



Advancing Interdisciplinary Research in Singing (AIRS)
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To all colleagues engaged in the AIRS Major Collaborative Research Initiative:

With summer now behind us and everyone becoming fully entrenched in the fall routine, it is high time for an AIRS update! That's especially true this year, as it is the first year in the history of AIRS that we did not hold an Annual meeting. Instead many smaller individual events took place in Canada, South America, Europe, and Asia. As well, a highly successful 1st AIRS summer workshop for students and early career researchers, and a special meeting of the Policy and Planning Committee were held. The next pages provide information about:

The Policy and Planning Committee Meeting

The AIRS first Student and Early Career Researcher Workshop

AIRS Initiatives in Conjunction with other Meetings:

- PODIUM –National Conf. Assoc. Can. Choral Communities - Halifax
- Canadian Psychological Association – VISI – Vancouver
- International Conference of Music and Medicine – Toronto
- XIX Biennial International Conference for Infant Studies –Berlin, Jul 3 -5
- International Society for Music Education - Brazil
- International Society for Music Perception and Cognition – Seoul.

Other conference activity

Accolades to AIRS Members

AIRS Tri-fold Publicity Flier

Other Research news

- AIRS Digital Library
- AIRS Multicultural Choir and Song Circle Initiative
- Book Project

AIRS next Annual Meeting

Thanks to everyone's cooperation and collaboration, AIRS is in great shape to complete plans of Year 6 by the end of March, and begin the 7th (final) year under the grant in April, 2015. Special thanks are extended to several people leaving positions with AIRS: Susan O'Neill, Theme 3 Leader since June of 2013, Petra Hauf, Theme 1 Leader since last September, and Karen Ludke for her support of the Digital Library project and AIRS in general since November 2013.

Sincerely,

Annabel Cohen, Ph. D., ARCT
Director, AIRS

AIRS Policy and Planning Committee Meeting - May, 2014 Ryerson University, Toronto

The Policy and Planning Committee is the backbone of the AIRS collaboration. Representing the main themes, sub-themes, and interest groups, the team leaders work to develop new frameworks and methodologies to advance the understanding of singing and its implications for society. This international team of extraordinary scholars (from music education, voice performance, choral pedagogy, developmental psychology, cognitive psychology, education, and computer science) exemplifies interdisciplinary research at its best, and fosters activity within the various jurisdictions under each member's leadership. The dedicated work of these theme leaders, sub-theme leaders and group leaders is gratefully acknowledged.



AIRS Policy and Planning Committee meeting, Ryerson University, Toronto: (clockwise from bottom right) Petra Hauf Theme 1, Frank Russo & Sandra Trehub (1.2), Mayumi Adachi (Global Group), Helga Gudmundsdottir (Theme 2, and 2.1), Carol Beynon & Darryl Edwards (2.2), Jenny Sullivan (2.3), Lily Chen-Hafteck (3.1) Suzan O'Neill (Theme 3), Rachel Heydon (3.2), Laurel Young (3.3), George Tzanatakis (Digital Library), Karen Ludke (Digital Library), Annabel Cohen (Director, and 1.3). Missing – Ross Dwyer (AIRS Administrative Assistant and photographer) and Marta McCarthy, Chairperson of Choral Canada, who joined the meeting as a guest representing the partner group.

Since the inception of AIRS, the Policy and Planning Committee has met every three or four months by videoconference and holds one longer face-to face meeting prior to the Annual Meeting. In the absence of the Annual Meeting in 2014, the Committee met in Toronto at Ryerson University for a full day in May, reviewing progress and charting the course for the remaining two years of the project. Working together, sub-theme leaders advanced frameworks for theoretical development, and each theme put forward ideas for applications of singing and associated policies that could benefit society. These ideas will flow to the members of their respective teams. The AIRS Advisory Board members joined the formal meeting itself held in the evening. Several actions items were put forward, such as the creation of a publicity flier and creation of a new committee to address knowledge transfer. Appreciation is expressed to all attendees, many of whom travelled long distances, and to Ross Dwyer for organizing the meeting and to him and Karen Ludke for seeing that all went smoothly. Frank Russo kindly afforded access to the facilities of his Department.

