

by Bryan E. Nichols, Symposium Chair <bnichols@psu.edu>

The Fourth International ACDA Symposium on Research in Choral Singing was held April 25-26, 2024, hosted by the Pennsylvania State University at the Big 10 Conference Center in Rosemont/Chicago, Illinois. To ensure a robust in-person meeting, US-based presenters appeared in person and attendees from all countries were encouraged to attend remotely. The meeting featured three pre-conference workshops: 1) Historical performance practice by Carolann Buff, 2) Qualitative research techniques by Julia Shaw, and 3) Quantitative research techniques by Brian Shaw. To kick off the symposium, a welcome was offered by Jessica Nápoles as chair of the ACDA Research & Publications committee and Robyn Hilger as ACDA Executive Director.

The fourth symposium was preceded by an in-person symposium hosted at Northwestern University (2018), a remote asynchronous symposium (Georgia State University, 2020), and a remote synchronous symposium (Georgia State University & Penn State University, 2022). This year's symposium began with the 2020 Herford dissertation prize winner, A. J. Keller, who gave an exciting presentation with musical excerpts on the Danish composer Pelle Gudmundsen-Holmgreen (1932-2016). A. J. is the associate director of choral organizations at Northwestern University and the founder and artistic director of Stare at the Sun, a Chicago-based, twenty-four-voice professional chamber choir specializing in the curation and commissioning of music by living composers. The dissertation itself can be downloaded as a PDF without the need of a login at this address: https://arch.library.northwestern.edu/concern/generic_works/37720d088?locale=en

The dissertation prize winner was followed by twenty-one research presentations and twenty-one poster presentations in the form of lightning talks. A book author session featured five publications from recent years:

- Bridget Sweet, *Thinking Outside the Voice Box: Adolescent Voice Change in Music Education*
- Elizabeth Parker, *Adolescents on Music*
- Wendy Moy, *Resurrecting Song: A Pathway Forward for the*

Choral Art in the Time of Pandemics

- Matthew Garrett, *Honoring Trans and Gender-Expansive Students in Music Education*
- Elisa Dekaney, *Music at the Intersection of Brazilian Culture: An Introduction to Music, Race, and Food*

The schedule featured a performance by Iowa City West High School (David Haas, conductor). Small Group Discussion Breakouts were convened by editorial board members from the *International Journal for Research in Choral Singing* (IJRCS), including:

- Vocal Health for All Ages (Melissa Grady)
- Gender in Choral Singing (Stephen Paparo & Matthew Garrett)
- Pedagogy, Skill Acquisition and Development (Rebecca Atkins)
- Adolescent-Specific Topics (Alfonso Jesús Elorriaga Llor, Patrick Freer & Jamey Kelley)

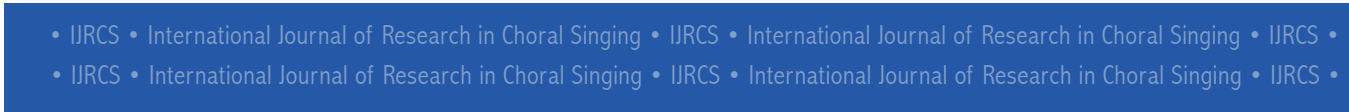
An international group of nearly seventy choral scholars met in-person and virtually to present and discuss research in a range of formats. The primary goals of the Symposium were to define the current state of research in choral singing, and to identify and coordinate issues and methodologies for future efforts. Participants represented forty-seven colleges and universities in the United States, with others representing universities in Austria, Australia, Canada, England, Germany, Hungary, and Spain.

The Symposium was a project of the American Choral Directors Association, supported by the National Standing Committee on Research and Publications. Among the Committee's many responsibilities is oversight of the *International Journal of Research in Choral Singing*, and the Symposium was developed to encourage a body of scholarship that might be published in the IJRCS. The IJRCS can be accessed online, free of charge, through the "publications" tab or at www.acda.org/ijrcs.

Symposium Leadership

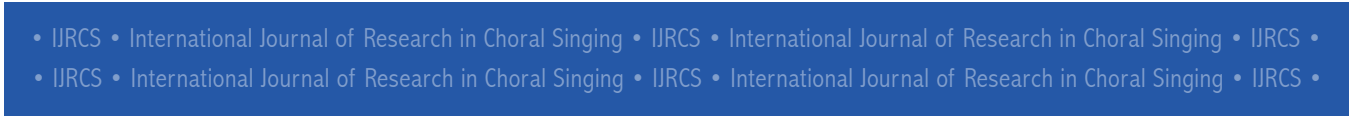
The Symposium on Research in Choral Singing was hosted by The Pennsylvania State University (USA) in conjunction with Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (Spain) and De Montfort University (England). I served as Conference Chair, and Motje Wolf (De Montfort University, England) was Program Chair. Three student assistants rounded out the planning and hosting team: Jeffrey Chan (Penn State University), Justin Caithaml (University of Maryland), and Nicole Wills (Eastern Michigan University). The fifteen-member Editorial

Board of the IJRCS evaluated all Symposium proposals: Rebecca Atkins (USA), Melissa C. Brunkan (USA), Alfonso Jesús Elorriaga Llor (Spain), Jason Goopy (Australia), Melissa L. Grady (USA), Scott D. Harrison (Australia), Jamey Kelley (USA), Marci L. Major (USA), Stephen A. Paparo (USA), Helmut Schaumberger (Austria), Julia T. Shaw (USA), Antonis Ververis (Greece), Justin J. West (USA), and Patrick Freer (Editor, USA), Adam White (Asst. Editor, USA). IT and other support was provided by Scott Davis, ACDA's IT Project Manager.



IJRCS International Journal of Research in Choral Singing

The Scientific Research Journal of the American Choral Directors Association



Call for Nominations – Editorial Board

Do you know someone who has contributions to make to choral research and to ACDA publications? See below for how you can formally nominate them . . . or you can simply request that we reach out to someone you feel might do great work; write to IJRCS@acda.org.

The editor of the *International Journal of Research in Choral Singing* requests nominations for 6-year membership on the Editorial Board. Terms begin January 1, 2025. [Electronic files of nomination materials will be accepted through September 15, 2024, addressed to Patrick K. Freer, IJRCS Editor, at IJRCS@acda.org.](#)

Editorial Board. Nominees should hold a completed doctorate and have a record of research publications. Nominations, including self-nominations, must include: 1) a letter that includes description of the nominee’s qualifications to evaluate quantitative and qualitative research manuscripts; the letter should also highlight the nominee’s most important research publications and any previous editorial/reviewer work; 2) the nominee’s ACDA membership number/membership expiration date*; 3) the nominee’s Curriculum Vitae; and 4) a PDF or direct link to a representative published research article selected by the nominee. Application materials may be emailed directly by the nominee; a letter of nomination from another individual may be sent separately, if desired.

*International nominees will need to hold ACDA membership upon appointment to the Editorial Board.