the finger on the lower note should be lifted fully each time.

¶ bb. 228–61, 320–28 [va., vc.]: Arpeggiated chords should begin *before* the beat, so that the last note of the arpeggio is on the beat.

§ bb. 240–52: To get the strongest arrival on the higher note, it is recommended to have a shorter *glissando*, like this:



Program Note

I was next to a cool, clear stream of fresh running water, and I was terribly thirsty. I knew that I could not drink the water, but I did not know why. I could only watch as it glittered past me.

I rarely remember my dreams, so when I do, I tend to find significance in them. My attempt to make sense of it was this: a world of care, abundance, justice, and freedom is so achievable, but kept consistently out of our reach—by the forces of prejudice, conformity, predatory capitalism, fear, and so many more things, great and small.

How can we imagine—and try to build—that world, even while we live in this one? How do we hold hope and sadness in our hearts, together? This piece does not, alas, offer any answers. It takes refuge in anger, but anger can only burn so long before it burns out. It *mostly* resists the urge to brood. It reflects, palely, the beauty of what could be, and seeks the beauty in what is.

Note on the Title

The title should be printed without uppercase letters, and with three spaces between "cool water" and "do not drink".

cool water do not drink

Joel Rust

♩ = 100 (♩ = ♩)

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello

3+2

2+2+3

p

mp

p

con sord.

pp

p

with practice mute*

ppp

pp

ppp

5

2+2+3

mf

p

pp

ppp

tr

A

11

2+2+3

2+3+2

3+2+3

3+2+2

2+3

p

mp

mp

p

f

pp

pp

ppp

ppp

tr

B

17

Treble 1: $p \text{ < } mp \text{ >}$, $p \text{ < } mf$, $mp \text{ < } f \text{ > } mp$
 Treble 2: $pp \text{ < } p \text{ >}$, $pp \text{ < } p$, $pp \text{ < } mp \text{ > } p$
 Bass 1: ppp , ppp
 Bass 2: ppp

C

20

Treble 1: p , f , mp
 Treble 2: pp , mp , pp
 Bass 1: pp , mp , pp
 Bass 2: pp , mp , pp

26

Treble 1: f
 Treble 2: mp
 Bass 1: mp
 Bass 2: mp

32 2+3 4+3 2+3 **D**

Violin I: *mp*, *mp*, *mp*, *mp*, *mp*, *mp*

Violin II: *pp*, *pp*, *pp*, *pp*, *p*, *p*

Viola: *pp*, *pp*, *pp*, *pp*, *pp*, *pp*

Cello/Double Bass: *mf*³, *mf*³, *mf*³, *mf*³, *mf*³, *mf*³

Performance instructions: *G. P.*, *pizz. l.v. sempret*

38 3+2 3+2+2

Violin I: *mf*, *mp*, *mp*, *mp*, *mp*, *mp*

Violin II: *mp*, *mp*, *mp*, *p*, *p*, *p*

Viola: *pp*, *pp*, *pp*, *pp*, *pp*, *pp*

Cello/Double Bass: *f*³, *f*³, *f*³, *f*³, *f*³, *f*³

Performance instructions: *pizz. l.v. sempret*

43 3+2 3+2+2 **E** pizz. l.v. sempret

f *mf* *mp* *p* *f*³ *mp*

49 **F** arco senza vib. flautando

←³♩ = ♩ → (♩ = 150)

senza sord. senza vib. flautando

senza sord. senza vib. flautando

arco flautando

pp *mp* *pp* *pp* *mp* *pp* *pp* *mp* *pp* *pp* *mp* *pp*

53

pp mp pp pp mp

pp mp pp pp mp

pp mp pp pp mp

pp mp pp mp

IV II

56

pp pp mf pp pp mf pp

mp pp pp mf pp

pp pp mf pp pp

pp mf pp

III

81 **I**

Musical score for measures 81-86. The score is in 2/4 time and features a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of four staves: two treble clefs (top and second), an alto clef (third), and a bass clef (bottom). The music includes complex rhythmic patterns with triplets and sixteenth notes. Dynamic markings include *p*, *mf*, and *f*. A first ending bracket labeled **I** spans measures 84 and 85. Rhythmic annotations '3+2', '2+2+3', and '3+2' are placed above the first staff. A fermata is present over the first ending.