The AIRS first Student and Early Career Researcher Workshop

The AIRS first Student and Early Career Researcher Workshop (27-29 June, 2014, Ryerson University) was a great success, thanks to the organization of Arla Good working closely with Karen Ludke and Ross Dwyer. Students and early career researchers came from St. Francis Xavier University, Nova Scotia, University of Prince Edward Island, University of Toronto, Ryerson University, and McMaster University in Canada and from the University of Kent in the UK, Columbus Ohio, and the University of Akron. Senior mentors Jenny Sullivan, Laurel Young, Frank Russo and Mayumi Adachi kindly offered their time and support. There were two invited guest workshops requested by the student group: one on qualitative research by Kate Tilleczek, Canada Research Chair, Faculty of Education, University of Prince Edward Island Pitch and one on the analysis of the singing voice by Pauline Larrouy-Maestri, Voice Unit, Psychology Department, University of Liège, Belgium & Psychology. Additional workshops were provided by Bing-Yi Pan on Development of a Praat- based singing and language analysis platform; Charlene Santorini, on “vocalympics” thinking of the singer as an athlete in regard to technique, stamina, and artistry, Faculty of Music, University of Toronto, and the AIRS Digital Library by Dr. Karen M. Ludke. A master class was given on North Indian (Hindustani) classical vocal training by Dr. Utpola Borah. Annabel Cohen provided an overview on of the AIRS Project from past to future. The meeting met its objectives, providing an opportunity for intensive discussion, presentation in an informal yet professional environment, and exchange among persons of overlapping interests in the breadth of singing research. Through which much learning for everyone took place. The entire [program](http://www.airspace.ca/sites/discoveryospace.upei.ca/airs2010/files/AIRS%20Student%20and%20ECR%20Workshop%20Program-web.pdf) is available (click on the or go to <http://www.airspace.ca/sites/discoveryospace.upei.ca/airs2010/files/AIRS%20Student%20and%20ECR%20Workshop%20Program-web.pdf>)



AIRS Student and Early Career Researchers Summer Workshop (clockwise from the left) Bing-Yi Pan (UPEI), Shannon Moore (UPEI), Amy Yu, Caitlin Bridson-Pateman, Hans Utter (Ohio), Jake Brooker (U. Akron), Pauline Larrouy-Maestri, Utpola Borah, Karen Ludke (UPEI), Annabel Cohen (UPEI), Frank Russo (Ryerson), Charlene Santorini (University of Toronto), Arla Good (Ryerson), Mayumi Adachi (Hokkaido University, Japan), Bryan Nichols (University of Kent, UK), Jenny Sullivan (Western U, and Sheridan College), Blair Ellis (McMaster University)

AIRS symposia and outreach activities took place at six major conferences around the world, in Canada, Europe, South America, and Asia.

- **PODIUM Halifax**

AIRS was well-represented at **PODIUM – the National Conference of the Association of Canadian Choral Communities** (now known as Choral Canada) in Halifax, in May. Carol Beyon, Jakub Martinec and Jennifer Beynon-Martinec presented a talk on “Examining the voice change process in adolescent male singers”, Darryl Edwards spoke on “Cooling down hot topics between choir conductors and voice teachers”, and Carol conducted a concert of Primus, the extraordinary adult-male Amabile Choir. Hilary Apfelstadt offered several conducting master classes and conducted the National Youth Choir. Shannon Moore assisted with an AIRS booth, which provided an opportunity to share information about AIRS with choral leaders and choristers in Canada, and Choral Canada in particular.

AIRS sponsored a get-together of representative leaders and members of Choral Canada and AIRS collaborators who were attending the meeting including Sung-Ha Shin Bouey (UPEI), Carol Beynon (Western University), Darryl Edwards (University of Toronto), Caron Daly (University of Toronto, Dalcroze Canada Board, Toronto Mendelssohn Choir), Jakub Martinec (Secretary Treasurer Choral Canada, & Memorial University), Jennifer Beynon Martinec (past conductor St. Michael’s Choir, Czech Boys Choir), Denise Gress (Saskatchewan Choral Federation), Elizabeth Shannon (Executive Director, Choirs, Ontario), and Colin Elliott (National Youth Choir), & Annabel Cohen (AIRS Director). It is noted that the new President of Choral Canada, Marta McCarthy, attended the AIRS Policy and Planning Committee meeting, and a continuing dialogue remains open regarding partnering activities.

- **Canadian Psychological Association – VISI – Vancouver**

Suzie O’Neill organized a symposium entitled “ Psychological perspectives on singing in development and well-being” for the Developmental Section of the **Canadian Psychological Association (CPA)** including the following presentations: Antecedents to the career of professional singer-songwriter in Prince Edward Island: Role of family, institutions, and personality characteristics (Annabel J. Cohen & Michael Speelman); The influence of singing on youth psychological well-being compared to engagement in other arts and non-arts activities – Susan O’Neill, and “Exploring changes in well-being and breathing in persons with asthma following singing and/or diaphragmatic breathing sessions” (Mary Gick & Carina Daugherty). This marks the 6th AIRS symposium on singing held at CPA. With CPA in Ottawa this year, we look forward to continuation of this tradition.

