

**The Art of Voice Synthesis
symposium, expert meeting, workshop & concert**

11, 12, 13 May 2016
University of Amsterdam, Orgelpark, STEIM
Amsterdam
www.artificialvoice.nl

Synthetic speech is part of modern everyday life. Artificial voices not only occur in multifaceted technological uses, but they also feed back into researching the natural human voice. Moreover, artists, musicians and composers find a source of inspiration in the artificial sound of such voices. The symposium inquires both the richness of the human voice and the limits and surplus of its theoretical modelling and mechanical and digital imitation. We are specifically interested in modelling and synthesizing so-called "extended vocal techniques", all sounds the human voice can produce, that exceed conventional singing and speaking. The symposium will cover the history of the artificial voice, extended vocal techniques, aspects of theoretical modelling and technical realization, and the role of the artificial voice in contemporary music. Academics, scientists and artists will come together to exchange ideas and insights in three days of presentations, meetings, workshops and a concert. With a group of international experts we will place the artificial voice in a broad perspective of historical, technical, socio-cultural, artistic and musical investigation.

Symposium: 11 & 12 May at the University of Amsterdam (Doelenzaal) and Orgelpark

Concert: 11 May at Orgelpark

Academic expert meeting: 12 May at the University of Amsterdam (Belle van Zuylenzaal)

Artistic expert meeting: 13 May at STEIM

Workshop: 13 May at STEIM

Doelenzaal, University Library, Singel 425, 1012 WP Amsterdam

Belle van Zuylenzaal, University Library, Singel 425, 1012 WP Amsterdam

Orgelpark, Gerard Brandtstraat 26, 1054 JK Amsterdam

STEIM, Achtergracht 19, 1017 WL Amsterdam

Organization:

prof. dr. ir. Remko Scha (1945-2015), dr. Hannah Bosma, prof. dr. Julia Kursell.

With financial and practical support of:

University of Amsterdam: Computational Linguistics, Musicology, Amsterdam School for Cultural Analysis ASCA; Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences KNAW; Orgelpark, Organ Studies Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam.

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Wednesday 11 May 2016

Doelenzaal

- 9:00 Registration (coffee/tea)
- 9:15 Welcome – Julia Kursell
- 9:30 Voice synthesis in perspective: introduction – Hannah Bosma
- 10:00 The history of voice synthesis – Fabian Brackhane
- 10:45 coffee/tea
- 11:00 The artificial voice as a scientific object – Julia Kursell
- 11:45 Models of the voice and the voice as model in electroacoustic music – Bruno Bossis
- 12:30 lunch

Orgelpark

- 14:15 Vox Humana – Hans Fidom
- 14:30 Speech synthesis and organ technology – Fabian Brackhane
- 15:00 Kempelen's speaking machine: demonstration of a replica – Fabian Brackhane
- 15:30 Research by practical mechanics of the mouth – Jaap Blonk
- 15:45 coffee/tea
- 16:00 Martin Riches: demonstration of *The Talking Machine*, *MotorMouth* and the *Singing Machine*

20:15 Concert Orgelpark:

- * Ute Wassermann – *Organ Pipe Chitter* (new work), for voice, small organ pipes & bird whistles
- * Martin Riches – *The Singing Machine* with an extract from *hitonokiesari - people vanish* (2013) by Masahiro Miwa & Sadakazu Fujii
- * Ute Wassermann & Martin Riches – *Pneuma* (new work), for voice and *Talking Machine*

Interval:

Martin Riches – Hands-on demonstration of the *Talking Machine* with members of the audience

- * Michael Edgerton – *The Elements of Risk in Creation* (2001), an electronic composition with optional voice
- * Nicolas d' Alessandro – *Lost in Layers* (new work), for soprano and tenor HandSketch instruments
- * Nicolas d' Alessandro – demonstration and explanation of his synthetic voice instruments
- * Nicolas d' Alessandro, Ute Wassermann, Michael Edgerton – improvisation

Intermezzi: organ improvisations by Guus Janssen

Thursday 12 May

Doelenzaal

- 9:00 Registration (coffee/tea)
- 9:15 Objectification of sound and sound source, modelling of emotions: singing with care, vocalecture by Jannie Pranger
- 9:30 Expanding the voice, lecture-workshop by Ute Wassermann
- 10:15 Controlled use of nonlinear phenomena in contemporary vocal music – Michael Edgerton
- 11:00 coffee/tea
- 11:15 Digital voice synthesis: how to model the “grain” of the voice – Peter Pabon
- 12:00 lunch
- 13:15 Concatenative Speech Synthesis: Playing the Imitation Game – Arthur Dirksen
- 14:15 Get Objects to Talk and Sing: Creating and controlling artificial voice – Nicolas d’Alessandro
- 15:00 drinks

Belle van Zuylenzaal

- 15:30 academic expert meeting
(on invitation only)

Friday 13 May

STEIM

- 10:00 – 13:00 Workshop Nicolas d’Alessandro: Creating and controlling synthetic voices (€25, registration required via tijs@steim.nl – max. 12 participants)
- 14:00 – 17:00 Artistic expert meeting
(on invitation only, max. 12 participants)