

IJRCS

International Journal of Research in Choral Singing

The Scientific Research Journal of the American Choral Directors Association

International Journal of Research in Choral Singing
(2018) Vol. 6 1-2

From the Editor

It is my great pleasure to write the editor's commentary for the latest volume of the *International Journal of Research in Choral Singing* (IJRCS), the Scientific Research Journal of the American Choral Directors Association. My term as editor began in January 2017. Since that time, the board and I have been overseeing changes to the Journal structure that we feel will provide both quality and continuity going forward.

The first change was to create a new editorial structure for greater consistency. Going forward the IJRCS will have an editor who serves four years, an associate editor who will serve six years total—two as associate editor and four as editor—and a 9-member editorial board who serve 6-year terms with three new board members elected every biennium. The current membership of the board can be found here. A special thanks to Associate Editor, Patrick Freer, who has partnered with me on every aspect of this transition.

The second change was to have all issues of the journal past and present available on the ACDA website complete with a new logo and publication format. The journal volumes starting with Volume 6 will correspond to the calendar year Jan.-Dec. Because we are an online journal there is no "online first." Consequently, articles will be published as they are accepted and will be continuously paginated within the volume. In addition, we will make an effort to publicize the articles as they appear, both to our membership and to a broader research audience. Thanks to Amanda Bumgarner, Ron Granger, and Scott Davis for their amazing work in getting the new journal edited and up on the website. Volume 6 is the first publication in 4 years and the first volume to appear with a new editor, new board and fully produced by ACDA.

All of the scholars working on the journal are deeply committed to both the promotion and improvement of empirical research in choral music. ACDA for its part has made an extraordinary commitment to this effort and I would be remiss if I didn't thank Tim Sharp and John Silantien for their unconditional support of this effort. To that end, ACDA is hosting its first-ever **Symposium on Research in Choral Singing**. The symposium will be held at Northwestern University on September 14-15, 2018, and will bring together empirical researchers in the many aspects of choral singing to share their work and discuss the agenda for the future of research in this area. The conference will feature Professor Graham Welch from the Institute of Education at University College London. Dr. Welch is a prolific scholar with many decades of research on choral singing. All ACDA members are invited to attend this symposium. Information on registration and other conference details can be found here: https://acda.org/ACDA/Conference/Special_Event/Symposium_on_Research_in_Choral_Singing.aspx. Because of limited space, participation will be capped at 80 participants. Hope to see you there!

Finally, to those of you doing research in this important area, I hope you will consider submitting your work to the IJRCS. As our guidelines state, "The editorial board welcomes manuscripts that reflect well-executed research employing quantitative, philosophical, historical, or qualitative methodologies. Reviews of empirical research, meta-analyses, etc. will also be considered for publication." Historically the journal has published work that is more exploratory and smaller sample investigations of important phenomena.

We have also expanded the journal to include literature reviews, although with the qualifier that they not be mere summaries or collections of research in a given area. Our guidelines state that a literature review should: “1) identify a purpose for the review—why this area of research is important; 2) critically evaluate the quality of the work under review; 3) help the reader to understand how a topic has been explored methodologically and theoretically; and 4) identify specific areas of need and directions for future research. Reviews can also be used to point to new theoretical directions for research based on an assessment of empirical findings.” If you have questions about whether your work is a good fit for the journal, please do not hesitate to contact me: Steven M. Demorest at ijrcs.acda@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Steven M. Demorest, Editor
International Journal of Research in Choral Singing