The **Vancouver International Song Institute** was founded by Rena Sharon, an AIRS co-investigator. Due to the mutual interest in research on the communication and preservation of Art Songs, VISI and AIRS have engaged in collaborative activities since 2008. Darryl Edwards has served as a liaison to VISI from AIRS on an annual basis. Taking advantage of the Vancouver location of CPA, Suzie O’Neill organized an extraordinary AIRS-VISI opportunity to forge paths for co-operation and collaboration. Unfortunately Rene Sharon, a

strong supporter of the initiative, did not attend due to the passing of her father. Our sympathies go out to Rena. Those attending were: from AIRS: Darryl Edwards, Susan O'Neill, Mary Gick, Annabel Cohen, Jim Sparks (AIRS-funded doctoral student of Suzie's) (regrets Philip Smith, Lola Cuddy, Mel Wiebe); from VISI and the Vancouver community: Lola Cuddy, Mel Wiebe), and from VISI and the Vancouver community: David Bergeron (Director VISI), Slava Senyshyn (Musician, UBC philosopher /educator), Ingrid Suderman (VISI, Founding Executive Director and voice faculty), Robyn Driedger-Klassen (Soprano, teacher Vancouver Academy /research on self-esteem and vocal ease), Diane King (VSO school of music founder of song and opera division), Sharon Krebs (vocalist/independent scholar), Harold Krebs (Collaborator of Rena Sharon), Kevin Bessflug (Music educator, Southridge School; collaborator of Susan O'Neill), Ryan Kett (Singer/music educator, Bramblewood Elementary), Deborah Stein (New England Conservatory), Susan Youens (VISI faculty and University of Notre Dame, Indiana - 19th century song), Laural Fais (UBC, Infant language acquisition; Rena's research collaborator), Eric Vatikiotis-Bateson (UBC/ Rena's research collaborator).

Greatest appreciation is expressed to Susan for her creative support of AIRS with these two important initiatives!

- **International Conference of Music and Medicine – Toronto**

The international conference on music and medicine took place in Toronto, June 24 to 26. AIRS Co-investigator Amy Clements-Cortez shared responsibility for the entire conference program. Laurel Young, Leader of AIRS Sub-Theme 3.1 Singing and Health, organized a symposium entitled "Singing across the lifespan: Advancing interdisciplinary research in singing – A lifespan megaproject". The following papers were presented primarily from members of sub-theme 3.3 Singing and Health:

- *Advancing Interdisciplinary Research in Singing: A Lifespan Megaproject*, Annabel J. Cohen
- *Exploring the Outcomes of Singing and Diaphragmatic Breathing in Persons with Asthma*, Carina Daugherty, Mary Gick,
- *"Glee" 3 Phase Research Study on Singing for Health and Wellness*, Amy Clements-Cortez
- *Singing as a Means for Social Inclusion: Two Case Studies with Excluded Populations, Youth with Exceptionalities and Young Mothers* Jennifer J. Nicol & Jennifer McAllister
- *Preliminary Report on a Novel Singing Therapy to Support Emotional Communication in Parkinson's*, Steven Livingstone; Lucille McGarry; Frank Russo
- *Preliminary Report on a Novel Singing Therapy to Support Emotional Communication in Autism*, Lucille McGarry; Frank Russo
- *Examining the Health Effects of Singing on Persons with Dementia and their Caregivers in an Intergenerational Choral Program*, Carol Beynon; Jennifer Hutchison

After the symposium, a dinner took place for presenters, joined by Daisy Fancourt from the UK who is engaged in research on music (including singing) and cancer, Rena Sharon, University of British Columbia, and Jennifer Bugos from the University of South Florida.

- **XIX Biennial International Conference on Infant Studies – Berlin, July 3 -5, 2014.**

Petra Hauf organized a breakfast meeting for those interested in singing who were attending the **Biennial International Conference on Infant Studies**. Thank you Petra for making all the arrangements for this event, on behalf of AIRS, at such a distance.

