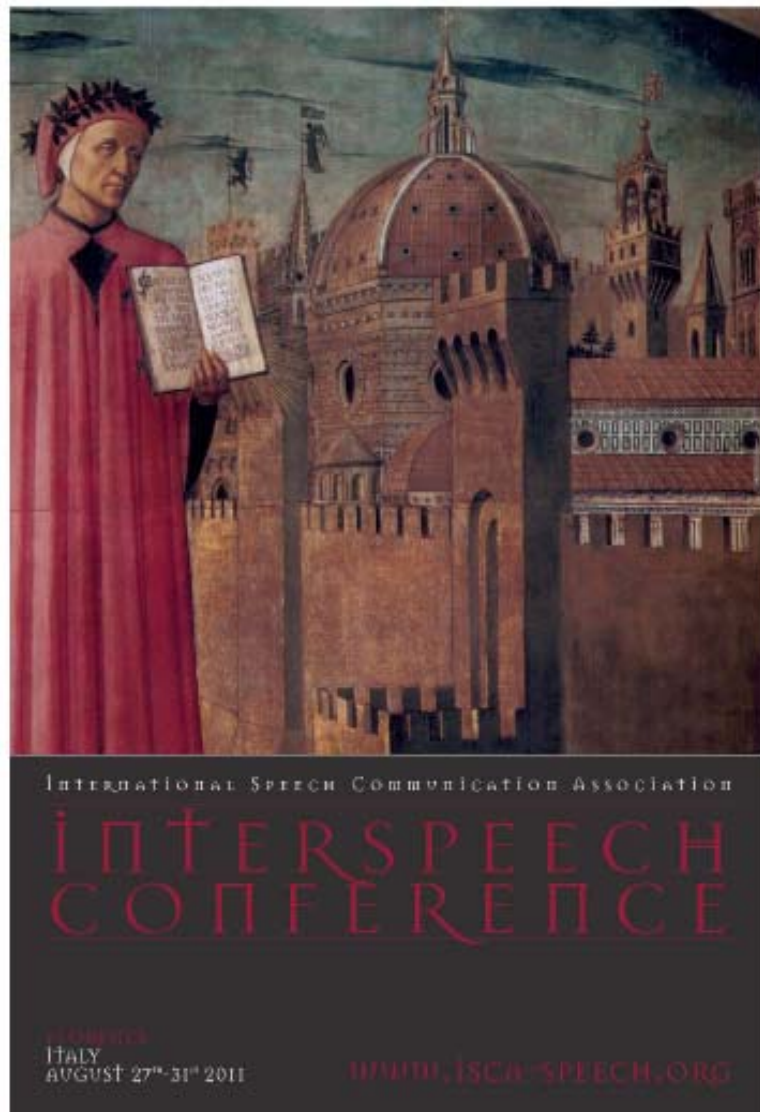


Accompanying Person Program

Firenze, 27-31 Agosto 2011



Congresso Interspeech "Speech science and technology for real life"
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Segreteria organizzativa
Promo Leader Service Congressi
Dott.ssa Alessandra Colombo

1) In the Footsteps of Michelangelo (only on morning)

Accademia Museum: the 'Galleria dell'Accademia' conserves the most important masterpieces of sculpture by Michelangelo, among which the St Matthew, the impressive Slaves who look fighting to emerge from the marble and, of course, the famous David, symbol of Florence in the whole world.

Medici Chapels: situated behind the apse of the church of San Lorenzo, the Medici Chapels include the celebrated Sagrestia Nuova, private mausoleum built by Michelangelo in the first half of the 16C for the Medici family. Considered as one of the most expressive creations of the artist, it's a jewel combining sculpture and architecture in a perfect fusion of arts.

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Laurentian Library: the Laurentian Library is a remarkable monument of Mannerism architecture. It was begun by Michelangelo in 1524 at the order of Clement VII (Giulio de' Medici) to house the collection of manuscripts made by Cosimo il Vecchio and Lorenzo il Magnifico. The richly decorated Vestibule testifies to Michelangelo's sculptural conception of architecture and contrasts with the peaceful Reading Room.

2) Tour of Santa Maria Novella Church and cloisters

Santa Maria Novella Church: this gothic church was built by the Dominican Friars between 1279 and 1357. The façade dates back to the Renaissance period and it was designed by the great architect Leon Battista Alberti. Santa Maria Novella is one of the richest churches of Florence: the huge interior boasts important fresco cycles by Filippino Lippi and Domenico Ghirlandaio and hosts masterpieces such as the Crucifix by Giotto (1288) and the celebrated Trinity by Masaccio, both recently restored.

Santa Maria Novella great cloisters (normally closed to the public): the largest of Florence, Santa Maria Novella's cloisters are decorated with a remarkable fresco cycle by some of the most important Florentine painters of the 16th century. The graceful Cappella dei Papi, built in 1515 for pope Leo X, boasts a beautiful fresco of the Veronica by Pontormo.

Farmacia di Santa Maria Novella: one of the most refined places in Florence, the *Officina Profumo-Farmaceutica di Santa Maria Novella* overlooks the *Chiostro Grande* of the Dominican convent. This charming chemist's shop still produces its own perfumes and soaps according to antique recipes. It boasts a collection of antique pharmacy jars, 17th century vases

and beautiful 18th and 19th century furniture. It will be possible to visit the little medieval chapel decorated with 14th century frescoes. This chapel is normally closed to public.

