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Overture for the Kitchen Sink

Reflective Statement

Word Count: 296

I **intended** for this composition to be a unique piece of music. To do this, I decided to make my own instruments, all following a certain theme--water. I also wanted to incorporate musical traditions from around the world into the piece. I started by deciding which instruments I would make. I made a rule that, as the common thread, each instrument must directly involve water. I knew the melody would be played on wine glasses filled to different heights with water, and the first step of my **process** was to settle on a scale. Heptatonic would be too much for the materials I was working with, so I decided pentatonic would be better. Meanwhile, I realized that the timbre of the glasses resembled a Gamelan metallophone and decided to tune them to pélog. I then did some research to find other types of water music, and discovered traditions from Africa and indigenous cultures of Central America. I began experimenting with melodies and rhythms, recording a number of them and stitching them together using Garage Band. I made the recording of the piece before I wrote the score. In order to write the score, I needed to create my own notation for the instruments I had made and also create instructions so others can perform the piece as well. The **outcome** of my efforts is a certainly unique ensemble. The creation of instruments means that the music is aleatoric, as its instruments will likely be made slightly differently each time it is played. I learned a new way of composing, as previously I had only ever composed by fiddling around on the piano until I liked something. This involved hearing the music—multiple parts—in my head, and I feel that I've learned a new skill.

