



Research Report

Elizabeth Hearn and
Elizabeth Cassidy Parker, editors

Overview and Editorial Transition

by Elizabeth Hearn and Elizabeth Cassidy Parker

We are honored to serve as editors of the *Choral Journal* Research Report column. In addition to this role, Parker has recently assumed the position of chair of the ACDA Research & Publications Standing Committee, and together we look forward to continuing this column's mission of connecting choral scholarship with practice. We extend sincere thanks to Bryan Nichols for his dedicated service as the previous editor of this column. His leadership and guidance have been invaluable during this transition.

Purpose and Scope

The Research Report column exists to advance the visibility of choral music research by presenting scholarship in ways that inform, challenge, and enrich the work of practitioners across diverse contexts. Whether directing a community ensemble, preparing future music educators, or leading singers in rehearsal, readers should find research here that sparks reflection and offers meaningful application. We seek to amplify the voices of scholars who investigate and interpret choral topics grounded in peer-reviewed scholarship.

Submissions may take a variety of forms, including, but not limited to:

- A focused discussion of a single study or a small group of studies.
- A synthesis of a broader body of peer-reviewed literature.
- A topical review that links research findings to current issues in the choral field.

Regardless of format, submissions should move beyond summary and provide clear implications for practice that include actions or considerations that conductors and educators may apply directly in their professional work. Our goal is to connect scholarship with the lived realities of the rehearsal room.

Call for Submissions

The journal welcomes submissions year-round from scholars, practitioners, and graduate students who wish to share their work with the *Choral Journal* readership. Authors conducting studies, reviewing literature, or reflecting on the relationship between research and practice are encouraged to contribute. Interested authors should direct their manuscripts and inquiries to Libby Hearn—chearn@olemiss.edu.

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Poster Session Highlights from the 2025 ACDA National Conference

To celebrate the breadth of choral scholarship, we wish to highlight some of the research featured in the 2025 ACDA National Conference Poster Session. These projects exemplify the type of innovative, relevant work with practical applications that we hope to feature in this column:

- Choir Teacher Agency & Culturally Sustaining Pedagogy (Kaitlyn Schramm)
- Cognitive Load Management in the High School Choral Rehearsal: A Case Study (Sean Foster)
- Continuous Transitions and Audience Enjoyment of Choral Music: A Pilot Study (Annika Stucky)
- Growth Mindset of Music Ability Predicts Music Self-Concept Among Middle School Students (Diego Daflon Pinto)
- High School Chorus Students' Perspectives of a Practitioner-Designed Cultural Context Curriculum (Jason Bowers & Julia Edwards)
- Implicit Theory of Singing Ability & Singing Self-Concept in the Collegiate Choral Hierarchy (Kari Adams & Jessica Nápoles)
- Informal Learning Practices & Processes in Three High School Choral Programs: A Multiple Case Study (Aimee Pearsall)
- Perceptions of Teacher Preparation for Secondary Choral Music Literacy Instruction in Kentucky: A Pilot Study (Sarina Olson-Gustely)
- Perfectionism and Social Comparison Among Choir Directors (Jessica Nápoles & Thomas Rinn)
- Rethinking Assessment in the Choral Classroom: A Content Analysis (Skyler Bluemel)
- The Effect of Ensemble Race on Listener Perception (Ethan Murphy)

- Thinking About Singing: Metacognition in the Choral Ensemble (Kyle Gray)
- “There’s Room for Me Here”: An Ethnographic Study on Autonomy, Motivation, and Psychological Safety in the Choral Rehearsal (Ramon Cardenas)
- “What Are They Singing About?": Choral Performance Audience Preferences of Text/Translation Delivery (Kelli Baker & Melissa Grady)
- When Did You Stop Singing? Elementary Boys' Attitudes and Self-Efficacy Toward the Act of Singing (Eric Wyler)
- Why Do We Gather? Functions of the Church Choir (Jon Snyder)

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/ACDAPosters25> for a full listing of the 2025 poster session abstracts.

Looking Ahead: Call for Proposals

As we look to the year ahead, we encourage readers to make plans to submit poster session proposals for the upcoming 2026 ACDA Regional Conferences. Additionally, the call for proposals to present at the 2026 Symposium for Research in Choral Singing, held April 30–May 1 in Chicago, is open.

The submission deadline is Friday, November 14. See acda.org/conferences/symposium-for-research-in-choral-singing for more information.

As we begin this editorial role, we look forward to curating this space and presenting scholarship that generates new conversations, raises relevant questions, and encourages fresh practices in choral music. 

Elizabeth Hearn is associate professor of choral music education at the University of Mississippi. ehearn@olemiss.edu.

Elizabeth Cassidy Parker is professor of music education at Temple University. elizabeth.parker@temple.edu