

## **Minutes for ACWC Zoom Meeting, Sat, March 20, 2021**

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

**Present:** Morgan Lovell, Edith Covach, Stella ter Hart, Jana Skarecky, Carol Ann Weaver, Amanda Lowry, Julia Mermelstein, Christie Morrison, Evelyn Stroobach, Diane Berry, Fiona Evison, Stephanie Orlando, Elise Letourneau, Ilkim Tongur, Pat Morehead  
**Regrets:** Anita Pari, Jean Ethridge, Sylvia Rickard, Colleen Muriel, Brenda Muller, Gayle Young

### **1. Welcome from the Chair; Welcome to four new members, Heather Hindman, Kristin Flores, Morgan Lovell, and Diane Roblin!**

Carol began by welcoming all the members to the meeting. She brought to everyone's attention that we have four new members, Heather Hindman, Kristin Flores, Diane Roblin, who is a jazz composer, and Morgan Lovell. As Morgan was in attendance, Carol asked if she would introduce herself to the members. Morgan said that she was a recent graduate from Laurier University, where she studied composition. Amanda added that Morgan is also an accomplished cellist.

### **2. Acceptance of previous ACWC General Meeting Minutes, Sat., Jan. 9, 2021, 12noon EST/9am PST.**

Amanda Lowry moved that the minutes of the Saturday, January 9, 2021 meeting be accepted and Edith Covach seconded the motion. No questions or comments, all were in favour, motion passed.

### **3. Amanda Lowry officially the ACWC Treasurer**

Carol informed the meeting that the transition between Janet Danielson and Amanda Lowry had been completed. As Amanda needed to leave the meeting early it was decided she would give her report as treasurer at this point in the meeting. Amanda reported that the organization is in good shape financially and there will be a good amount of funds going into the next fiscal year, which begins in July. It was asked how members are informed of the budget and how it gets distributed. Janet reported that the budget is sent out yearly in connection to the AGM but monthly budgets are not done or sent to members.

Amanda also reported on the playlists that have been part of the anniversary celebrations. There have been three posted to date, with the next expected on April 15<sup>th</sup>, which will be unaccompanied pieces. She told members that she is still accepting recordings for the playlists and would continue to do so as long as time is available. As someone who likes stats, she also told the meeting that the lists had surpassed 1,000 plays, and that each month the number has been increasing, which means an increasing audience. She encouraged members who have Soundcloud accounts to follow the ACWC/AFCC page. A Youtube page has been created and a recording of the Beginnings panel can be found there.

### **4. ACWC 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Events and Updates – Diane Berry and others**

Diane reported that the anniversary year is off to a good start with a number of things happening as part of the celebrations and more to come. She acknowledged Amanda's work on the playlists and that she had been told by a number of members how they looked forward to the posting each month.

#### **a. Beginnings Panel, Feb. 27, 2021**

Diane reported that the Beginnings panel was a success and thanked Emily for her work as moderator. She told us that there are plans in the works for another panel in May or early June, featuring electronic and soundscape composers involving Tina Pearson, Hildegard Westerkamp and others. If any members had ideas for more panels, Diane encouraged them to get in touch.

#### **b. East Coast Piano concert with Jennifer King, March 8, 2021**

Diane began by congratulating Amy Brandon for putting on the first anniversary concert of 2021. She told the meeting that Amy had put forward her plans for an Atlantic regional concert, to be held on International Women's Day, 2021, when Carol had first asked for ideas on how to celebrate. Diane felt it should be acknowledged that despite covid and other challenges, Amy had succeeded in fulfilling

those initial plans. There were internet issues with the venue, but a recording of the concert is available through the ACWC/AFCC Facebook page, as well as through the website.

**c. ‘Did You Know’ feature on anniversary page**

Diane encouraged members to look for the new feature ‘Did You Know’ on the anniversary page of the website. Each month there will be something about Canadian women composers who came before the ACWC/AFCC or other interesting facts.

**d. Stories from ACWC Members**

Diane reported that there will be more interviews posted as the year progresses.

**e. upcoming events – SHHH!! Ensemble**

The upcoming online concert with the SHHH!! Ensemble, featuring music by Patricia Morehead and Monica Pearce had been postponed to April 24<sup>th</sup>.

**f. Virtual Flute Festival**

ACWC had been approached by the Scarborough Philharmonic Society about participating in a virtual flute festival that would take place in February of 2022. It would be a wonderful opportunity for the ACWC/AFCC, but volunteers will be needed to sit on the organizing committee. There will be a note in next month’s SoundBox looking for members who may be interested.

