

Minutes for ACWC General ACWC Zoom Meeting, Sat, May 23, 2020
12:00noon EST/9:00am PST

Present: Karen Sunabacka, Jana Skarecky, Mary-Catherine Pazzano,
Fiona Evison, Janet Danielson, Stephanie Orlando, Diane Berry,
Christie Morrison, Pat Morehead, Brenda Muller, Carol Ann Weaver,
Julia Jacklein, Sharon Singer, Amanda Lowry

Regrets: Elaine Keillor, Colleen Muriel, Jennifer Bennett

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

Carol began by thanking everyone for attending, with a special thank you to Brenda for setting the meeting up. She welcomed the members and said she was happy to see everyone. Observing that the ACWC is a lifeline for so many of us, she said one reason to meet today was to connect, to share stories and experiences.

2. Acceptance of previous ACWC Meeting Minutes, March 28, 2020, 12:00 noon EST/9:00 am PST.

Janet Danielson moved that the minutes from Saturday, March 28, 2020 be accepted, and Stephanie Orlando seconded the motion. All were in favour so the motion was passed.

3. Upcoming ACWC 40th Anniversary, 2021. Updates by 40th Chair of Committee, Diane Berry

Diane reported that plans for the 40th anniversary are progressing. There will be a number of events taking place and in order to connect them, the committee is looking for a theme. She encouraged members to email her their ideas, letting them know that she can be reached directly through the website. Diane suggested the theme could be inspired by our mission statement which refers to promoting the music of Canadian women, supporting women composers, and educating the public. Looking at the past and towards the future were also put forward as inspiration for the theme.

Diane went on to report that plans are well on the way for concerts in Halifax, Yellowknife; B.C, and most likely Ontario. A pianist has offered to perform music by our members in Quebec.

There will be a playlist, or lists, through the year, though this is still in the early stages of planning. In order to keep members informed of all the events, there will be a page on the website devoted to the anniversary. Diane said that they are still looking for members who are willing to help in any way, particularly for something in their region.

Diane went on to ask members to get in touch with her if they were interested in being part of a small committee looking at avenues for funding and to search out possible grants.

Brenda mentioned that Heritage Canada has money available and that it would be a good thing to look into. She also said that she would like to plan something to be done in Parry Sound.

Carol said that in terms of the logo, it would be good to have something that is connected with our current logo. She also thought it should be acted on sooner rather than later. Mary-Catherine knows someone who is a good graphic designer, who would be able to send the committee mock-ups, but she didn't know what the cost would be. It was decided that, as there is no budget for the design of a logo, it would be better if a member were willing to create one. Julia said she would be willing to put something together. Carol will send Julia one that she did quite quickly to give her an idea. It was brought up that Ann Southam had done a number of abstract sketches of scores and that was the original inspiration for our current logo. Janet wondered if anyone knew the history behind it. Brenda told us that Ann Southam was very conscious of what things represented, and everything would have a meaning behind it, the circle, for instance might represent a circle of women.

4. New Web re-haul completed. More discussion under Board reports.

Mary Catherine reported that the website has been moved to a different host. It had been on WordPress but has now been moved to namecheap.com. The site is still a WordPress site so it looks the same. Mary-Catherine said she had been unable to make some alterations to the site that members requested. With this change in host she is able to do much more. Mary-Catherine reported that the capabilities are what have changed and it now operates a lot better. She told us that embedded links wouldn't work with the previous hosting, which was a difficulty with the journal. Carol told us that Dana Harrison, who works with websites professionally, had been asked to work with Mary-Catherine on this overhaul. She congratulated them on their work, noting that the transition had been seamless. Mary-Catherine mentioned that another advantage with namecheap was the ability to link up to 30 emails to the site.

5. Brief Board Reports

a. Treasurer – Janet Danielson

Janet reported that the cost of upgrading the website was \$400, with another \$20 going towards maintaining the web domain. She felt that if it saved time and energy for our web manager, it was money well spent. Janet also reported that our bank account is healthy. Membership fees come due at the end of June and she is excited about using the new management program to send out reminders to members.

Carol reminded Janet of the discussions they had with regards to fees this year. It was decided that, because of COVID-19, members would be asked to pay what they can. Members who are able would be encouraged to add to their membership fees to help cover those who are unable to maintain their membership. Janet reminded us that with our charity status, any amount donated above the fee would be eligible for a tax receipt. She felt that many members would be hit hard by the shut down.

b. Secretary Report – Diane Berry

Diane reported that things have been running smoothly. She also said that she now has an email that is linked directly to the website contact page, and anyone who has questions about membership, or general questions, should feel free to contact her.

c. SoundBox Report – Stephanie Orlando

Stephanie reported that since a large part of the SoundBox is upcoming concerts and events, she has been asking members to send in older news items, interviews, recordings etc. She can also be reached directly through the website. Stephanie said she felt this will be an advantage because non-members will also be able to reach her if they have an item, like a call for scores, that would be appropriate for the SoundBox. Another advantage of the change in the emails, is that she will be able to sign up for mailchimp again. It became an issue last year and she had to change how members received the SoundBox, sending it as an attachment to emails. Stephanie feels that going through mailchimp looks much nicer.

