

Editorial: Moving Forward

This issue of *IJRCS* marks a rejuvenation of the journal with the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) as its new publisher. For this movement forward we owe particular appreciation to Hilary Apfelstadt, University of Toronto, who is Past President of ACDA and an *IJRCS* Editorial Board Member, and to Tim Sharp, ACDA Executive Director. Their vision and determination facilitated a memorandum of agreement between the *IJRCS* Editorial Board and the ACDA Executive Board whereby *IJRCS* functions as the scientific research journal of the American Choral Directors Association, a vital and strong professional organization of choral musicians with some twenty thousand members worldwide.

By terms of the agreement, *IJRCS* maintains its editorial independence while accruing much needed administrative support for the journal's publication and indexing. The *IJRCS* will remain a fully refereed, nonprofit, freely accessible publication. We will continue to encourage and publish well-executed studies that advance knowledge and practice with respect to choral singing, choral pedagogy, and related areas.

As I look over the articles accepted for this issue, I note authorship by researchers who are in the relatively early stages of their careers. You will see from their short biographies that these persons bring to the research enterprise a remarkable array of backgrounds, expertise, and research interests.

Five articles report investigations that either begin or contribute to new lines of research. Jeremy N. Manternach employed 3-D infrared motion capture technology to measure singer responses to particular nonverbal conductor behaviors. He found that the singers in his study mimicked conductor lip rounding and eyebrow raise, and that the lip behaviors persisted even after withdrawal of the conductor stimulus.

Sheri L. Cook-Cunningham, Melissa L. Grady, and Heather Nelson used noise dosimeters to document hearing doses acquired by university choral singers across a series of rehearsals and performances. A growing body of research has addressed noise induced hearing loss among musicians. Previous studies have

documented sound exposure levels for instrumentalists. Cook-Cunningham and her colleagues are among the first to consider such matters in a university choral singing context.

Christian T. Herbst, Elke Duus, Harald Jers, and Jan G. Švec used data from voice range profiles to explore the feasibility of quantifying amateur choir voice class assignments. Their collaboration not only introduces the possibility of developing objective measures for an important task, but it also embodies the transdisciplinary posture of much new-generation choral research.

Matthew Schloneger's historical study acquaints readers with a little known, yet fascinating, performance practice among Old Mennonites who sang oratorios a cappella. By so doing, it documents one example of the often complex interactions between ethos and fine art perspectives on choral singing that continue to inform choral singing philosophies.

Trent R. Brown contributes to the scant research literature thus far on students' motivations for re-enrolling in college choral ensembles. Results from his study suggest that conductor behaviors and attributes, as well as social and aesthetic reasons, may play a role in such decisions.

Another article offers a new approach to a longtime matter of interest. A considerable body of research has addressed the specificity and magnitude of teacher feedback behaviors. Tucker Biddlecombe, however, focused on these matters expressly within choral singing contexts. He found that an intervention protocol using a conductor feedback assessment form he developed for his investigation yielded a significant increase in the specific feedback of participating choral conductors, and a concurrent perceived improvement in rehearsal pacing and chorister attitudes.

Both the newer generation of choral researchers represented by authors whose studies appear in this issue of *IJRCS* and the recent affiliation between this journal and ACDA suggest to me a promising, forward movement in expanding our profession's knowledge base. ✪ [IJRCS](#)

-James F. Daugherty



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