

## **Minutes for ACWC/AFCC Zoom Meeting, Sat, Jan. 9, 2021**

**12:00noon EST/9:00am PST**

present: Jana Skarecky, Christie Morrison, Amanda Lowry,  
Carol Ann Weaver, Anita Pari, Fiona Evison, Colleen Muriel, Diane Berry, Janet Danielson,  
Brenda Muller, Evelyn Stroobach, Patricia Morehead, Julia Mermelstein  
regrets: Julia Jacklein, Jean Ethridge, Stephanie Orlando, Emily Hiemstra, Gayle Young

### **1. HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! Brief words of cheer for the New Year from the Chair.**

Carol began by welcoming everyone to the meeting and wishing us all a Happy New Year. She went on to observe that we are part of the democracy we all believe in and that she has been strongly affected by the events in the United States this week. As part of these words, she wanted to give a shout out to all those working for change, to Kamala Harris, the first female and person of colour to be vice-president elect, and Joe Biden who is a model in building bridges between people.

### **2. Acceptance of previous ACWC AGM/General Meeting Minutes, Sat., Nov. 7, 2020, 12noon EST/9am/PST.**

Amanda Lowry moved that the minutes of the meeting of Saturday, November 7, 2020 be accepted, and Janet Danielson seconded the motion. All were in favour so the motion was passed.

### **3. ACWC and COVID – what do we recommend in terms of live performances?**

Carol began by saying that she feels, due to the situation with Covid, that the ACWC/AFCC should not be planning any live performances at this time. While the circumstances are different across the country, we should be guided by the strongest restrictions. Brenda agreed that we should follow the guidelines and be safe, but she felt that it was important to plan ahead so that once we are able to hold in person events, we are ready to do so. She felt that everyone involved would understand the need to be flexible and to be prepared to change plans if the need arises. At the moment she is planning something for July 1<sup>st</sup>, but knows she may have to modify those plans. Colleen, who is in the UK, where the lockdowns are extremely strict, said that she has been experimenting with small groups on zoom when live isn't possible and it has been fairly successful. The situation has forced a different approach and there are elements of virtual events that she hopes to continue to use after Covid is over. A member made a comment which indirectly stated that ACWC has not yet created a formal policy or guidelines about ACWC-related live performances during Covid.

### **4. ACWC Guidelines for Funding Procedures updated**

Carol said that she is letting everyone know that the guidelines for funding procedures are available. If they appear to be heavy handed, she pointed out that with events in which there is no call for scores, the guidelines are more flexible. It appears as Category B in the document. These guidelines are a result of discussions at the last meeting and of emails amongst the members and the board. Janet wanted to point out that we are not an arts council and don't have the funding or infrastructure of an arts council and is still concerned that detailed guidelines may make things difficult for juries in the future. She felt that the statements in the guidelines put together in 2014, which set out the spirit of inclusivity and artistic merit may be enough. Carol said that some of the reasons for the new guidelines are issues that have arisen over time. She said that we can continue shaping this as time goes on.

### **5. ACWC Treasurer Transition – Amanda Lowry and Janet Danielson**

Amanda reported that she has received all the documents necessary and has been given access to the paypal account. There has been a delay with her access to the bank accounts due to people being away, so that is still in the process. She told us that Janet had given her a detailed description of the job and what is entailed, which has been very helpful. Everything will be ready to go by the middle of January.

## **6. Beginning our ACWC 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 2021. Updates by 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Chair, Diane Berry**

Diane began by welcoming everyone to our Anniversary Year, and saying that there will be lots of things going on throughout 2021. The anniversary page has been up on the website for a while, and she had asked Mary-Catherine about visits to the page and was told that there had been 123 visits, an average of 1-2 a day. There will be things updated to the page continuously through the year. We were told that Amanda has been working on the playlists, and the link to the first one should be on the page in the middle of the month. Diane also told us that there would also be history notes posted by Brenda each month. The plan is to encourage members and others to visit the page regularly.

