

James Weeks

Rain Study

for one or more performers

2026

In rain, collect as many different sounds of rain as possible.

Listen carefully and closely, for example to differences in sound on different types of leaf; or on bark or branches, on grass or petals, on different kinds of ground, on clothing, on shelters, structures or other human-made surfaces, into puddles, buckets, ponds or waterways.

Get up close, put your ear to the rain.

Immerse yourself in this polyphony.

Extension (1): Select one rain sound, for example, the rain hitting a single leaf, or a stone, or your coat, and perform a duet with it, attempting to imitate the sound of the rain on your chosen surface as accurately as possible. Continue for a while, then select another sound and do the same, if desired.

Extension (2): Once back inside, write down each different type of rain you heard, describing it as fully and precisely as possible from your memory of it. Poetic images are also encouraged as part of the description.

Extension (2b): With others (who may or may not have performed the original rain collecting alongside you), recreate the sound of the rain you heard:

Read out each entry from your list in Extension (2) at intervals.

On hearing each description read out, each of the other performers either attempts (individually) to recreate the described sound with voices, instruments or objects, or continues with what they are already doing (being silent, or performing a previous sound).

More than one person can be a reader, if they performed the original rain collecting and completed Extension 2, and readers can also join in with sound-making.

The recreations of the sound can be approached more or less literally, but must be a sincere response to the description given.

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