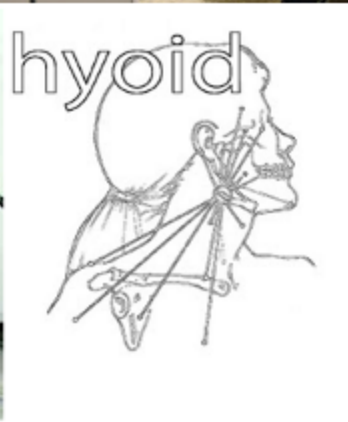
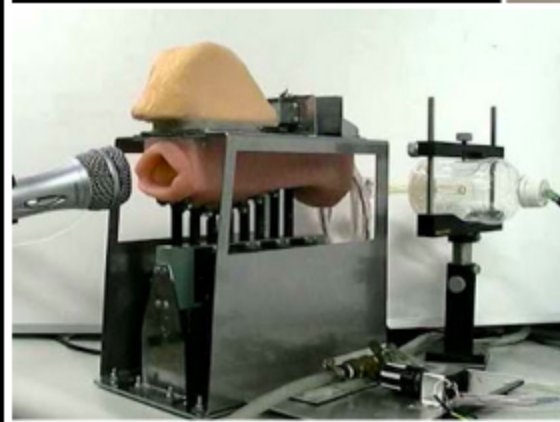


A History of the Voice

Jennifer Walshe



"The 'grain' is the body in the voice as it sings, the hand as it writes, the limb as it performs... I shall not judge a performance according to the rules of interpretation...but according to the image of the body given to me."

- Roland Barthes, "The Grain of the Voice"

And is it a woman teaching a dolphin how to talk? And is it 3D printed versions of the human vocal tract?

And is it that the brain privileges vocal sounds above others?

And is it Britney Spears's guttural groans? And is it Dufay, and Dunstable, and Perotin?

And is it Tom Cruise's laugh when he talks about Scientology? And is it your mother's voice, heard through bone and blood?

And is it artificial intelligence that can predict how pre-modern really sounded by studying the the facial expressions of singers in paintings?

And is it the sound of someone quietly crying over the phone?

And is it Ultimate Warrior's roar? And is it a 21 year old woman who didn't get hired because of her vocal fry?

And is it a "still small voice" or is that "roar which lives on the other side of silence"?

And is it that people who "hear" voices usually hear male voices?

And is it that man who walks the Piccadilly to Metropolitan line change at King's Cross Station singing Bryan Adams so loudly he weaponises the sound?

And is it Gwyneth Paltrow's voice cracking as she gives her Oscar acceptance speech?

And is it that dude on the self-help tape who sounds totally high? And is it a doomsday cult?

And is it a dog saying "sausages"? And is it a small child screaming "show picture of baby rabbit swimming" at Siri?





personnel

4 singers (Fabienne Seveillac, Els, Mondelaers, Andreas Halling, Tiemo Wang)

sound technician: Wannes Gonnissen

world premiere

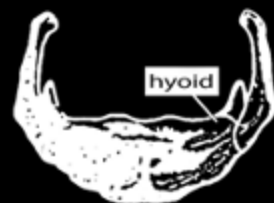
Transit festival at STUK (Leuven, Belgium), October 22nd 2017

residency

residency at deFENIKS (Mortsel) with the support of WALPURGIS: summer 2017

more performances

HCMF (Huddersfield Festival, United Kingdom); November Music festival (Den Bosch, Netherlands) & Soundsofmusic festival (Groningen, Netherlands): November 2018 / GAIDA festival (Vilnius, Lithuania): October 2020 / Muziekcentrum De Bijloke | (Ghent, Belgium): December 2020.



composition commission

co-commission by Transit New Music Festival 2017, HCMF (Huddersfield Festival) 2018, HYOID contemporary voices with the support of the Ernst van Siemens Musikstiftung

a brief tech rider

6 mics on stands / DI boxes, large video screen or rear screen, lights, 1 light technician