d. Journal Editor Report – Fiona Evison

Fiona reported that she has started to work on the journal and has lots of work to do. She also said the if members still wanted to contribute a piece on their experiences of, and thoughts on, the pandemic they can still send them to her.

e. Website Report – Mary-Catherine Pazzano:

Mary-Catherine encouraged everyone to get acquainted with the new site and if there was anything members felt needed to be added to let her know. She also offered to help with the playlists for next year and suggested they be put on Soundcloud. That would make it easy to move them to the website. Amanda is working on the playlists and said that it may mean investing in a soundcloud account, which would have to be budgeted for, she thought it would be around \$60. Mary-Catherine said that she is still asking for bios, and translations into French, which are now are easy to add to the site.

Carol asked Mary-Catherine to tell members how to find the contact page on the site. Mary-Catherine explained that on the home page, there is a banner at the top, which has contact near the end of it. If you click on it, you will get to the contact pages which has the names of the board members. Clicking on the name will send you to the email for that board member.

6. Other

Janet mentioned that the deadline for the Roberta Stephen Award had been extended to June 1st

7. Member info – comments from participating members, giving comments about what you are able to do now, and about how the coronavirus situation is affecting you.

Julia Jacklein hasn't been composing as she has been finishing up her M.A. from York University, as well as cleaning house and starting a garden.

Karen Sunabacka has been busy with the crazy end of the school year at University of Waterloo. Since finishing, there have been a lot of reports and meetings. She is on a number of different boards, all trying to figure out what happens to funding if no concerts happen.

Jana Skarecky has been busy teaching online and will be starting to do examining online, as well. She is also setting up student recitals, with the students recording their performances, which she will put on Youtube. In the meantime, she has managed to finish a piece for prepared piano which she hopes will be performed sometime in the future.

Mary-Catherine Pazzano is the music director at a church and has been live-streaming services. She is also hosting a fundraiser every Tuesday on facebook, and has set up a small studio which is recording content she can use at a later date.

Amanda Lowry has moved in with her partner from Toronto to Waterloo, and so is no longer in a tiny, noisy apartment. She is currently trying to prepare for a solo flute livestream in late July and early August. It will feature the music of Canadian women composers like Dorothy Chang, Linda Caitlin-Smith and others.

Pat Morehead has good news and bad news. She was given a Canada Council grant to write a piece for the North Bay Symphony but was never told about it, to find out she would have had to check the website. Now they are asking for a final report. While she has written the piece, everything with the symphony is on hold so she doesn't know what will happen with the grant. She was also accepted to go to Buffalo in June but has chosen not to. In the meantime, she is working on a small opera with Sharon Singer, as well as other works.

Brenda Muller now calls herself a 'zombie' as she has been spending a lot of time organizing and teaching using Zoom. She has a warm up session with her string players and she said that the cellos are really improving. The Riversongs festival she organizes every year has been moved to the fall and she has been trying to find ways to help the composers who would normally be attending, trying to find funding to help them out. She has found the situation an opportunity to rethink how to do things and she is having fun connecting with so many people.

Fiona Evison has written a new piece, a lullaby, which will be performed Monday to a very small audience in Owen Sound. It is for her 7th grandchild, who is still due. She has also used the time to clean her house and organize her studio.

Janet Danielson has had urgent, non-musical things to deal with, and is itching to get back to composing. She was teaching her class online and is working at redesigning her theory textbook so that it can be used for future online classes.

Stephanie Orlando is working from home as a research assistant at U of T, as well as composing, including a piece for solo classical guitar.

Christie Morrison was in Arizona, working as a music director in a church there, and came back just before the border closed. It meant the cancellation of a performance of a piece about the holocaust that was to be attended by survivors. She worries about the delay, as they are in their nineties and hopes they will still be alive when the piece can finally be performed. In the meantime, she is working on a piece for her first grandchild, who just turned one.

Carol Ann Weaver has been working on her vegetable garden, and finds she is as excited about the seedlings coming up as she would be with some wonderful grant. She and Mary-Catherine are working on her piece about Poland during the second world war. It will be accompanied by a book she is co-authoring with the child of survivors, Connie Brown. The manuscript has just gone out. She has found herself really busy

but is looking at the shut down as a chance to simplify life.

Diane Berry has found herself quite busy, with teaching online, recording for students and one of her ensembles, learning more about sound technology, and working on the anniversary plans. She has ended up having to make time to compose and is currently working on a set of one minute pieces for mezzo, baritone and piano.

8. Next ACWC Skype General Meeting:

Saturday, August 22, 2020, at 12:00 noon EST/9:00 am PST

9. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 1:06 pm, EST/10:06 am PST

Respectfully submitted by Diane Berry, ACWC Secretary