Protect Me From What I Want

for Tim Gill and Scott Lygate of the London Sinfonietta

Soosan Lolavar

For Cello, Bass Clarinet and Tape
Duration: c. 9 minutes

Protect Me From What I Want was premiered at the Queen Elizabeth Hall on 28th March 2015 as part of the London Sinfonietta's Spectrum of Sound Series. It was commissioned by the London Sinfonietta during Soosan Lolavar's Embedded Residency at the Southbank Centre 2013-15, a residency programme run by Sound and Music and funded by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation.

Programme Note

Protect Me From What I want is concerned with textural fluctuations in sound, which are brought to life through subtly transforming repetition within the confines of limited musical material. This piece attempts to answer the question: how much can you delete, strip away and withhold from a piece of music while still retaining a distinct essence at its centre? How little can you say and still say something? The piece is based on the harmonic series of G2 and takes its title from the light installation of the same name by American conceptual artist Jenny Holzer.

Biography

Soosan Lolavar is a British-Iranian composer, sound artist and educator who works in both electronic and acoustic sound, and across the genres of concert music, contemporary dance, installation, film, animation and theatre.

Her work has been performed at, among others, the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, V&A, National Maritime Museum, ICA, Chisenhale Gallery, LSE New Academic Building, Blackheath Concert Halls, Jacqueline Du Pré Music Centre, Bonnie Bird Theatre, Circus Space and broadcast several times on BBC Radio 3.

In 2015 she was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to study Iranian music at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh with Dr Reza Vali. In 2013 she was selected as one of two Embedded composers in residence at the Southbank Centre and received funding from Arts Council England, Jerwood Charitable Foundation and Iran Heritage Foundation to pursue 'Stay Close', a ten-month project exploring contemporary classical music as a means of cultural exchange between the UK and Iran. In 2012 she won the John Halford Prize for Composition awarded by Ian Pace 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) and her research interests include the politics of gender and sexuality, post-colonialism and the music industry and postmodernism in electronic musics. She has worked as an Assistant Lecturer at Trinity Laban Conservatoire, leading a course on music, gender and sexuality and at City Lit Adult Education college where she teaches classes on music and opera appreciation, film music and music gender and sexuality.

Performance Details

Protect Me From What I Want makes use of multiphonics on the bass clarinet. In the premier performance, these were produced through fingering the bottom note of the multiphonic and overblowing to produce the upper partial. At any points in the score where the bottom clarinet note appears in brackets, both notes of the multiphonic should be sounded initially, and then the performer is free to move to only sounding the upper harmonic ad libitum. The piece also features a tape part which begins at letter E and should be operated by an assistant.

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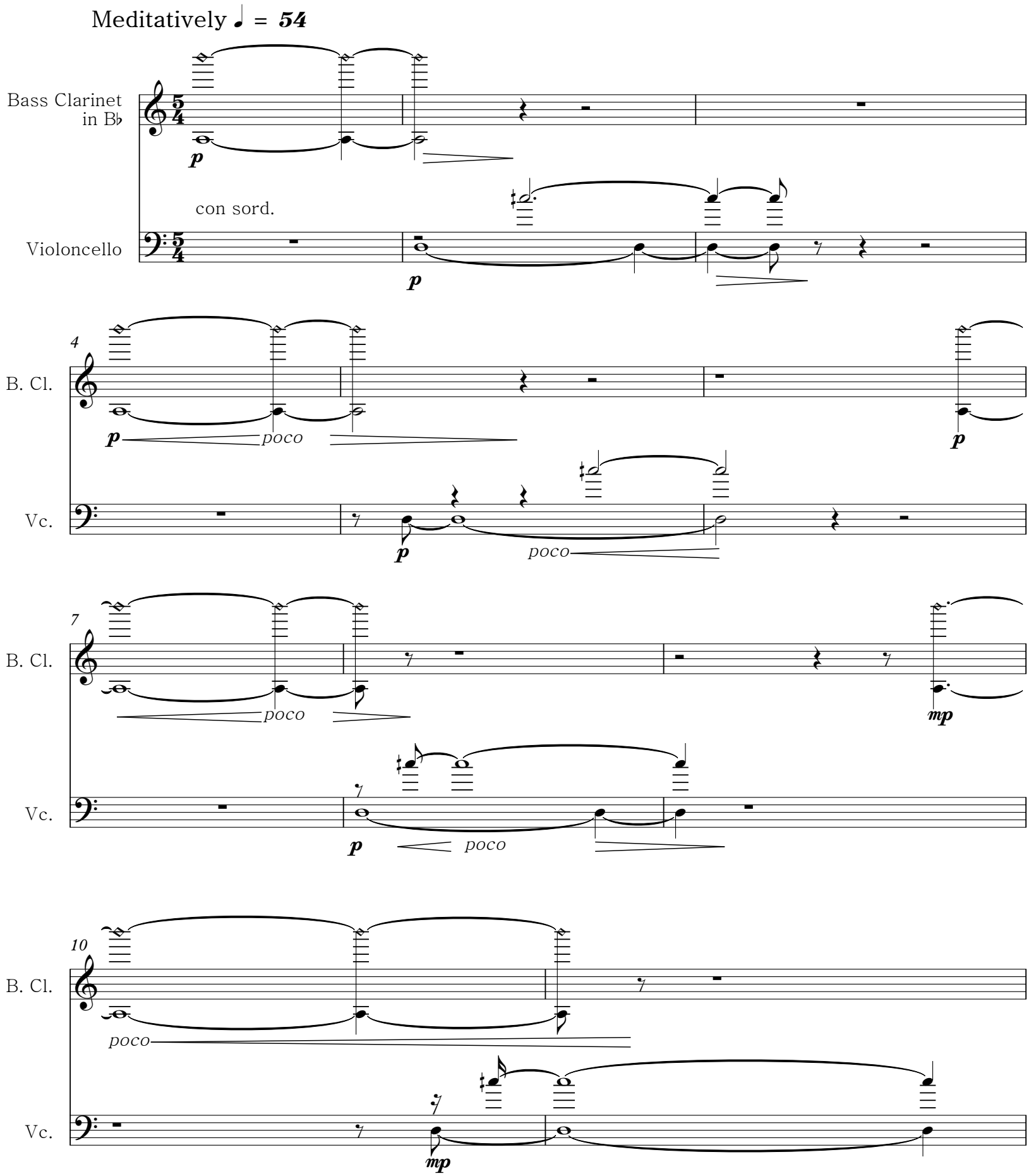
Soosan Lolavar
(b. 1987)



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12

B. Cl.

Vc.

A

mf mf mf

mp mf

17

B. Cl.

Vc.

mf

mp mf

21

B. Cl.

Vc.

mp mp 3 mp

mp 3 mf mf

26

B. Cl.

Vc.

B

f mf

senza sord.

ff mf f mf

E

63

B. Cl. ***ff*** *very precise and aggressive*

Vc. ***ff*** *very precise and aggressive, poco sul pont.*

64

B. Cl.

Vc.

66

B. Cl.

Vc.

67 breathe ad libitum where required

B. Cl.

Vc.

68

B. Cl.

Vc.

69

B. Cl.

Vc.

F

70

B. Cl.

Vc.

71

B. Cl.

Vc.

72

B. Cl.

Vc.

73

play 3 times in total

B. Cl.

play 3 times in total

Vc.

74

B. Cl.

Vc.

75

B. Cl.

Vc.