Comments to the Author:
Dear Authors:

I am writing to report the results of the review process of your paper. Two experts read your manuscript, and unfortunately they concur in not finding it suitable for JASA.
Both reviewers mention how your paper is well written and I agree with them: it was a pleasure to read --- something that unfortunately does not happen very often.
At the same time, it seems that your manuscript would be more appropriate for a more applied journal: while you are able to make some theoretical statements, the story you have to tell is really interesting in as much as
it proves practical. It is in this context that I understand, on the one hand, the reviewers critique of the diagonal covariance matrix assumption, and, on the other hand, your choice of this "practical" approximation.

I am sorry not to be able to relate a more positive outcome, I thank you for your submission to JASA and wish you best of luck with another venue.