

o r g a n + s i n e w a v e s

S o o s a n

L o l a v a r

**T r u i s m s**

(enjoy yourself because you can't change anything anyway)



For organ and sine waves

Duration: c. 12'00



This work was developed for Weston Jennings as part of the Embedded Residency 2014/15 at Southbank Centre funded by The Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and run by Sound and Music.

It was premiered at the Royal Festival Hall on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2014.



## Programme note

*Truisms* (*enjoy yourself because you can't change anything anyway*) takes its title from a series of one-line aphorisms, created by American conceptual artist Jenny Holzer, and posted around Manhattan between 1977 and 1979 in the form of t-shirts, badges and carvings on public benches. Holzer's work distilled the very essence of contemporary society – its great pain, delight and absurdity – and packaged its axioms in line with a culture of quick consumption.

*Truisms*...attempts to distil the complex range of sounds produced by the organ to their very essence: a collection of sine waves. However, rather than encouraging immediate gratification, this work demands introspection, concentration and patience from both listener and performer. The piece unfolds slowly and meditatively, exposing minute changes in timbre and patterns of acoustic beating. This gradual process has the effect of playing with the notion of time, reconstructing it as a malleable substance that expands and contracts according to the objects contained within it.

## Tape

*Truisms* includes a tape part for sine waves which begins on the first beat of the bar. The performer should use a stopwatch and follow the time indications in the score in order to stay in time with the sine wave track. The sine wave track should be played through two speakers positioned to the left and right of the organ and be activated by an assistant.


## Instructions in the score

Within the score boxed text in pink indicates an action to be carried out such as the addition/subtraction of a stop or new note to be played.

E.g.:

+ Quintadena  
+ Viola  
+ Gemshorn  
+ Diapason 8'

A pink box with a line in the middle:  indicates that this note should be played with a chopstick or similar object that can depress a key indefinitely.

A pink box with a hand:  indicates that this note should be played with a finger. If there is no such symbol above the stave, the note should be played with a foot.

Small black text in italic reminds the performer of which stops are activated on a particular manual. A black box containing either a stick or hand reminds the performer of what device is playing that particular note. Black italic text requires no action on the part of the performer.

E.g.: *(vox humana*  
*oboe*  
*quintadena*  
*viola*  
*gemshorn*  
*diapason 8')*

Black boxed text: 11'24" indicates the time in minutes and seconds at which a particular action should take place.

*Truisms*...should be played in a state of calm introspection, as such the performer would benefit from practicing some form of meditation immediately before playing the piece.

## Biography

**Soosan Lolavar** is a British-Iranian composer, sound artist and educator whose work spans the genres of concert music, contemporary dance, installation, film, animation and theatre. Her work has been performed at the Royal Festival Hall, the National Maritime Museum, the ICA, the LSE New Academic Building, the Jacqueline Du Pré Music Centre, the Bonnie Bird Theatre, Circus Space and broadcast on BBC Radio 3. In 2013 she was selected as one of two Embedded composers in residence at the Southbank Centre and received funding from Arts Council England and Jerwood Charitable Foundation for an Iranian-British music project entitled 'Stay Close'. In 2012 she won the John Halford Prize for Composition and was selected as part of the Adopt a Composer scheme funded by PRS for Music Foundation and run by Making Music, in partnership with Sound and Music and BBC Radio 3. She holds degrees in Social and Political Sciences (University of Cambridge), Musicology (University of Oxford) and composition (Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance) where she was the recipient of the Gladys Bratton, TCM Trust and TCL Scholarship. Her research interests include the politics of gender and sexuality, post-colonialism and the music industry and postmodernism in electronic musics.





for Weston Jennings

# Truisms

(enjoy yourself because you can't change anything anyway)

Soosan Lolavar  
(b. 1987)

Swell box open  
Choir box open  
Solo box shut

0'24"

Octave bass 8'  
Subbass 16'

Grave, in a meditative state ♩ = 60

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Pedals

*mf* throughout



1'36"

Principal 8'  
Diapason 8'

11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20

Great

1'00"

Gedeckt

Pos.

(octave bass 8'  
subbass 16')

Ped.

21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29

Sw. {

Great {

Pos. {

Ped. {

(principal 8'  
diapason 8')

(gedeckt)

(octave bass 8'  
subbass 16')

2'42"

Vox humana  
Oboe

2'12"

+ Unda maris  
+ Salicional 8'  
+ Stopped wood 8'



The musical score is for a piece titled "a niente" by John Cage. It is a single-measure work, indicated by the "9'06\"" notation in the top right corner. The score is written for a variety of instruments and a sine wave, grouped into four systems. The first system, labeled "Sw.", includes a vocal line (vox humana) and a string ensemble (oboe, quintadena, viola, gemshorn, diapason 8'). The second system, labeled "Great", includes a horn (h. trumpet 8'), trumpet 8', and a covered horn (rohr gedeckt). The third system, labeled "Sine", features a sine wave. The fourth system, labeled "Ped.", includes a salicional 8', stopped wood, and open wood. The score is written in a single measure, with the instruments and sine wave playing a sustained, low-frequency sound. The notation includes various symbols for the instruments and the sine wave, and the piece is marked "a niente" at the end.

104 105 106 107 108 109 110 111 112

Ch.

Sine

Ped.

10'18"  
Principal 32'  
Octave bass 8'  
Major bass



11'12" 11'24" 11'36" 11'48"

Ch.

113 114 115 116 117 118 119 120 121 122

- Open wood 8'  
- Salicional 8'  
- Unda maris 8'