

EDWARD J. MARSHALL, PhD

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Linguist and sociophonetician specializing in the relationship between speech and singing. My research combines corpus methods, acoustic phonetics and statistical modelling to investigate variation and change in British choral performance. From October 2026, I will hold a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship at Cambridge.

EDUCATION – UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW

English Language and Linguistics PhD. AHRC Project Code: 2284740 10/2019–03/08/23; viva 12/01/2024
Do choirs have accents? A sociophonetic investigation of choral sound. <https://theses.gla.ac.uk/84372/>.
My thesis is the first large-scale quantitative investigation of the accent of choral singing; the first acoustic investigation of Western classical singing using corpus phonetic methods and Bayesian statistical approaches. Even in a ‘conservative’ artform like Western classical choral singing, results show variation and change over time that tracks a well-evidenced shift in front vowel height in SSBE speech, as well as variation by dialect area.

Speech, Language and Sociolinguistics MSc. *with Distinction*

09/2018–09/2019

English Language and Linguistics MA. *First Class Honours*

09/2014–06/2018

PUBLICATIONS

Marshall, E. J. (Accepted for publication, July 2026) “O–hel–pus–lor”: Realisation of word-final /d/ in British classical choral singing, *International Journal of Research in Choral Singing* (pp. 1–32, 8,155 words).

Marshall, E. J. (2026) “Sweet singing in the choi/r/”: How spoken dialect affects choral phonology in Glasgow and Cambridge. *Journal of English Linguistics*. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1177/00754242261432210>

Marshall, E. J., Stuart-Smith, J., Butt, J., and Dean, T. (2024), Variation and change over time in British choral singing (1925–2019), *Laboratory Phonology*. doi: <https://doi.org/10.16995/labphon.10125>

Marshall, E. J. (2023), O Lo/r/d open thou ou/r/ lips: Rhoticity in choral singing from Glasgow and Cambridge, In: Radek Skarnitzl & Jan Volín (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 20th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences*, Prague (pp. 2184–2188). Guarrant International. ISSN 2412-0669

Robertson-Kirkland, B. E., Tip, L. M., Boyd, S. F. and Marshall, E. J. (2021), Accessibility, interdisciplinarity and practice: the benefits and challenges of hosting an online, interdisciplinary conference on singing. *Journal of Music, Health and Wellbeing* (pp. 1–15). ISSN 2515-981X

Marshall, E. J. Stuart-Smith, J., Butt, J., and Dean, T. (In Preparation) CORAAT: Towards a holistic model of choral singing, for submission to *Journal of Sociolinguistics*.

PRESENTATIONS

‘O–hel–pus–lor’: Voicing of word-final /d/ in British classical choral singing, BAAP (2024).

O Lo/r/d open thou ou/r/ lips: Rhoticity in choral singing from Glasgow and Cambridge, ICPHS (2023).

Front vowel lowering in Standard British Choral Singing (1925–2019), Spheres of Singing (2022).

Variation and change in front vowel height of Standard British Choral Singing (1925–2019), LabPhon (2022).

Choral singing in Glasgow: Singing RP since the 1920s?, UK Language Variation and Change 13 (2021).

An investigation of sound change in historical recordings of Glasgow choirs, Spheres of Singing conference online (2020); University of Lancaster Phonetics Working Group (07/2020).

A comparison of vowel quality and pitch matching performed by choral singers, accepted at British Association of Academic Phoneticians Colloquim (2020).

EMPLOYMENT

British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow – University of Cambridge *10/2026–09/2029*

I have been awarded the BA PDF to continue my interdisciplinary research on choirs starting at Cambridge 1 October 2026. Here, I will be investigating singer–singer adaptation in realtime experiments.

Research Funding Specialist – University of Edinburgh Research Office *12/2024–09/2026*

In this role, I provide pre-award support for funding applications from the School of Biological Sciences, University of Edinburgh Business School, and the School of Languages, Literature, and Culture.

Research assistant roles

Database Administrator for the Speech Therapy Animation and imaging Resource *10/2023–04/2024*

Scoping project for the University of Glasgow Arts Lab theme ‘Spheres of Singing’ *07–12/2021*

For this role I designed the project, selected a method, collected the data, visualised the data, and wrote up a report that was used to establish Spheres of Singing as an emerging Artslab theme at the university.

Data cleaning and processing for the SPeech Across Dialects of English (SPADE) project *07/2018–19*

GRANTS AND AWARDS

British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship PFSS26\260033 (£364,216; 10/2026–09/2029).

My PhD was funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, AHRC Project Code: 2284740 (10/2019–08/2023). I have a track-record of small grant success including:

- International Phonetic Association Student Award (08/2023, £600, to attend ICPhS August 2023).
- University of Glasgow Chancellor’s Fund (2022, £2,000, University of Glasgow Opera Society).
- School of Critical Studies Strategic Research Support Fund (2021 R2, £500).
- University of Glasgow Chancellor’s Fund (2020, £1,000, SOS2020)
- Scottish Graduate School of Arts and Humanities Cohort Development Fund (2020, £800, SOS2020)
- Scottish Graduate School of Social Sciences Student-led Training Fund (2020, £500, SOS2020)
- University of Glasgow College of Arts Collaborative Research Award (2020, £510, SOS2020)
- University of Glasgow Chancellor’s Fund (2018, £1,600)
- Christian Kay Prize for Outstanding Achievement in Undergraduate Research in Linguistics 06/2018.

CONFERENCE ORGANISATION

Spheres of Singing Online 4–5 November 2022. 27 presentations, 37 attendees.

UKLVC13 Online 8–10 September 2021. 73 presentations, 199 attendees.

Spheres of Singing Online 28–30 May 2020. 31 presentations, 450 live, 270 asynchronous attendees.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE – UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW

Lecturing experience *01/2024–07/2024*

Phonetics 1: Introductory Concepts 2022–23: Vowels (2 hour lecture); Acoustics (1 hour)

Phonetics 2: Advanced Concepts 2023–24: Introduction to speech perception; Sociophonetics II: Scotland; Clinical phonetics; Pitch, phonation, and voice; Phonetics of talk-in-interaction (2 hour lectures). I also shared the leadership of the advanced undergraduate phonetics course.

Assisted with the supervision of an undergraduate dissertation *10/2022–06/2023*

Graduate teaching assistance *09/2019–12/2023*

Phonetics 2: Advanced Concepts (Hons.) *09/2021–06/2024*

Phonetics 1: Introductory Concepts (Hons.) *09/2021–12/2023*

English Language and Linguistics Level 2 *09/2020–07/2022*

English Language and Linguistics Level 1 *09/2019–07/2021*

I was awarded Recognising Excellence in Teaching Associate Fellowship (RET AF) in 2021.

INTERESTS

In my time at Glasgow, I have been an active member of the University of Glasgow Chapel Choir, as a choral scholar, and serving as Lanfine Librarian Honoraria 2018–2023, responsible for ordering, copying and sorting music. I am a founder member of the Glasgow-based early music vocal ensemble, iuchair, for which I have organised events, taken charge of our social media presence, managed budgets and applied for funding in addition to my role in performing. I helped re-found the University of Glasgow Linguistics Society and served as treasurer 2018–19. I also served as secretary of the university Opera Society 2018–19.