

**Minutes for ACWC General ACWC Skype Meeting, Sat, March 28, 2020**  
**12:00noon EST/9:00am PST**

**Present:** Sophie Dupuis, Sharon Singer, Pat Morehead, Fiona Evison, Janet Danielson, Amanda Lowry, Tina Pearson, Diane Berry, Carol Ann Weaver, Julia Jacklein, Evelyn Stroobach, Edith Covach, Christie Morrison, Stephanie Orlando, Brenda Muller, Colleen Muriel

**Regrets:** Julia Mermelstein, Leila Lustig, Mary-Catherine Pazzano, Hildegard Westerkamp, Sylvia Rickard, Stella ter Hart, Sara Constant, Elaine Keillor, Joanna Estelle, Jean Ethridge

**1. Brief words from the Chair, noting the effects of coronavirus, globally and locally.**

Carol began the meeting by welcoming members and saying how glad she was to have everyone here. It was the largest meeting yet, perhaps because everyone is home and living online. She told us that her daughter was in China and had decided to stay when the virus started to spread and while measures there were quite draconian; the situation is improving, which gives everyone hope. Then Carol shared a few words from Hildegard Westerkamp, as sent to WFAE (World Forum for Acoustic Ecology) listserv, March 22, 2020, used by permission:

“Silences can be eerie because they indicate disaster, hardship, death, suffering. Like all destruction there is also a gift, an opening, a waking up, a noticing of dramatic changes. These silences contain seeds for renewal and inspiration, for learning and sources of information for - to name just one example - how we might better deal with climate change. If people want to document this silence it does not mean they lack compassion or engagement with the hardships and tragedies that are happening in this same silence. Silence is big and can contain all of our human struggles, joys and multitudes of emotions.”

**a. Initiatives Fund**

Carol reported that a record number of people had applied for the Initiatives Fund and that results would be available on April 1st.

**b. manner of meetings – Skype or Zoom**

Carol started by saying that some members had suggested we switch from using Skype for our meeting to Zoom. Brenda said that she has found it much better, particularly with an alternative speaker and microphone, adding that there are lots of training sessions available that are very helpful. Carol said that she is much less comfortable making the switch as she has been dealing with a number of technical problems lately. Christie told us that a teacher she knows who is using Zoom for lessons has experienced some hacking and perhaps it's an idea to stick with Skype until that gets sorted out. Edith said that some of the piano teachers using Zoom on apple devices had run into difficulties. She said it has worked well for her and others don't need to have it on their computer in order to join a meeting. Brenda said that she prefers Zoom as it seems to work better in remote areas, such as Parry Sound, where she is living. Julia told us that her mother was having some difficulty with Zoom when the video was on. Carol said that if we were to move to Zoom, someone would need to take over the role of setting up the meetings and connecting everyone. Brenda offered to use her Zoom account, as there would need to be a \$20 a month cost for the ability to go longer than 40 minutes, with Jana looking after hosting. It was decided to look into that possibility after the meeting.

**2. Acceptance of previous ACWC General Meeting Minutes, Sat, Feb. 1, 2020, 12:00 noon EST/9:00am PST.**

Tina Pearson moved that the minutes of the Saturday, February 1, 2020 meeting be accepted and Janet Danielson seconded the motion. There were no questions or comments. All were in favour so the motion was passed.

**3. Upcoming ACWC 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 2021. Updates by Chair of 40<sup>th</sup> Committee, Diane Berry**

Diane said that she was just in the process of forming the planning committee to organize the celebration of our 40th anniversary. She thanked the people who had sent in suggestions and said that there were a lot of interesting and wonderful ideas. The job of the committee will be to decide which things we will be able to do with our resources. She said that it looked clear a large gathering was not

possible so the committee would be looking at a number of smaller events.

