

**29 OUNCES OF THE ATLANTIC OCEAN  
EVAPORATING IN C-MAJOR  
Seth Kim-Cohen**

**ONE**

29 one ounce bottles originally filled with Johnson's baby lotion, now painted black.

**TWO**

29 is the tenth prime number, and also the third primorial prime. 29 is also the sixth Sophie Germain prime. It is also the sum of three consecutive squares,  $2^2 + 3^2 + 4^2$ . It is a Lucas prime, a Pell prime and a tetranacci number. It is an Eisenstein prime with no imaginary part and real part of the form  $3n - 1$ . 29 is a Pillai prime. 29 is also the 10th supersingular prime.

**THREE**

An ounce is 1/128 of a U.S. gallon, 1/16 of a U.S. pint, 8 U.S. fluid drams, and 1.8046875 cubic inches (exactly).

**FOUR**

Atlantic Ocean water extracted at East Haven CT Date and time.

**FIVE**

The Atlantic Ocean is the second-largest of the world's oceanic divisions; with a total area of about 41.1 million square miles. It covers approximately one-fifth of the Earth's surface. The first part of its name refers to the Atlas of Greek mythology, The oldest known mention of this name is contained in *The Histories* of Herodotus around 450 BC.

**SIX**

Evaporation is the process by which molecules in a liquid state (for example, water) spontaneously become gaseous (for example, water vapor). It is the opposite of condensation. Generally, evaporation can be seen by the gradual disappearance of a liquid when exposed to a significant volume of gas.

**SEVEN**

C major is a musical major scale based on C, with pitches C, D, E, F, G, A, and B. The white keys of the piano correspond to the C major scale. C major is often thought of as the simplest key, owing to its lack of either sharps or flats. However, the composer Frédéric Chopin regarded this scale as the most difficult one to play with complete evenness.

**EIGHT**

Casiotone MT-70 electronic keyboard.

## **NINE**

In 1849, Richard Wagner wrote: “We must not yet abandon our image of the sea for the nature of musical art. The eye recognizes only the surface of this sea: only the depths of the ear understand its depths.”

## **TEN**

The weight required to sound each key ranges from 38 grams to 60 grams. Each bottle weighs 7 grams. Therefore additional weight of varying measures is required in order for each bottle to sound a key.

## **ELEVEN**

In 1914, Erik Satie wrote: “The Water Company is elated: it is going to install carefully calibrated conduits in all the concert halls to offer musicians an entire chromatic scale of little cascades. How soon the first concert for two faucets obbligato and orchestra?”

## **TWELVE**

The additional weight required is supplied by the addition of one fluid ounce of the Atlantic Ocean.

## **THIRTEEN**

In 1931, Robert Walser wrote: “A girl sitting with us in the boat compared traveling over the water to the imperceptible gliding and progress of growth, that of fruit for example, which perhaps would have little desire to ripen if it knew to what end.”

## **FOURTEEN**

A bottle with washers and ocean is placed on a key, causing it to sound.

## **FIFTEEN**

Marcel Duchamp is said to have appreciated America for her bridges and her plumbing.

## **SIXTEEN**

Each key receives a bottle with washers and ocean. The bottles will play a chord consisting of 8 notes.

## **SEVENTEEN**

In 1931, George Bataille wrote: “Animal life comes entirely from the movement of the seas and, inside bodies, life continues to come from salt water. The sea, then, has played the role of the female organ that liquefies under the excitation of the penis. The sea continuously jerks off.”

### **EIGHTEEN**

The chord will consist of 8 notes because the Casiotone MT-70 is only capable of sounding 8 notes at a time. This is known as 8 voice polyphony.

### **NINETEEN**

In her diaries, Anaïs Nin explained why women weep: “It is the quickest way to rejoin the ocean. You liquefy, become fluid, flow back into the ocean where the colors are more beautiful...Everything is more wonderful underwater.”

### **TWENTY**

Once a bottle has been placed on each key, the keyboard will be left in place, still sounding, for the duration of the exhibition.

### **TWENTY-ONE**

In 1952, John Cage composed *Water Music*, which included among its 41 events, a duck whistle blown into a bowl of water and two receptacles for receiving and pouring water.

### **TWENTY-TWO**

As the Atlantic Ocean evaporates, the weight of individual bottles will decrease, allowing individual keys to release. As a result, notes will subtract themselves from the current chord.

### **TWENTY-THREE**

In 1959, George Brecht composed his event score entitled *Drip Music*. The score reads: “For single or multiple performance. A source of dripping water and an empty vessel are arranged so that the water falls into the vessel.”

### **TWENTY-FOUR**

As a note subtracts itself from the chord, another note, corresponding to one of the depressed keys, will join the chord.

### **TWENTY-FIVE**

In 1961, Claes Oldenberg wrote: “I am for an art that spits and drips.”

### **TWENTY-SIX**

Over the course of the exhibition, the chord being played will gradually change as the Atlantic Ocean evaporates.

### **TWENTY-SEVEN**

In 1961, George Brecht composed his event score entitled *Three Aqueous Events*. The score reads: “Ice. Water. Steam.”

### **TWENTY-EIGHT**

The result is a very long, very slow piece of music, composed and performed by environmental factors such as temperature, light, humidity, and air currents.

### **TWENTY-NINE**

The title of this piece of music is “29 Ounces of the Atlantic Ocean Evaporating in C-Major.”