Jean Paul Boudreau, the Ryerson University Dean of Arts, and former Chair of Psychology of Ryerson, organized an integrative symposium entitled “New directions for emotion regulation during infancy: Exploring the dynamic interplay of singing, touching, and face perception”. The following two papers presented during this symposium entailed the work of AIRS researchers - “Emotional engagement and information processing: Infant’s shift of visual attention in infant-directed singing and speaking events” by Petra Hauf and S. Murphy, St. Francis Xavier University, and “Emotion regulation in distressed infants using maternal vocalizations: Evidence from physiological and behavioural measures” by Niusha Ghazban, Frank Russo, Sandra Trehub, and Jean Paul Boudreau, from Ryerson University, and the University of Toronto. The papers validated the notion of singing as a critical caregiving tool for modulating infant’s emotion and stress, respectively. Working with the youngest members of society is challenging, and the researchers are to be congratulated for their success in harnessing a variety of methodologies including eye-tracking, and skin conductance so as to reveal the distinctive roles of singing and speaking.



Above, a breakfast reception was hosted by AIRS, organized by Petra Hauf, for those at the International conference on Infant Studies interested in research in singing. Information about AIRS was presented, and the opportunity to share information and interests was provided (Photo courtesy of Jean Paul Boudreau)

- **Biennial Meeting of the International Society for Music Education -July 20-25, Porto Alegre, Brazil**

Lily Chen-Hafteck organized the symposium “AIRS Quadcultural Study of Singing and Cultural Understanding: Implications on Teaching and Research Methods” (papers by Lily, Elizabeth Andang’o, Zuraida Basitião, Arla Good and Jiaying Xie) and a Project Meeting and reception. (Helga Gudmundsdottir (below right) organized the symposium entitled “The lifelong impact of singing from an interdisciplinary perspective (papers by Helga, Arla Good, & Lisa Crawford). Lily’s team from the quadcultural songbook project, with members from China, Kenya, Brazil, Canada and the US, met for one day after ISME regarding the data analysis and plans for the next study. Photos from the open Project Meeting are shown as the lowest two rows of photos on the page (courtesy Lily).



(above left) Members of the 3.1 Quadcultural songbook project and symposium: (counterclockwise from bottom left) Lily Chen-Hafteck (UCLA), Elizabeth Andango (Kenya), Angelita Brook & Zuraida Basitião Brazil, Xiao Yueliang & Jiaying Xie (China).

**ADVANCING INTERDISCIPLINARY
RESEARCH IN SINGING (AIRS)
PROJECT MEETING**

An international project funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) of Canada, based at the University of Prince Edward Island, Canada.

Open to any ISME members who are interested in singing research.
Thursday, 5:30pm
Room 507 - Building 50



* Announcement in the ISME conference program, p. 18



- **International Society for Music Perception and Cognition (ICMPC) – Seoul, Korea**

Mayumi Adachi participated in two sessions on singing and organized a working lunch for those interested in singing who were attending the ICMPC meeting. This brought to AIRS several new faces including Dawn Black, an acoustical engineer, interested in extracting vocal features (e.g., emotional cues) from digital data; Yo Jung Han a doctoral student in music education, interested in how the choral director communicates the ideal vocal quality (timbre) to the choir members; Clorinda Warrens in music education; she is seeking singing projects suitable for her students. Others associated with AIRS in attendance were Professor Gunter Kreutz doing research in singing and well-being with a popular science book in singing in Germany to be published this Fall; Patric Savage a doctoral student in ethnomusicology, interested in cultural evolution of singing (previously working with Steven Brown), Phillip Fine working with Jane Ginsborg on the intelligibility of sung text; Johanna Devaney, now a faculty member at Ohio State University, and previously a doctoral student of Ichiro Fujinaga. AIRS co-investigators present were Mayumi Adachi, Ichiro Fujinaga, Jane Ginsborg, Frank Russo, and Advisory Board member Kate Stevens. After the lunch event, Sook Young Won a doctoral student, and ICMPC13 Young Researcher Award recipient “Simulation of one’s own voice in a two-parameter model” also met with Mayumi. Thank you Mayumi and all AIRS members engaged in these events.



Figure 1 (clockwise from left) Kate Stevens (AIRS Advisory Board, University of Western Sydney, Australia), Jane Ginsborg (Royal Northern College of Music, 2.2), Mayumi Adachi (Hokkaido University, Global Group and 1.2, organizer of the meeting), Dawn Black or Clorinda Warrens, Gunther Kreutz (Carl von Ossietzky Universität, Oldenburg, Germany, Ichiro Fujinaga (McGill, Digital Library), Patric Savage (doctoral student and collaborator with Steven Brown), Yo Jung Han, Johanna Devaney (Ohio State University, 1.1), Frank Russo (Ryerson, Toronto, 1.2), missing from the picture Philip Fine (photo, courtesy Frank Russo).