The committee so far consists of Laura Hawley, Brenda Muller, Tina Pearson, Janet, Carol and Diane. She said that it would be good to have a few more members, partly because Janet and Carol are already quite busy with ACWC activities. The job of the planning committee would be to oversee things, help the organizers of the smaller events, and connect with national organizations such as the CMC, the CLC and the various teachers' organizations. Diane said that there will be a need for members to help in a number of ways and that anyone interested should contact her. ([dianeberry4@gmail.com](mailto:dianeberry4@gmail.com)). Diane finished by saying that for her, the celebration is about our organization and our members. She feels that, from her experience in the ACWC, and one of its strengths is how members support and celebrate each other; so she would like next year's events to reflect that.

There was a question about whether we should support events that have women composers who are not members, and if money should go to something with only one member represented. Tina said she thought it made sense to have some limits because we have limited funds, and that we should support people becoming members in order to participate in our projects. Carol said that when she took over from Joanna Estelle, one of the things Joanna had said was that it was important to have composers whose work is being performed in an ACWC concert become members, and that has been a good way to expand our membership. Janet thought the guideline was that 50% need be members, but in the concert that was organized in Victoria, the choir that was performing wanted to sing a number of works that were not by members. The choir brought in a good audience and some of those composers later became members, so there is a need to be flexible.

Amanda agreed, that perhaps we should open it up to women outside of Canada but have a tiered qualification. Tina asked if we were assuming all concerts needed to be women, that perhaps it should be 100% persons identified as women with 50% members and 50% non-members. Amanda felt that made sense as it would enable us to collaborate internationally. Diane pointed out that 2021 is unique as our anniversary year and so may need a different standard. Janet said that flexibility and being able to decide based on circumstances has been good, but that she felt the anniversary needed to highlight members.

Tina Pearson was officially acknowledged as *already* being part of the committee, and Amanda Lowry volunteered to be part of the planning committee.

#### **4. Status of Toronto concert, as scheduled July, 2020 – Stephanie Orlando, Amanda Lowry**

Stephanie reported that they had decided to postpone the July concert in that too many things were up in the air. The organizers had talked to Matthew Fava of Ontario CMC and will work with him to pick a date in the fall. She reported that they were still waiting to hear about funding and was worried that the pandemic might be delaying the results of those funding applications. The jury met to decide on the program and will be informing applicants of their decision shortly. The rest of the planning will be on hold for awhile. Stephanie went on to say that the call was put out and there were 29 submissions. Carol asked her who was on the jury that decided on the programming. Stephanie reported that there was an organizer Lieke van der Voot, a percussionist Yan Cheng, and an ACWC member, Bekah Simms. Matthew Fava from the CMC also attended and took minutes.

#### **5. Brief Board Reports**

##### **a. Treasurer – Janet Danielson**

Janet reported that we are doing well, with a healthy bank account. The only activity was paying Mary-Catherine for her work on the website. There will be funds coming out in the next little while, in support of the Vancouver Island Symphony, which were committed a year ago. Some of the funds we now hold will be put aside specifically for the anniversary leaving some for our usual activities.

##### **b. Secretary Report – Diane Berry**

Diane reported that things have been running smoothly, she recently submitted a report on the ACWC to the IAWM for their journal.

**c. SoundBox Report – Stephanie Orlando**

Stephanie reported that things have been going fine, though this month is quite different with all the concerts postponed or cancelled. She did encourage members to send in older material such as recordings, articles, and interviews so we can have a full SoundBox. She has received a few responses but not a lot and the due date is this Monday, March 30th. She encouraged members to send her material.

**d. Journal Editor Report – Fiona Evison**

Fiona reported that she has started work on the journal and has already received some articles. Things are in good shape. Carol asked her when the deadline for submissions is; Fiona gave deadline as May 15th since she wanted to give herself some extra time to compile it. She also said that if she finds she needs more material she will put a call out to members.

