

IJRCS

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From the Editor

I am pleased to introduce the seventh volume of the *International Journal of Research in Choral Singing*. Before proceeding, it is important to note that as this volume went to press, we were immensely saddened to learn of the passing of Steven M. Demorest, former Editor of the *IJRCS* and a profound influencer of the developing field of research in choral singing. We were able to honor Steven in several ways during the past year as referenced elsewhere in this introductory letter. We can pay no greater respect than to continue Steven's rejuvenation of this journal, strengthening the field that was his passion and which benefited from his drive. And so, we continue. We begin this volume with "Changes to Spacing Preference in Ensembles of Varying Size: A Pilot Study" (Kari A. Adams). Adams's study was presented at the 2018 ACDA Symposium for Research in Choral Singing. One of the goals of that symposium was the generation of content suitable for eventual publication in the *IJRCS*. This article is the first from that effort, and others will follow in Volumes 7 & 8.

2020 Symposium for Research in Choral Singing

The second symposium, the 2020 ACDA Symposium for Research in Choral Singing, will be held May 1 & 2, 2020 at Georgia State University in Atlanta, GA. Proposals are due November 30, 2019 as detailed on the ACDA website under the "Conferences" pull-down tab.

Steven M. Demorest Award for Choral Research

It is an honor to report that the ACDA National Standing Committee on Research and Publications (John Silantien, chair) proposed and received approval from the ACDA Executive Committee to honor Steven Demorest's service to choral research with the Steven M. Demorest Award for Choral Research. This award will be given to the highest scoring research poster proposal at each national conference of ACDA. The first award will be given at the 2021 conference in Dallas, TX.

IJRCS Editorial Board Report

The Editorial Board of the *IJRCS* took several important actions at its Spring 2019 meeting, including:

- received Steven Demorest's resignation as Editor due to health concerns; the board accepted the resignation with admiration for all of Steve's contributions to the rebirth and rejuvenation of our journal;
- named Steven Demorest as "Editor Emeritus" and named Patrick K. Freer as Editor, serving until the ACDA National Conference in 2023;
- decided to leave the Associate Editor position vacant until the next scheduled rotation of board membership at the ACDA National Conference in 2021;

- noted that the following individuals have completed their terms of service to the *IJRCS* Editorial Board: Janice Killian, Joanne Rutkowski, Sten Ternström; the board thanked these individuals for their unending support of our journal;
- appointed the following individuals to the *IJRCS* Editorial Board (2019-2025) following review of the applications, recommendations, and ranked evaluations:
 - o Scott D. Harrison, Queensland Conservatorium/Griffith University (Australia),
 - o Bryan E. Nichols, The Pennsylvania State University (USA),
 - o Julia T. Shaw, The Ohio State University (USA);
- agreed to serve as the content oversight committee for the 2020 National Symposium on Research in Choral Singing (Georgia State University, Atlanta) with a schedule beginning late afternoon on Friday, May 1, 2020 and concluding Saturday evening, May 2, 2020;
- decided to take initial steps toward several special topic issues of the *IJRCS* and identified potential guest editors; proposed topics include research in choral singing and:
 - o gender,
 - o vocal health,
 - o culturally responsive pedagogy;
- determined that the immediate priority for persons responsible for the *IJRCS* is to increase visibility by:
 - o establishing and addressing reasons for the lack of representation in Google Scholar searches, and
 - o identifying and implementing steps toward indexing the journal in the major research databases relevant to our field;
- noted that ACDA's Research & Publications Standing Committee has assumed oversight of the quarterly research column in *Choral Journal*; Patrick Freer had previously agreed to edit the column, retitled to its former name of "Research Report"; the editorship of the column will be reconsidered at a future point given the changes in *IJRCS* editorial leadership; and
- expressed appreciation for Adam White's support of the *IJRCS* in his role as administrative assistant while completing his doctoral studies at Northwestern University.

Gratitude

The transition to my service as editor has been made infinitely easier with the assistance of Amanda Baumgarner (ACDA Publications Editor) and Scott Davis (ACDA Web Developer). Thanks to both Amanda and Scott for their excellent support of research in choral singing!

Sincerely,

Patrick K. Freer, Editor
Georgia State University