Other Conference Activity

Elena Maslow a student of Simone Falk presented a co-authored poster at the **7th International Conference on Speech Prosody (SpeechProsody 7)** held at Trinity College, Dublin, May 20-23. The work entitled “Song and speech prosody influences VOT (Voice Onset Time) in stuttering and non-stuttering adolescents” suggested that “young stutterers benefit from sung prosody in their timing abilities”. (see further, p. 24 of the conference proceedings at <http://fastnet.netsoc.ie/sp7/sp7abstracts.pdf>).

Presentations by AIRS Collaborators at **The Neurosciences and Music –V Cognitive Stimulation and Rehabilitation**, May 29 – June 1, 2014, in Dijon, France included:

In the workshop entitled “The problem of poor-pitch singing: From internal mechanisms to pedagogical intervention, Steven Demorest (School of Music, University of Washington, USA) spoke on “Poor pitch singing: A developmental view”, and Psyche Loui (Wesleyan University) spoke on “Neural regulation of pitch perception and production” . In a Symposium on “The role of music in promotion infants’ well-being: Clinical and research prepectives, Sandra Trehub (University of Toronto, and BRAMS) in her paper entitled Singing interventions for forestalling or alleviating infant distress “addresses fundamental questions about the effect of singing on emotion regularization, for example, the extent to which it prevents and reduces infant distress and its relatively (sic) efficacy as compared with melodious speech. She also raises the possibility that simple interventions aimed at promoting maternal singing could enhance the outcomes of at-risk mothers and infants.” (conference program, p. 35).

AIRS Collaborators at the Annual Meeting of the **Canadian Association of Brain, Behavior and Cognitive Science (CSBBCS)**, Toronto, July 3rd July 5th, 2014, gave two presentations exploring variables associated with singing and musical training:

Henrietta Lempert and Jacqueline Park (University of Toronto) presented a poster entitled “Song and musical training can enhance learning novel words:” which explored implicit word learning for intoned versus monotone Korean sentences in a problem-solving paradigm. Bing-Yi Pan and Annabel Cohen presented a talk entitled “Music training enhances implicit imitation of timing in both music and language domains”, reporting on temporal aspects of performance of several components in the AIRS Test Battery of Singing Skills.

Accolades to AIRS Members

Lori McKee, won the Language & Literacy Researchers of Canada master’s research award. The [thesis](#) concerned the print literacy opportunities afforded by the multimodal ensembles (that included singing as a focal mode) created by the intergenerational program run a little while back, and supervised by Rachel Heydon (Sub-theme 3.1 Singing and Intergenerational Understanding). Lori has just begun the Ph. D. program. Congratulations Lori and Rachel!

Members of the AIRS Advisory Board each received honours reflecting the standards of excellence they exemplify. AIRS is very fortunate to have the benefit of their time, breadth of experience, and good counsel.

- **Hilary Apfelstadt** served as the invited director of the National Youth Choir of Canada, performing across Canada with a broadcasted finale at Podium, the biennial meeting of the Association of Canadian Choral Communities.
- **Philip Smith** received a national honour -- the Muriel McQueen Fergusson Foundation Award -- for “his leadership and commitment in the prevention and elimination of family violence has spanned his career as he has worked as a tireless advocate to advance issues to improve the lives of children and families.”

- **Catherine (Kate) Stevens** presented a keynote address on “Learning and memory processes in music and dance” at the International Conference on Music Perception and Cognition and Conference for the Asia-Pacific Society for Cognitive Sciences of Music in Seoul, Korea, August 2014.

Laurel Trainor is congratulated on the [Grand Opening of LIVELab](#), September 27, 2014, 12:00 3:00 an outstanding research facility associated with the McMaster Institute for Music & the MIND (MIMM) which she directs. (<http://mimm.mcmaster.ca>). Steven Brown is also a key member of the LIVELab team and MIMM Institute.

Stephanie Stadler Elmer’s (2011) article for the special issue on singing of *Psychomusicology: Music, Mind & Brain* caught the attention of R. Murray Thomas (2014) who, in a section on developmental stages derived from empirical evidence chose Stephanie’s work as the example, citing her hierarchy of seven levels:

1. “Beginning co-evolution of innate expressive predispositions with the social environment
2. Deferred imitation, emergent rituals, and extended vocal play
3. Intentions to produce singing-like or speech-like vocalizations
4. Sensorimotor strategy: auditory-vocal coordination to produce song fragments or entire songs
5. Generalizing examples, idiosyncratic song repertoire and idiosyncratic singing rules
6. Conventional rules on song singing are implicitly integrated
7. Beginning reflection of actions, means, symbols, and concepts” (Thomas, 2014, p. 83).