3) An exclusive city tour

Piazza Signoria: participants will be introduced to the beauties of Florence starting from Piazza Signoria, political center of the city since the Middle Ages. The square, dominated by the imposing fortress-palace of Palazzo Vecchio, is often quoted as an open-air museum of sculpture. Indeed, statues by the most important artists of the Renaissance, such as the magnificent bronze *Perseus* by Cellini, are situated in the square and visible to the public.

Visit to the external terrace of the Duomo of Florence (external terrace is normally closed to the public): set in the heart of the city, the *Duomo* is the cathedral of Florence. It produces a memorable effect of massive grandeur with its enormous chapel built by Brunelleschi. Its sheer size is typical of Florentine disposition to grandiosity. To date, no other building stands taller in the city.

In addition to the "classic" tour inside the cathedral, the group will be accompanied to a spectacular walk on the external terrace situated all around the church. From there, it is possible to have an unusual view of the chapel and of the whole city.

4) Renaissance Sculpture (only on morning)

Visit of the **Bargello Museum:** the Bargello palazzo, a medieval fortress built in 1255 as city hall, is the oldest seat of government which survives in Florence. The palazzo now houses the Museo Nazionale del Bargello, one of the most important museums in the city, famous for its superb collection of Florentine Renaissance sculptures, including numerous works by Donatello, the Della Robbia, Michelangelo, Cellini and Giambologna.

Walk on to **Orsanmichele** built in 1337 as a grain market and later converted into a church. The exterior walls have 14 niches each of which contains a statue of the patron saint of one of the Florence's art guilds, made by the most important sculptors as Nanni di Banco, Donatello, Ghiberti. It will be possible in this special occasion to visit the upper floor where the originals statues are displayed in a beautiful gothic room.

5) Uffizi Gallery and Vasarian Corridor

Uffizi Gallery: the Uffizi is one of the oldest and most famous museums in the world. Founded in 1581 by Francesco I de Medici, it occupies the top floor of a building designed by Vasari to house the administrative offices of the state of Tuscany (hence *Uffizi*). The rooms of the Uffizi host masterpieces dating back to the early Renaissance in the works of artists such as Giotto and Cimabue. The group will be walked through the sublime poetic style of Botticelli and Filippo Lippi, the interests in nature of Leonardo da Vinci and the high renaissance of Michelangelo and Raphael.

Vasari Corridor (closed to public). This famous corridor, which provides unique views of the city and the Arno river, was built by Giorgio Vasari for Cosimo I de' Medici in only 5 months to celebrate the marriage of Francesco de' Medici and Joanna of Austria. Its purpose was to connect Palazzo Vecchio via the Uffizi and Ponte Vecchio with the new residence of the Medici dukes at Palazzo Pitti, in the form of a private covered passage-way nearly 1 km long. The corridor currently contains 17C and 18C paintings and, above all, the finest artists' self portrait collection in the world. This collection, of great historical interest and importance, includes self portraits of Peter Paul Rubens, Diego Velázquez, Ingres, and Marc Chagall.

6) The Medici patronage

Medici Chapels

This museum includes the opulent Cappella dei Principi and the famous Sagrestia Nuova. The Cappella dei Principi (chapel of the Princes) was built in the 17C as a mausoleum for the Medici grand-dukes. It is a high octagon entirely lined with dark-coloured marbles and semiprecious stones, a tour de force of craftsmanship in pietre dure. The Sagrestia Nuova, begun by Giuliano da Sangallo in 1491 and continued by Michelangelo in 1520-33, contains the beautiful tombs of Lorenzo Duke of Urbino and Giuliano Duke of Nemours, some of the finest sculptures by Michelangelo.

San Lorenzo Church

The church of San Lorenzo was intimately connected with the Medici family after they commissioned Brunelleschi to rebuild it in 1425-46. The grey cruciform interior, built with pietra serena and pietra forte, is one of the earliest and most harmonious architectural works of the Renaissance. It has some important works of art by Rosso Fiorentino, Filippo Lippi, Donatello, Antonio del Pollaiuolo and Verrocchio.

Palazzo Medici Riccardi

Home of the Medici for 100 years from 1444, the palazzo was later acquired by the Riccardi family and now houses government offices. Built to an austere design by Michelozzo for Cosimo di Medici, it served as a model for other famous Florentine palaces, including Palazzo Strozzi. The Chapel of the Magi housed within the palace was entirely decorated by Benozzo Gozzoli with the beautiful fresco cycle of "The Procession of the Magi" which depicts several members of the Medici.

7) Last Supper frescos in Florence Refectories (only on morning)

Last Supper of Fuligno

A recurrent theme in Florentine Renaissance fresco painting is the Last Supper, an appropriated subject for decorating the large convent refectories. The one painted by Perugino (c. 1495) in the refectory of the former convent of Foligno, is a triumph of light with a bright Umbrian background.

Sant' Apollonia

In the refectory of Sant'Apollonia we find the dramatic, rigorously perspective version of the Last Supper by Andrea del Castagno. Above this masterpiece are equally fine frescoes of the *Crucifixion*, *Deposition* and *Resurrection* by the same artist.

San Marco Last Supper and museum

Cosimo il Vecchio commissioned his favorite architect, Michelozzo, to enlarge the building of the convent of San Marco in 1437. He guaranteed all expenses, no matter how high, including the cost of the furniture, the extension of the church and a public library, first of its kind in Europe. The *San Marco museum* housed in the convent is famous mainly for its works by the "Blessed" Fra Angelico who was a friar and decorated the monk's cells at the first floor with intimate frescoes. On the ground floor, the Pilgrim's Hospice also contains a superb collection of paintings by Fra' Angelico, collected from churches and convents in Florence and the surroundings. In the refectory, we can admire the Last Supper by Domenico Ghirlandaio with bright, neat colours.