87

Musical score for measures 87-90. The score is in 2/4 time and features a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of four staves: two treble clefs (top and second), an alto clef (third), and a bass clef (bottom). The music includes complex rhythmic patterns with triplets and sixteenth notes. Dynamic markings include *mf*, *fp*, and *f*. Rhythmic annotations '3+2', '2+2+3', and '3+2' are placed above the first staff.

91 $3+2$ $2+3$ $3+2$ $3+2$

mp *f* *mp* *f* *mp*

f *mp* *f* *mp*

p *f* *p* *f*

mf p *f* *mf p* *f*

III IV II

97 **J** $3+2$

mf *f* *mf*

mf *f* *mf*

p *f* *mp* *f* *mp*

p *f* *mp* *f*

III IV II

101 2+2+3 3+2

fp *f* *f* *mf* *f* *mp* *f*

mp *f* *mp*

104 3+2 2+3 3+2

mp *f* *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *mp* *f*

f *mp* *f* *mp*

108

K

3+2+2

3+2

I-----3+2

mp

f

ff

f

mp

f

ff

f

mp

ff

mf

ff

f

f

mp

f

ff

mf

112

2+2+3

3+2

mp

ff

ff

mf

ff

ff

ff

mf

ff

ff

f

ff

mf

ff

ff

f

ff

mf

ff

115 3+2 2+3 3+2

mf *ff* *mf*

ff *ff* *mf*

f *ff* *mf*

ff *mf* *ff* *f*

118 3+2 **L**

ff *ff* *p* *p*

p *p* *p* *p*

ff *ff* *p* *p*

ff *ff* *p* *p*

ff *ff* *p* *p*

ff *ff* *p* *p*

122

0 +

0 +

0 +

0 +

p

mp

p 0 +

0 +

0 +

0 +

mp

p 0 +

0 +

0 +

0 +

arco

pizz.

arco

mp

126

0 +

0 +

0 +

0 +

0 +

p 0 +

mp

p

0 +

0 +

0 +

0 +

0 +

0 +

0 +

0 +

0 +

0 +

p

pizz.

arco

pizz.

arco

p

130

M

accel. 3+2

Violin I: *mp* *p* *p* *p* *mp*

Violin II: *mp* *p* *pp* *mp*

Viola: *mp* *p* *pp* *mp*

Cello/Double Bass: *mp* *p* *pp* *mp*

Violin II: *pizz.*

Cello/Double Bass: *arco*

135

3+2 0+ 2+2+3+ 0+ 3+2 3+2 2+3 3+2

Violin I: *mp* *p* *mf* *mp* *f* *mf*

Violin II: *pp* *mp* *p* *mf* *mp* *f* *mf*

Viola: *pp* *mp* *p* *mf* *mp* *f* *mf*

Cello/Double Bass: *pp* *mp* *p* *mf* *mp* *f* *mf*

Violin II: *8va*

3+2

N

142

ff

pp

sul tasto, senza vib.

ff

pp

sul tasto, senza vib.

ff

pp

sul tasto, senza vib.

ff

pp

poco vib.

O

151

mp

pp

mp

pp

mp

pp

P

160

mp

pp

mp

pp

mp

pp

169

mp

Q

178

pp mp

R

187

pp mp

S

196

pp *mp*

pp *mp*

pp *mp*

T

205

flautando
senza vib.

$\leftarrow \text{3} \rightarrow = \text{3} \rightarrow$ ($\text{♩} = 150$)

G. P.

pp flautando
(senza vib.)

G. P.

pp norm.

G. P.

pp norm.

G. P.

pp

pp *pp*

pp *pp*

pp *pp*

211

III

norm. increase l.h. pressure† decrease l.h. pressure†

norm. increase l.h. pressure† decrease l.h. pressure†

I increase l.h. pressure† decrease l.h. pressure†

U flautando senza vib.

217

pp flautando senza vib. mp pp

pp flautando senza vib. mp pp

pp mp pp

pp mp pp

220 norm.