**e. Website Report – Mary-Catherine Pazzano:**

Carol said that Mary-Catherine was unable to attend the meeting but had sent in a report. Mary-Catherine reported that she has uploaded any French bios that have come in, as well as pictures and bios of new members whom she contacted via email to request that information. She has also adjusted and updated the Opportunities and News pages as needed. Mary-Catherine offered to be the point person for those wanting to upload playlists, discuss live streams, create a YouTube channel etc. Carol said that she and Mary-Catherine had discussed upgrading the website but had decided now was not a good time, during this current pandemic when a total website overhaul would be difficult.

**6. Other**

Carol said that she had invited members to an email chat which hasn't started up yet. Any one who would like to join should let Carol know and send her their email. It is a way to support each other through these difficult times.

**7. Member info – brief comments from participating members, giving *one* musical update and comments about how the coronavirus situation is affecting you.**

*Diane Berry* said that she was originally scheduled to play a number of concerts through the spring all of which got postponed or cancelled in one day. It has meant she has more time to work on composing.

*Amanda Lowry* is finishing up her first year of graduate school and while everything has stopped there is still work to do. She said it is difficult to feel like writing essays in the circumstances.

*Christie Morrison* said that she was supposed to be attending a big concert in Arizona today of her work on the holocaust that included the attendance of two survivors aged 90 and 93. Due to concerns over their health, the concert was postponed and will be revisited in October. She is sad but relieved.

*Tina Pearson* also had number of things cancelled but has found it nice in some ways as she has had an opportunity to do some biosphere practice outside with everyone at a distance. Her mother was also a holocaust survivor and Tina has been collecting her stories and creating a work around them.

*Fiona Evison* has had a number of things cancelled or postponed, as well. She has just been accepted into a doctoral program at University of Western Ontario (London, ON), and will have to decide whether to accept or not.

*Evelyn Stroobach* said that it's amazing to hear what everyone is doing to cope and wishes everyone the best. She is a Ph.D. student herself at the moment and encouraged Fiona to accept, saying that we will all be supporting her. She too has a mother who is a holocaust survivor and will be writing a memorial piece for survivors.

*Edith Covach* returned from Buenos Aires in February, and after talking to an influential musician there, Edith will have some choir works in an Argentine musical style performed later in the year. A vocal group in Toronto called Fonetica, will also perform two vocal pieces that she wrote.

*Sophie Dupuis* has been teaching at a private music school which is now shut down so she has free time for creative output, something that has been neglected for awhile.

*Sharon Singer* said that she has been struggling with the circumstances like everyone else.

*Pat Morehead* said the concert in North Bay in which she was to have an orchestra piece

premiered was cancelled. She said she and her husband are fine and she wishes good luck to everyone.

*Brenda Muller* has spent the last week learning new technology, which has been oddly enjoyable. She has been concentrating on her role as administrator of River Songs, wrestling with decisions on how to proceed, as well as spending time helping disappointed young composers, assuring them that their work will get performed.

*Jana Skarecky* has been doing some online teaching and finding time to compose. She managed to squeeze in one last concert, with social distancing included, on March 13th at the Heliconian Club in Toronto.

*Stephanie Orlando* said that with all the cancellations there is not much going on, but she is hoping for things to get back to normal in the future.

*Carol Ann Weaver* also has been working on a holocaust piece about events in Poland. They are set to record but the schedule is up in the air due to the current disruptions.

*Janet Danielson* had a successful premiere of *Of Kindred Minds* (piano quartet and oboe d'amore) last month and is revising her music fundamentals text, *Basic Organization of Music*.

*Colleen Muriel* is still working on her nine-movement 'Squirrel' piece for winds and two pianos. She's completing the 8th movement called "Squirrel Discusses The Meaning of Life With Other Squirrels," and is also orchestrating a beautiful old Welsh Hymn, "Here Is Love Vast As The Ocean."

#### **8. Next ACWC Skype General Meeting:**

Saturday, May 23, 2020 12:00 pm EST/ 9:00 am PST

#### **9. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:06 pm EST/ 10:06 am PST

Respectively submitted by Diane Berry