

VoCon

February 13th, 2022 – 09:00 - 13:00

Hybrid (Łódź and online)

9:00 - 9:10 Greetings and Introduction

9:10 - 10:00 Welcome presentation by voice teachers and students from Akademia Muzyczna im. Grazyny i Kiejstuta Bacewiczow, Łódź (Poland)

10:00-11:00 Lecture

The First Sound: Images and Thoughts about Voice and Identity

Diana Torti (WM College/London Performing Academy of Music, London - UK)

What is the connection between voice and identity? What makes the voice so intimate and suggestive? What role does the voice play in the current social context? These are some of the questions that are arising in current voice research. Both “psychology of the voice” and “singing for health and well-being” are disciplines that are being established with interest and consensus as a place for reflection and search in the vocal field. The First Sound research proposes a series of images, reflections, questions and ideas relating to the relationship between voice and identity. Starting from a personal research path entitled “The Expressive Urgency of the First Sound”, we will ask ourselves about the voice phenomenon, its intimate connection with everyone's own internal reality and the universality of human sound. By crossing historical and anthropological facts, research hypotheses and philosophical ideas, but also themes of more strictly psychological relevance, we will try to reconstruct, in broad terms, the history of the human voice and the path that has accompanied vocal expression from the beginning of the sounds to the formation of articulated language. A work that gives interesting food for thought about the relationship between one's voice and human expressive urgency. But also, an approach that offers a range of educational and training possibilities useful to support in an even more authentic and profound way the work on the voice, vocal improvisation and self-expression. A journey that is a small beginning, a fresh drop in a welcoming sea, about the research on the voice, one of the most fascinating and surprising in human history.

Diana Torti is a jazz singer, improviser, singing teacher and psychologist. She has extensive experience in music performance, including recordings, international festivals and concerts. Her project “On A Cloud” has been nominated among the best jazz vocal releases of 2019 by The New York City Jazz Record and Jazz Views. The album is part of her current research “The Expressive Urgency of the First Sound” - a path about vocal identity in which the need for urgent, natural and free singing is combined with improvisation, experienced as an expressive possibility above any stylistic connotation. Her speech “The Different Voice” has been recently published (it was delivered within the conference “Sound is Sensitive Expression of Thought” organized by Ipazia Immagine Pensiero association for 'Psyche and Art' series, in September 2019). She includes this research in her teaching, along with her training as a psychologist. She currently lives in London, teaching and collaborating with several institutions including WM College and London Performing Academy of Music.

11:00 - 11:30 BREAK

11:30 - 12:00 Open Floor session

HI-STORY

Annemarie Maas (HKU, Utrecht - Holland)

"Hi-story" is about researching what (present or hidden) story can empower one's artistic live. Being an artist is being a storyteller. Every artistic story evokes, startles, empowers, softens, arouses, hits, glorifies, humbles, tickles, supports. The story of a song is not just about the words; more about the story behind the words. We all exist of stories, that come from experiences. These stories are always there, some of them nearby, some further away, some lost or unfinished. In the artistic performance these stories count, one way or the other. Annemarie Maas is working on the re-creation of her hidden history, combining research and imagination into new stories that enlighten her personal life and inspire her artistic life.

12:00 - 12:45 Open Floor session

Vocal Technique and Music – Separate Teaching Content or Inseparable Parts of Singing?

Susanna Mesiä (Metropolia University of Applied Sciences, Helsinki – Finland)

This session gives an introduction to general discussion about the possibilities and challenges of teaching vocal technique and musical content together by one teacher or separately by different teachers. It also briefly considers the topic through scientific concepts of learning. As a lecturer teaching both vocal technique and musical content, Mesiä offers examples of how to combine both content in teaching for the benefit of musical performance of the student.

12:45 - 13:00 Planning VoCon future meetings

About VoCon

VoCon is a Europe-wide platform for vocal Jazz, Pop, Folk and all interested teachers in higher music education. It provides the need for sharing good practice, thoughts on education, and differences in vision and mission in the various European countries. It is a very personal practice-based platform that aims to connect professional teachers in higher education on a 'person to person' base. It is a learning community, practicing what it preaches and also provides and protects free space for sharing topics that emerge on the spot.

~ VOCAL TEACHERS (VoCon) MANIFEST ~

When being a member of VoCon you are:

- a vocal teacher Jazz and/or Pop and/or Folk in higher music education;
- in an institute that is connected to or open to attending AEC/PJP;
- eager to meet and greet European colleagues in our working field;
- interested in sharing thoughts, vision, mission and practical working forms with colleagues;
- primarily interested in sharing questions instead of giving answers;
- part of a learning community, open to shift angles that may offer new insights;
- critical friend to your colleagues and their contribution in both meetings and VoCon online communication;
- part of a non-strategic platform, that develops from the inside out;
- open to sharing research results, contribute knowledge and be a sounding board;
- open to educational experiment and keen on exchanging all kinds of educational experiences;
- an ambassador that reaches out to colleagues inviting them to take part in VoCon.