See further Thomas, R. M. (2014). *Creating human developmental theories*. Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger, and Elmer, S. S. (2011). Human singing: Towards a developmental theory. *Psychomusicology: Music, Mind & Brain*, 21, 13-30.

AIRS Tri-Fold Publicity Brochure

The value of having a publicity flier for AIRS was discussed at the Policy and Planning Committee, and the AIRS UPEI Hub agreed to take on its development. A tri-fold document was created and has been used at meetings over the summer. The format is not finalized and suggestions are welcome. The two panels of the current version are shown below, much thanks to Karen Ludke, and Ross Dwyer for their assistance.

Panel 1 (Left):

AIRS researchers are uncovering opportunities for the impact of singing from infancy through to older adulthood.

- Lullabies & Playsongs
- Birthdays
- Listening to Pop Music
- Celebrations & Ceremonies
- Visiting & Ritual
- Learning
- Advertising
- Entertainment
- Relaxation
- End of life
- Remembrance

Through advocacy, we're aiming to use our findings to improve lives:

- Helping new moms
- Encouraging singing in the classroom
- Providing opportunities for older adults and caregivers

A 7-year, major collaborative research initiative with 70 researchers and their students in 10 provinces of Canada and 16 other countries on 5 continents around the world.

If you would like to promote social well-being through singing, please make a tax-deductible donation to AIRS (contact Administrative Assistant Ross Dwyer at rdwyer@upei.ca)

Your donation will provide university students with research experience and support AIRS' expanding research and advocacy needs.

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www.airspace.ca
 @AIRS_Singing
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Panel 2 (Right):

Advancing Interdisciplinary Research in Singing

How does singing develop?
 How should we teach singing?
 How does singing impact well-being?

AIRS researchers are studying Cultural, Universal, & Individual Factors in order to:

1. Singing & Development
 - Voice perception and vocal production
 - Singing: Sound, gesture, & bodily motion
 - AIRS Test Battery of Singing Skills
2. Singing & Education
 - Learning to sing naturally
 - Formal training of singing
 - Using singing to teach
3. Singing & Well-being
 - Cultural understanding
 - Intergenerational understanding
 - Health benefits of singing

AIRS Advisory Board:

- Prof. Hilary Applestadt, Faculty of Music, University of Toronto
- Prof. Philip Smith, Psychology Department, University of Prince Edward Island
- Prof. Catherine Stevens, MARCS Institute, University of Western Sydney

AIRS Digital Library:

- Co-leaders: Dr. George Tzanetakis & Dr. Ichiro Fujinaga

AIRS Community Partners:

- Alzheimer's Society of PEI
- Confederation Centre of the Arts, Culture PEI
- East Coast Music Association
- Leiter Centre for Music in the Community Music PEI
- Veteran's Affairs Canada
- Young at Heart Musical Theatre for Seniors

The pdf, sent to you as a separate attachment, enables you to make copies, however, if you would like a quantity of these to provide at a meeting, or to let many colleagues know more about this project, for example, please contact Ross Dwyer @ rdwyer@upei.ca and printed copies can be produced and sent to you.

Other Research News

- **AIRS Digital Library**

Progress on the **AIRS Digital Library** has taken great strides since last August, through the concerted efforts of Tom Germaine (AIRS Technical Co-ordinator), Karen Ludke (Digital Library postdoctoral position), and computer science student Ryan Sampson. This progress includes prototypes for batch upload (meaning that metadata for a class of items can be entered globally rather than individually for each item) and development of a user manual. The permissions option (allowing authors of items to specify who has permission to access the item - a critical concern for AIRS) works for ingestion of individual items (fantastic!) but still presents challenges for batch uploading. The Digital Library uses the Islandora open-source content management framework, for which cooperation from the UPEI Library (Donald Moses and team) is acknowledged. The system will soon be tested by the broader AIRS digital library team before general release to members. Karen has recently taken a faculty position at Edge Hill University, in England, and her work has been much appreciated. Fortuitously, her arrival in the UK coincided with a conference in London on Digital Libraries for Music. She was able to make a presentation to the group and also touch base with Ichiro Fujinaga who was also presenting at the meeting. Karen has given demonstrations of the AIRS Digital Library to the Policy & Planning Committee and the Student Early Career Researcher conference. In the latter case, the demonstration included students uploading content to the digital library from their own laptops.

