for Christine and John Roberts

Miniwanka
or The Moments of Water

R. Murray Schafer

(* 1933)

= Conductor’s Cue.

A

Moderately: with movement

The wise man delights

in water water water water

A.

mf

Add T. & B.
As the voices singing "water" begin to fade away, the conductor cues to start section B.

One by one the s. and A. voices leave off singing "water" and begin to imitate raindrops. The pitches are ad lib. but rather high. The notes are always staccato, light, and should overlap arhythmically. At first the the rainfall is light but gradually grows harder with a downward slashing quality towards the end of section B, where some of the voices may connect the syllables of the various words with light downward glissandi. Raindrop words; different pitch to each syllable: mi-ni; mëj; bi-rë; chuck; ni-bë; Kö; nip-pe; nip-pe; pë-la; cha-rë; snass; tás-ji; maq-a-zu; hing-hang; hing-he; ya-jeem; yan-wa-sa; ki-mi-wan; sok-a-non.

Gradually fading out by reducing voices.

Some sopranos in chromatic descent

C Rapidly

Other voices continue section B, gradually fading out.

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Two adjacent solo sopranos in rapid dialogue, imitating a stream. The notes sung by the first voice are free but should follow the contour given. The second voice sings exactly the same notes as the first.