IV norm.

increase l.h. pressure

decrease l.h. pressure

mp

pp

IV

increase l.h. pressure†

decrease l.h. pressure†

mp

I

increase l.h. pressure

decrease l.h. pressure

mp

226

flautando senza vib.

mf

pp

flautando senza vib.

mf

pp

mf

pp

mf

pp

V

Meno mosso ($\text{♩} = 120$)

pizz.

sim.

mp

f

pizz.

sim.

mp

f

pizz.

sim.

mp

f

pizz.

sim.

mp

f

245

sim.

sim.

sim.

f

non. arp.

250

non. arp.

mp

mf

non. arp.

mp

mp

255

X

f

sim.

mp

arco

pp

IV -- arco

pp

pp

mp

261

IV arco

increase l.h. pressure

pp mf pp ff

IV

increase l.h. pressure

mf pp ff

IV

increase l.h. pressure decrease l.h. pressure

mf pp ff

II arco

increase l.h. pressure

pp mf pp ff

G. P.

G. P.

G. P.

G. P.

Y

268

Meno mosso (♩ = 75)

2+3+2

p

G. P.

G. P.

G. P.

G. P.

Z

275

2+3+2

mp p

282

2+3+2

Musical score for measures 282-288. The score is in 2/4 time, with a 7/8 measure at the end of the system. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The dynamics are marked *mp* and *p*. The notation includes a fermata over the final measure of the system.

AA

289

2+3

poco accel.

Musical score for measures 289-296. The score is in 5/8 time. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The dynamics are marked *mf* and *p*. The notation includes a fermata over the final measure of the system.

297

Musical score for measures 297-304. The score is in 5/8 time. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The dynamics are marked *mp*. The notation includes a fermata over the final measure of the system.

304 ♩ = 90

Musical score for measures 304-306. The score is in 3/4 time with a tempo of ♩ = 90. It features a treble clef and a bass clef. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#). The dynamic marking is *mf*. The music consists of a melody in the treble and a complex accompaniment in the bass, primarily using triplet eighth notes. Measure 304 shows the beginning of the piece with a treble clef and a bass clef. Measure 305 continues the melody and accompaniment. Measure 306 concludes the section with a repeat sign.

307

Musical score for measures 307-309. The score continues from measure 306. The treble clef and bass clef are present. The key signature remains two sharps. The dynamic marking is *mf*. The music features a melody in the treble and a complex accompaniment in the bass, primarily using triplet eighth notes. Measure 307 shows the beginning of the section. Measure 308 continues the melody and accompaniment. Measure 309 concludes the section with a repeat sign.

310

Musical score for measures 310-312. The score continues from measure 309. The treble clef and bass clef are present. The key signature remains two sharps. The dynamic marking is *mf*. The music features a melody in the treble and a complex accompaniment in the bass, primarily using triplet eighth notes. Measure 310 shows the beginning of the section. Measure 311 continues the melody and accompaniment. Measure 312 concludes the section with a repeat sign.

313

CC

f

f

f

f

316

f

320

ff

ff

ff

ff

326

DD

mf

mf

mf

mf

330

Musical score for measures 330-332. The score is written for four staves: Treble Clef (top), Treble Clef (second), Bass Clef (third), and Bass Clef (bottom). The key signature is one sharp (F#). The music features a complex rhythmic pattern with many triplets. The first staff contains a series of chords and single notes. The second staff has a melodic line with many triplets. The third and fourth staves have a bass line with many triplets. The measures are grouped into three systems of two measures each.

333

Musical score for measures 333-335. The score is written for four staves: Treble Clef (top), Treble Clef (second), Bass Clef (third), and Bass Clef (bottom). The key signature is one sharp (F#). The music continues with the same complex rhythmic pattern and triplets. The first staff contains a series of chords and single notes. The second staff has a melodic line with many triplets. The third and fourth staves have a bass line with many triplets. The measures are grouped into three systems of two measures each.

← ♩ = ♩ → (♩ = 60)

335

2+3+2 flautando senza vib. *p*

flautando senza vib. *p*

poco vib. sul tasto *pp*

poco vib. sul tasto *pp*

ff

ff

ff

ff

339

2+3

p

p

p

p

p

p

poco rall. ♩ = 52

344 2+3+2

p

p

p

p

p

p