

2020 SYMPOSIUM ON RESEARCH IN CHORAL SINGING

by Patrick K. Freer, Symposium Chair <pfreer@gsu.edu>

The second Symposium on Research in Choral Singing was held virtually from May 15 to July 15, 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic forced the Symposium from its original, planned meeting at Georgia State University (Atlanta, GA) on May 1 & 2, 2020. At the time the format change was made, all proposals had been vetted and acceptance notifications had been delivered. The reconstituted Symposium proceeded in a virtual space with an online collection of videos, papers, and posters uploaded by presenters. The “virtual exhibit room” was open for viewing by all ACDA members. Several state ACDA chapters were able to incorporate the Symposium materials within their individual virtual summer conferences.

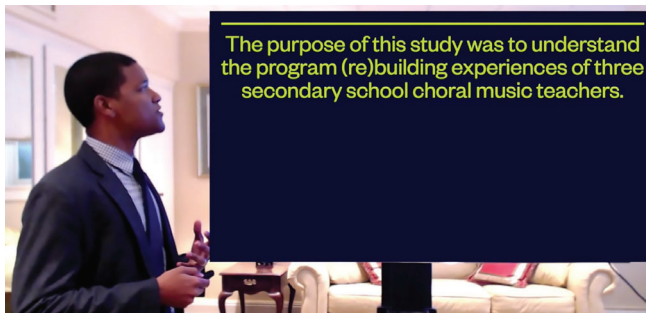
Abstracts of all accepted presentations were printed in volume 8 (2020) of the *International Jour-*

nal of Research in Choral Singing (see <https://acda.org/2020/04/ijrcs-volume-8>). The abstracts were compiled and edited by Bryan Nichols (Symposium Program Chair) and James Eldreth, both of Pennsylvania State University.

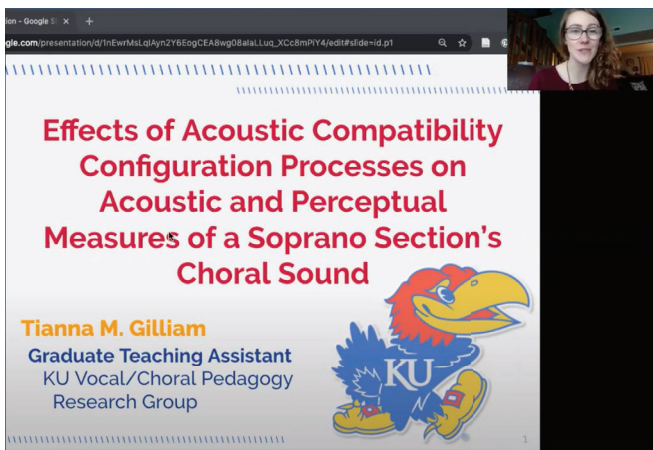
The Symposium’s virtual exhibit room was developed by Scott Davis, ACDA’s Information Technology Project Manager, and members of the *IJRCS* Editorial Board served as the Program Committee: Scott D. Harrison (Griffith University, Australia), David Howard (University of London), Jeremy Manternach (University of Iowa), Jessica Nápoles (University of North Texas), Elizabeth Parker (Temple University), Julia T. Shaw (Indiana University), Bridget Sweet (University of Illinois), and Graham Welch (University College of London). The Coordinator of Performing Choirs was Jennifer Sengin of Georgia State University.

The primary goal of the Symposium was to define the current state of research in choral singing, and to identify and coordinate issues and methodologies for future efforts. Participants represented multiple colleges and universities in the United States, several European universities, and two public school districts. The Symposium was developed to generate a body of scholarship that might be published in the *IJRCS*. The *IJRCS* is accessed online, free of charge, through the “publications” tab at www.acda.org.

The following is a sample of Symposium session titles included in the published abstracts and virtual exhibit room:



“(Re)building the secondary school choral music program: A multiple-case study” Justin West & Jason Bowers, Louisiana State University



- *Real voices, virtual ensemble 2.0: Perceptions of participation in Eric Whitacre’s virtual choirs;*
Stephen Paparo
University of Massachusetts Amherst
- *Pedagogical strategies for developing style(s) and conceptual knowledge of contemporary African choral music;*
Elijah Adongo
The University of Florida

CONFERENCE REPORT



- *Examining a composer-in-residence project for elementary choristers*

Sarah Bartolome
Northwestern University

- *Middle and high school director's pedagogical techniques used to teach world music*

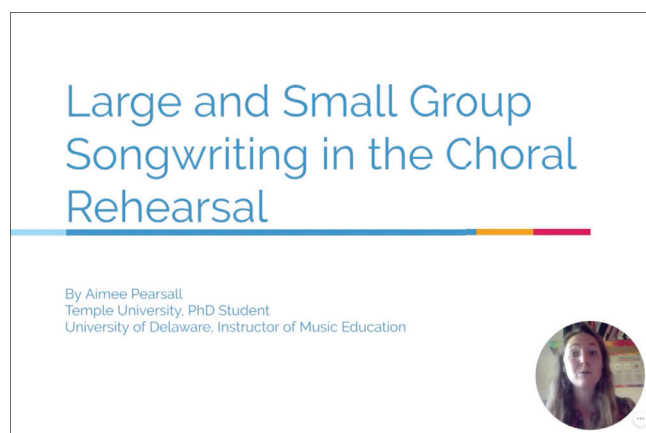
Stefanie Cash
Berry College

- *Assessment and individual student achievement in the choral classroom;*

Elizabeth Hearn
University of Mississippi

- *Choral directors' self-report of accommodations made for boys' changing voices*

Jan Killian
Texas Tech University
John Wayman
University of Texas-Arlington
and Patrick Antinone
Texas Christian University



- *An examination of undergraduate vocal pedagogy courses for preservice choral music educators*

Joshua Chism
University of Oklahoma

- *Amateurism in music education (1967-2019): An examination of three calls to action*

Tom FitzStephens
Georgia State University

- *The influences of facial expression and conducting gesture on college musicians' perceptions of choral conductor and ensemble expressivity*

Jessica Nápoles
University of North Texas

- *Effects of clavicle stretches on perceptions of singing ease in choral singers of a variety of ages*

Melissa Grady
University of Kansas
and Melissa Brunkan
University of Oregon



- Video appearances by the Georgia State University Singers (Deanna Joseph, conductor) and the Atlanta Homeward Choir (Dónal Noonan, Executive Director)

The 2020 Symposium on Research in Choral Singing was a project of the American Choral Directors Association through its National Standing Committee on Research and Publications chaired by John Silantien (University of Texas at San Antonio), with members Elisa Macedo Dekaney (Syracuse University), Patrick K. Freer (Georgia State University), Alan Gumm (University of Central Michigan), and Jessica Nápoles (University of North Texas). Thank you to all!