- **AIRS Book Project**

Over 80 abstracts for the AIRS book project have been received and underwent editorial review by the editorial working group comprised of the three AIRS Theme Leaders (Petra Hauf, Helga Gudmundsdottir, and Suzie O'Neill) and Director (Annabel Cohen), assisted by Karen Ludke and Ross Dwyer. A prospectus will be soon finalized, a process delayed due to the scope and size of the project and the need to define and confirm editor roles. A separate detailed update for all submitters will be sent within the next few weeks.

- **The new AIRS Knowledge Translation Group - Call for members**

The Policy and Planning Meeting discussed the many ways in which research results associated with each theme might be translated into policies to benefit society. The Advisory Board urged to focus on one or two key exemplary policies rather than many, thus helping to achieve particular success rather than general failure. To further assure success, a special group within AIRS could focus its attention on Knowledge Transfer specifically. The Policy and Planning Committee produced an Action Item to add such a group to the AIRS organizational plan.

Any member of AIRS who has experience working with knowledge translation and policy development and/or is keen to work on strategies for achieving Knowledge Translation is invited to contact Ross Dwyer rdwyer@upei.ca. One or more members from each of the AIRS themes is sought. The new group will also work with the Global Group on matters of international scope. The Global Group is also inviting new members to join it. Mayumi Adachi chairs this Group. Please however contact Ross Dwyer about this as well.

- **Heads up on Annual Reports for Year 6**

Individual annual reports of AIRS co-investigators and collaborators will be expected April 14th, 2015 (two weeks after the year end of March 31st 2014) via an online template to be sent in October, and which may be updated in an ongoing basis so that this does not need to be done all at once. Subtheme leaders are asked to consolidate the reports of their members by May 1st, 2015, and these will provide materials for Theme Leader overall reports. Ross Dwyer, AIRS Administrative Assistant, will be available to assist with the transferring of the materials for sub-theme and theme leaders. The consolidated subtheme reports and overviews will be published in the Program of the summer annual meeting.

- **AIRS Multicultural Choir and Song Circle Initiatives**

AIRS began a multicultural choir at UPEI 4 years ago as part of the Sub-theme 3.1 initiative examining the role of singing in cultural understanding. A second choir was begun by Blair Ellis at Mount Alison University over 2 years ago, and it visited the UPEI choir last February for a joint rehearsal. Godfrey Baldacchino started a third multicultural choir at the University of Malta last year and is continuing. Godfrey's adaptation of the *Vive La Compagnie* reflects the spirit of these choirs:



***Vive La Compagnie* (University of Malta Song Circle Version)**

Here on campus, we're singing for fun. *Vive la compagnie.*
 No specials required, come on everyone. *Vive la compagnie.*

CHORUS

Vive la, vive la, vive l'amour. Vive la, vive la, vive l'amour.
Vive l'amour. Vive l'amour. Vive la compagnie.

Vive la, vive la, vive l'amour. Vive la, vive la, vive l'amour.
Vive l'amour. Vive l'amour. Vive la compagnie.

*Degree Plus*¹ behind us, we cannot go wrong. *Vive la compagnie.*
 Should something torment us, we'll break out in song. *Vive la compagnie.*

CHORUS

It's rap or it's rock, classic or pop. *Vive la compagnie.*
 Sounds great with our voices; we don't want to stop. *Vive la compagnie.*

CHORUS

In English and German, Italian, Chinese. *Vive la compagnie.*
 Language no problem, with singers like these. *Vive la compagnie.*

CHORUS

¹*Degree Plus* is a unit at the U of Malta in support of extracurricular activities, An alternative for other campuses is "High spirits propel us, we cannot go wrong"

The goal of the multicultural choir project is to develop an empirically and theoretically based handbook for the formation of multicultural choir on a campus -- “what works and why”-- that can be distributed to university campuses to encourage the formation of such opportunities for singing and bringing people together – an opportunity typically unprovided by campuses. The current AIRS UPEI multicultural choir is its best yet-- you can’t beat singing Pharrell Williams’ “Happy” chorus in Swahila (an original translation by a student).

