Talk, verbal stuff, is taken as a primary component, drawn from materials found in the work of linguist Ferdinand de Saussure on various ancient and modern languages (the "Indo-Europeans" languages). The detailed analysis of the sonorities of the ancient and modern languages, their re-elaboration and recomposition, is finally embodied in a score-text, spread out onstage in its concrete dimensions through the language performance of the two sound artists. The body is where this vocal investigation takes place, by digging in the primitive sound-matter of language.

Wednesday, April 27, 2011 3:30 pm
Music Building, Room 115

We ask that you be courteous to your fellow audience members and the performers. Please turn off your cell phones and refrain from texting. Audience members who are distracting to their neighbors or the performers in any way may be asked to leave at any time.
Also, this performance is being professionally recorded for the university archive. Photography, audio, or audiovisual recording is prohibited during the performance.
Jacques Demierre (b. 1954) lives in Geneva and is a pianist, performer, and composer. His musical and sound work takes various directions: improvised music, contemporary music, sound poetry, and sound installation. His compositions and sound realizations are concerned with the activity of listening and with sound space and develop a cross- and interdisciplinary conception of music. He collaborates with many improvising musicians, including Barre Philips, Urs Leimgruber, Thomas Lehn, Joëlle Léandre, Axel Dorner, Fritz Hauser, Sainkho Namtchylak, Hans Koch, Brandon Labelle, Jason Kahn, Butch Morris, Carlos Zingaro, Jaap Blonk, Barry Guy, Lucas Niggli, Sylvie Courvoisir, Hann Bennink, Rhodri Davis, Isabelle Duthoit, Dorothea Schurch, and Phil Minton.

Vincent Barras (b. 1956) also lives in Geneva and is a performer, historian, and translator. He teaches at the University of Lausanne (history of medicine) and at the High Schools of Art and Applied Art in Geneva (sound, history of the body). He is a member of Contrechamps Editions in Geneva (contemporary music and aesthetics) and a programmer of sound poetry and art language festivals (La Bâtie Festival and Roaratorio in Geneva). He has published various books, essays, and articles on body theory, medicine, and psychiatry, contemporary poetry, and music. He has translated books by Galen, Edoardo Sanguineti, Theodor W. Adorno, Carl Dahlhaus, Georges Seferis, John Cage, Eugen Gomringer, Simon Cutts, and Robert Lax.

Vincent Barras and Jacques Demierre have published together:

Voicing Through Saussure, Jacques Demierre et Vincent Barras, a film by Véronique Goël, vidéo, color, 64 minutes, 2009.