To start the events, there will be an online panel discussion on Saturday, February 27<sup>th</sup> at 7pm eastern time. The topic will be the beginnings and early years of the ACWC/AFCC with Emily Hiemstra as the moderator and guests Carolyn Lomax, Elaine Keillor and Elma Miller. Diane told us that she had a lovely, long conversation with Elma, who was the archivist, and that she felt sure everyone will enjoy this event. Diane told us that Amy Brandon has been organizing a live-streamed concert from Halifax that will probably occur in March, and that will be posted on the page when details are known. Diane added said that the next version of the journal will be one dedicated to the anniversary.

Diane also told us the percussion ensemble SHHH! is doing a series of online presentations and that they have been working towards having an episode to celebrate the ACWC/AFCC and featuring pieces by two of our members. There was a call for scores that members may have seen, and though there were some challenges, it does look like it will all go through. With discussions of those challenges a question came up about the SoundBox as a means of communication, and its readership numbers. Diane asked Stephanie about the stats and told us that 2/3 of the members opened the SoundBox, though the number of clicks on the links was much lower. She added that engaging both members and non-members in the anniversary will be an ongoing challenge.

Since the anniversary is a year long, there are, and will be, opportunities to explore other ways for the organization to celebrate and she would be happy to get ideas sent to her.

Pat added in the chat, “each one of us should let our friends and family know about when our music is being played on the monthly place list.”

### **a. Question: should we allow our Anniversary to run for two years, due to COVID?**

There was a feeling that with the restrictions it would be a good idea to continue into 2022 and that events spanned two years for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Diane pointed out that it will be difficult to keep people engaged and interested in the anniversary over the course of a year and it may prove more difficult if extended to two years. Colleen suggested that it might be an idea not to plan to go over into 2022, but to be willing to reschedule events for next year when they are unable to be presented this year

## **7. ACWC Playlist; Social Media Questions – Amanda Lowry**

Amanda reported that she received 54 submissions for the anniversary playlists, which is just over half the membership. She has over thirteen hours of submissions so she will be able to have at least an hour-long playlist every month. The first will be posted around the 15<sup>th</sup> of this month and about the same time every month for the rest of the year. Amanda told the meeting that she would also like to include music from our earlier members such as Mary Gardiner and Ann Southam. There is a question of getting permission for using the recordings and she feels that contacting the performers for permission rather than the estates would be easier. Jana pointed out that the CMC has recordings available on their site but in discussions with the CMC Amanda discovered that those permissions were limited to the CMC site. Diane had put her in touch with a performer of Ann Southam’s work and Amanda would be interested to know about other possible connections. In the chat Brenda said we have all permissions at time of making the CD because we are the performers, and Janet pointed out that permission from the performers is needed, as well.

Amanda told us that she will be setting up a paid Soundcloud account for this year, which will give us unlimited uploads. After that it can be switched over to a free account which only allows

for three hours of music. The advantage to having a Soundcloud account is the ability to link to the accounts of members and the opportunity to post music by members who aren't on Soundcloud. Amanda added that there could be a changing list of music on the site.

Amanda told us that she had looked into our Facebook and Twitter accounts and that there had been nothing posted on them for over a year and over a year and a half respectively. She would strongly recommend that we increase our presence on both platforms and suggested that there be one or two people responsible for posting once a week. Amanda also felt it would be a good way to increase our exposure to younger composer and increase our membership. Pat offered to help with posting on social media. Amanda agreed to help Pat, particularly with what to post.

To finish up, Amanda said that while the deadline for submitting to the playlists is over, because it is ongoing project, she will accept recordings through the year. Brenda said that all of hers are on tape, not digitized, but Amanda said she thought that it would be possible to work something out.

#### **8. ACWC 2021 Initiatives Fund, deadline March 15, 2021 – Carol Ann Weaver**

Carol said that application information is on the site. She will begin to publicize it soon.

#### **9. 2021 Roberta Stephen Award, deadline May 31, 2021 – Janet Danielson**

Janet reported that the award is next on her list. There is information on the award, on the website. Carol remarked that Janet will continue to be the administrator for the fund after leaving the position of treasurer.

#### **10. Brief Board Reports**

##### **a. Treasurer – Amanda Lowry (incoming); Janet Danielson (outgoing)**

Janet reported that our bank balance is healthy and we are in a good position to support events and concerts through the year.

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

Diane reported that things are running smoothly and there's nothing really to report.

