

# Rachel M. Thompson

24 Forest Glen Ct • Reisterstown, MD 21136

rthomp19@umd.edu • 410-504-3604

---

## **Education:**

**B.S., Psychology, May 2019**

St. Mary's College of Maryland

St. Mary's City, Maryland

GPA: 3.6/4.0

## **Research Interests:**

My research interests comprise the interaction between psychology and music. Specifically, I am interested in singing ability and its interactions with memory systems and musical tuning. Furthermore, I am curious about the relationship between music and language. My senior thesis focuses on how pitch information in music facilitates encoding and retrieval.

## **Research Experience:**

### **Graduate Research Assistant Language and Music Cognition Lab (LMCL)**

August 2019-present

PI: L. Robert Slevc, PhD

### **Research Assistant Vocal Perception Action Lab (VPAL)**

August, 2017-May, 2019

PI: James Mantell, PhD

- Conducted an extensive analysis of the factors that influence singing accuracy using *Praat* software.
- Prepared posters and abstracts for conferences.
- Participated in lab meetings to update lab members on research progress.

### **St. Mary's Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF)**

May-July, 2017

Mentor: James Mantell, PhD

- Designed an experiment in which I examined the factors that influenced singing ability.
- Performed data analysis.
- Presented results to a multidisciplinary audience with both a poster and PowerPoint presentation.

## **Awards, Grants, & Honors:**

**Department of Psychology SMP Award (2019)** Award provided by the St. Mary's College of Maryland psychology department to award one student for outstanding work on their St. Mary's Project (senior thesis).

**Mattie MKey Award in Music (2019)** Award provided by the St. Mary's College of Maryland music department for musical performance

**Bucknam-Glidden Fund (2018)** Grant provided by the St Mary's College of Maryland psychology project to fund my senior thesis and expenses for future Society for Music Perception and Cognition conference.

**Christine C. Cihlar Memorial Music Scholarship Fund Recipient (2018)** St Mary's College of Maryland

**Psi Chi Regional Research Award Recipient (2018)** Grant provided by Psi Chi to fund my travel to Eastern Psychological Association to present my research findings at their Undergraduate Psi Chi poster session and their Cognitive Psychology poster session

**Psychology Department Fund (2018)** Grant provided by the St Mary's College of Maryland Psychology Department to fund my travel to Eastern Psychological Association to present my research findings at their Undergraduate Psi Chi poster session and their Cognitive Psychology poster session.

**Dean's List**, Fall 2015; Spring 2016; Fall 2016; Fall 2017; Spring 2018; Fall 2018

**Psi Chi Member**, 2016- Present

**Publications:**

Thompson, R., & Mantell, J. T (to be submitted). What's that song again? The influence of familiarity and musical tuning on singing accuracy.

**Poster Presentations:**

Thompson, R., & Mantell, J. T. (2018). What's That Song Again? The Influence of pitch memory on singing accuracy. Poster session presented at the Eastern Psychological Society Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, March, 2018.

Thompson, R., & Mantell, J. T. (2019). Singing to learn: How pitch information facilitates encoding and retrieval. Poster session presented at the Society for Music Perception and Cognition, New York City, NY, August, 2019.

**Computer Skills:** I am able to use these software proficiently:

**Praat:** (Music editing software)

**Audacity:** (Music editing software)

**MATLAB**

**Psychopy**

**Finale:** (Music composition software)

**References:**

**James T. Mantell, PhD**

Psychology Department  
47645 College Dr, St Mary's City, MD 20686  
St Mary's City, Maryland, 20686  
(240) 895-4468  
jtmantell@smcm.edu

**Scott P. Mirabile, PhD**

Psychology Department  
47645 College Dr, St Mary's City, MD 20686  
St Mary's City, Maryland, 20686  
(240) 895-3356  
spmirabile@smcm.edu

**David Froom, PhD**

Music Department  
47645 College Dr, St Mary's City, MD 20686  
St Mary's City, Maryland, 20686  
(240) 895-4228  
dfroom@smcm.edu