Next Annual Meeting - July 30-31 (tentative dates) Nashville Tennessee

The **AIRS 6th Annual Meeting (2015)** will likely take place in **Nashville, Tennessee** (Music City, USA ☺) prior to the biennial meeting of the Society for Music Perception and Cognition (SMPC). The SMPC Local Organizing Committee (co-convened by Reyna Gordon and Elisabeth Dykens) are supportive, and committee member Dr. Ron Eavy, who is the chair of Vanderbilt's Department of Otolaryngology and director of the Bill Wilkerson Center for Otolaryngology and Hearing and Speech Sciences, has kindly agreed to serve as a liaison between the SMPC local organizing committee and AIRS. They want to make sure to facilitate some relations between the renowned Voice Center and AIRS attendees <http://www.vanderbilthealth.com/billwilkerson/> Tentatively, please pencil in the dates July 30 and 31 on your calendar. The SMPC conference itself will run from July 31st 1 pm to noon August 5th. Those attending the AIRS meeting will have the opportunity to present their research at SMPC (by submitting abstracts through the usual SMPC channels), and AIRS will also be working with Jessica Grahn, the SMPC conference program organizer, to determine the possibility of including an AIRS event within the SMPC program itself (e.g., a special poster session on singing, a symposium, or singing performance event). Your thoughts and suggestion will be welcome as we move forward. Both the music and health industries are prominent in Nashville, and the Vanderbilt University community will also add a valuable context to this SMPC meeting, already plenty wonderful by itself (recall the last Ryerson meeting of SMPC!)

The AIRS 7th Annual Meeting (2016) to celebrate the achievements of the AIRS 7-year project is expected to take place back in Charlottetown, PEI in the summer of 2016 – date to be determined so as not to conflict with other major meetings at that time – ICMPC and ISME, for example.

Acknowledgements

The Steering Committee composed of the Theme Leaders and AIRS Director, works steadfastly behind the scene. Frank Russo is returning after a year’s period during which Petra Hauf (Theme 1) held the position, and Rachel Heydon is taking over from Susan O’Neill (Theme 3). Providing good continuity, Helga Gudmundsdottir is remaining on (Theme 2). Much appreciation is expressed to those who have been serving with dedication and those who will now be serving.

The leaders of the sub-themes and groups as mentioned in the first item of this newsletter and named on our letterhead provide the critical foundation for the project.

Ross Dwyer serves AIRS admirably as the administrative assistant. AIRS relies on him for countless help, and his value to the project increases daily.

Karen Ludke held a postdoctoral position between November and August, primarily to focus on the Digital Library. As you have read, great progress was achieved. She also served

AIRS in many other capacities (implementing Twitter), and we wish her well in her new academic position. We are pleased that she wishes to continue to be involved with AIRS.

Tom Germaine has continued to serve AIRS as its technical co-ordinator taking much responsibility for the Digital Library, the web-site and social media. Student Ryan Sampson has been a great help to him in many of these activities.

Bing-Yi Pan, in his postdoctoral position, serves all three themes in many ways, though his focus is on the AIRS Test Battery, he is also contributing to formal teaching in singing, to the quadcultural songbook and multicultural choir project, and provides technical backup. Student Shannon Moore has provided assistance to him in these activities and, along with voice and music education student, Nicole Dupuis, has been a major force behind the Multicultural Choir.

AIRS benefits greatly from the interest and wise counsel of our dedicated Advisory Board members: Hilary Apfelstadt, Philip Smith, and Kate Stevens, who meet several times during the year, and also have a presence at the major events of AIRS.

AIRS partners outside the university enable AIRS to work on real world problems and gain insight regarding how the research can be most useful to society.

The University of Prince Edward Island, and particularly the Faculty of Arts and the Office of Research Services, has generously provided institutional support for the AIRS hub.

Ryerson University, within its Faculty of Arts, and Department of Psychology has, since the inception of AIRS, offered its facilities and human resources on many occasions.

This list is by no means inclusive. AIRS is grateful to many more. Above all, co-investigators, collaborators, and students are the strength of the project. Please know that your extraordinary dedication, originality, intelligence, research passion, industriousness, curiosity, open-mindedness, positive spirit, musicality, and desire and willingness to work both to understand the nature of singing and to benefit society through research in singing are the driving force behind the successes achieved already and those that are to come. It is good to know that many students have received inspiration and support from AIRS, and the aim to inspire students over the remainder of the project is solid.

I look forward to continue working with you over the next 18 months and beyond to our celebratory 2016 Meeting, the summer just after the end of Year 7; but first...our 6th meeting in Nashville 2015! (I'm still thrilled by the successes we enjoyed at the Annual Meeting at Ryerson, last year).

Thank you for all the efforts you make directly for AIRS and thank you for the unique and valued perspective you bring to the challenging and stimulating issues about singing that we share.

Sincerely,



Annabel Cohen, Director, AIRS