##### **c. SoundBox Report – Stephanie Orlando:**

"The SoundBox continues to run smoothly, with members sending in their virtual events, upcoming projects, and new or past recordings of their work. Gentle reminder to do your best to stick to the deadlines to help me stay organized. Thanks, and I look forward to hearing more of our member's news in this coming month's edition!"

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

Fiona said that the winter edition of the journal was issued at a reasonable time and that she, too had nothing really to report.

Carol thanked both Stephanie and Fiona for all their hard work.

##### **d. Website Report – Mary-Catherine Pazzano:**

"I have updated the Homepage, the News page, and the Opportunities pages with 2021 Award Applications (Roberta Stephen, Initiatives Fund) editing existing Word documents and PDFs to include current and updated 2021 application info. I uploaded the Fall 2020/Winter 2021 journal to the journal page; updated member info with any members who sent edits, deletes, etc; have continued to update the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary page with Notes from the Chair, Call for Scores, info and updates including Playlist etc. and added a Donate button to the Anniversary page"

#### **11. Other**

Pat said that she had just come from a CMC meeting and they have money for education projects. The CMC asked Pat to bring up the possibility of working with them on an educational project of some kind, perhaps as one of our anniversary initiatives. Carol suggested Pat send something to her describing it, which Carol can send out to bring in ideas and get a discussion going.

Jana said that she would like to bring it to the attention of the members that donations in connection with something such as calls can be a business expense which has a greater advantage, financially, than a

donation. Janet pointed out that tax receipts for donations can be issued now that we have charitable status. It was pointed out that the tax benefits are lower for donations than expenses.

## **12. Member info – comments from participating members about the new year, and life COVID**

*Jana* is writing a piece for mezzo-soprano with a poem by P.K.Paige. Her pandemic project is to memorize the poems that she loves, including the one she is using for her piece. She is also practicing piano more.

*Christie's* Holocaust piece won the Murray Adaskin Award, and she was interviewed on local television about the piece. The interview included the Holocaust survivor to whom the piece was dedicated and who lives in Arizona. Christie said that her aunt passed away recently so she is working on a piece in remembrance of her.

*Carol* said that her *Poland Parables* has been completed and released and they are hoping for a future performance. She also told us that she and her husband have been going back to their roots, playing music for their church, bluegrass, jazz, new music and a variety of other styles.

*Anita* is in her second semester at McGill in music, working on her masters.

*Fiona* is in her second year at Western working on her Ph.D. She is quite busy with that, but was able to do some composing in December, once the term ended.

*Colleen* is in the UK where there are severe lockdowns due to Covid. She has been working on an orchestral piece that involves a large orchestra a choir and soloist. She has been working on this piece for a long time and hopes this year may see its completion. In the last while she put out a call for flute pieces and received many for flute and piano. She has been unable to get back to people because of the unsure situation in the UK.

*Brenda* told us that she's always got lots going on, but since this is grant writing season she will be doing a lot of that.

*Evelyn* said that she was very lucky to have one of her chamber pieces be part of a televised broadcast out of Florida. She is a doctoral student in the UK. As part of her research, she is looking for orchestral works, written in response to the Holocaust, that would have been performed and hopefully recorded and published.

*Pat* is working on a piece for Bass Oboe for Alex Klein with 6 Degrees, an all-female composer collective in Chicago of which she is still a member. The concert will be on March 13th during Women's History Month in the USA, at HotHouse, and live-streamed from Calgary.

*Diane* will be having a solo flute piece performed at the end of the month in Boston, as part of the Boston New Music Initiative's "Quarantunes". This is a short, virtual concert of unaccompanied works.

*Janet* is busy revising her online music fundamentals course and textbook.

*Amanda* is continuing to work on her DMA in performance at UofT; preparing for her first recital (date TBA - hopefully in the fall), which will be all 20th century music by Canadian women, and learning the Eckhardt-Gramatte Duo Concertante for flute and violin. Also listening to all the wonderful music sent to me by our members for the playlists!

*Julia Mermelstein* is composing an art song for voice, piano, cello and electronics, as well as completing an orchestral commission, which she hopes will be able to be performed.

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

The next meeting will be on Saturday, March 20th, 2021 at 12:00 noon EST/ 9 am PST

## **14. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:06 EST/10:06 PST

Respectively submitted  
Diane Berry