

From the Editor

Looking Back, Reaching Forward

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“To be ignorant of what occurred before you were born is to remain perpetually a child. For what is the worth of a human life unless it is woven into the life of our ancestors by the records of history?”

—Marcus Tullius Cicero, 106–43 BC

With this issue, the NCCO receives custodianship of two of the longest-running choral research publications in the United States: the *American Choral Review*, and *Research Memorandum Series*. You will see from our new masthead that *The Choral Scholar* and *American Choral Review* are merged into one publication. Acknowledging our indebtedness for nearly six decades of sterling choral scholarship, this first issue of *The Choral Scholar & American Choral Review* is published under the numbering system of that venerable antecedent publication: Volume 58, Number. 3.

There will be other substantive modifications as these streams converge:

- The entire *ACR* archive, from its first issue in 1958 including 37 years with Alfred Mann at the helm, will soon be freely available on the NCCO website. Open access to this wealth of choral research will benefit the profession world-wide.
- The *Research Memorandum Series* has served well as a bibliographic source since January 1959 as a cooperative venture between the American Choral Foundation and the ACDA. It now is refitted to become an annual collecting point for dissertation and thesis abstracts on topics in choral music, published in one digital volume annually. In time *The Research Memorandum Series* archive will also be freely available at ncco-usa.org.

I am sobered by the responsibility of following in the steps of the previous editors of the *ACR*, Alfred Mann (1961–98), William Weinert (1999–2011), James John (2011–17), and Timothy Newton (2017–20); and those who have so capably preceded me as editor of *The Choral Scholar*, founding editor David Schildkret (2009–10), Dennis Shrock (2010–11), Sean Michael Burton (2014–19) and, in the interim prior to my appointment, Elizabeth Swanson.

With Alfred Mann at the helm, Bach is understandably writ large throughout the annals of the *American Choral Review*. His memorable collaboration with Don Neuen and the Eastman Chorale in preparation of the *B-Minor Mass* was profoundly formative during my time as a graduate conductor at the Eastman School in the late 80s. In this issue we reflect on the legacy of the publications founded by Margaret Hillis and the American Choral Foundation, and feature two articles about contemporary works that draw sustenance from compositional practices of the past, specifically the influence of J. S. Bach. Under the same cover, readers will find a significant article on injury prevention for conductors that will likely impact the way we teach and practice our craft in the future. *Looking back, reaching forward.*

Mark

TCS
ACR