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:

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

* 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, vocalecure 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)