**5. ACWC Outreach – what can we do to provide more significant outreach across Canada?**

Carol reported that the Board had been discussing this issue previously and said that Julia Mermelstein had some good ideas. Julia said that the organization needed to use social media more effectively for outreach and to connect with other composers, new members and the general public. She felt it was important to have a single person responsible for outreach, to provide a more unified voice across a number of platforms. Fiona said that in her work, she had been looking at community engagement and felt it was an area that could be pursued. Julia said that the use of mentorship programs for students of all ages would be a way to proceed. Ilkim spoke of her involvement with the ‘Composer In The Classroom’ program, adding it would be a good way to reach younger music students. Janet said that in past years the ACWC/AFCC had sent out an electronic poster to university music departments at the beginning of the school year, to be physically printed and posted. Carol said that part of what spurred this conversation was the fact four of the five Juno nominees in classical composition had been women, while only one was a member. She told the meeting that she had sent letters of invitation to all of them and none had replied, and that the challenge was to make the organization relevant to all. A suggestion was made to connect with music festivals, suggesting they include composition classes, and to provide a list of members who would be available to adjudicate those classes. Carol asked members to keep thinking about how to improve outreach and to send any ideas to her.

**6. ACWC Social Media uptick – Julia Mermelstein, Emily Hiemstra, Stephanie Orlando, Amanda Lowry**

Carol gave a shout out to the team who has been working on increasing our presence on social media. Julia has been posting, Emily kick-started the idea, and credit should go to Amanda who had initiated the idea of ACWC’s social media being built up/enhanced, and has been encouraging the organization to put more energy into this aspect. Carol said that this has transformed our visibility.

**7. Inclusion – expanding our base: welcoming, honouring and including ACWC members from wider spectrum of ethnic/racial/social backgrounds**

Carol asked members to put forward ideas as to how the organization can become more diverse. She told the meeting that the goal has always been to be welcoming, but you can’t make people join. She asked members for their ideas. Fiona said that she has found some composers feel their music doesn’t fit with the music we represent, or, at least, their *ideas* of the music we represent. Fiona also suggested we could think of different ways of composing. Carol suggested that perhaps, we should be including a wider range of music genre, and asked, would that include pop music? Christie asked if it was

appropriate to invite singer-songwriters to become members. Elise said that she has worked with singer-songwriters and often hears, from them, “I am not a composer”, in that singer-songwriters feel that what they do is different, and so wouldn’t qualify. Fiona said that in her experience, sometimes a change in terminology would also change perception. Janet said that she is uncomfortable with the idea of genres, and finds them unhelpful. She feels that what we’re talking about is a difference in process and approach; songwriting sometimes happens in a very short amount of time, and can be excellent, but for ACWC/AFCC members, music is often written over a longer period of time, and the process of composing can be quite different from that of songwriting. Janet pointed out that genre can be a musical form of race and composers can be made to feel guilty for not giving equal time to other genres. She feels we need to unhook any unintended analogies, here. She brought up the history of SOCAN as a cautionary tale. Initially, as a member of SOCAN, she was well paid for performances because SOCAN was created with classical composers in mind. Over time the emphasis of the organization has changed and now she doesn’t even bother to register performances in that the remuneration is so small. In opening up the ACWC/AFCC to all branches of music, our current membership could possibly be overwhelmed. Janet feels that what we do, as so-called “classical” composers, is distinctive and needs to be supported and that the discussion should move to the *process* rather than the final *product*, with the idea that different processes need different kinds of support. Carol suggested that this discussion be continued at a later time, as it was an important one.

#### **8. ACWC name in French -- L’Association des femmes compositeurs canadiennes OR L’Association des compositrices canadiennes (French word for female composer is “compositrice”)**

Carol said that the issue of the French translation of the association’s name had come up recently. The French word for composer is “compositrice,” so the question of changing our current name should be discussed. Janet said that the issue has come up before and that it really should be our Francophone members who decide how they would like to be described.

#### **9. ACWC Awards**

##### **a. 2021 Initiative Fund, deadline March 15**

Carol reported that the awards are alive and well, and that the Board just voted to increase funding for the Initiative’s Fund for this year. The deadline was Monday the 15<sup>th</sup> with a good number of applications.

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

Janet reported that advertising has been done for the award and things are moving along.

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

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

Diane reported that things have been running smoothly and she is currently working on the report for the IAWM journal that is due at the end of the month

##### **b. SoundBox Report – Stephanie Orlando**

Stephanie reported that things are going well; members have been getting their submissions in before the deadline, which has enabled her to get the SoundBox out by the first of every month.

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

Fiona reported that she has been arranging interesting articles, based on the anniversary, for the next edition. She added that she is still open to more ideas, and anyone who would like to, can contact her about possible articles.

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

Mary-Catherine sent her report in to Carol. Mary-Catherine has continued to update and maintain the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary page, which has included concerts/events, the playlists and Zoom panels. She has created pages for events, as requested such as the Zoom Beginnings Panel. Mary-Catherine has also been continuing to add bios and photos to member pages for both new members and updated information for existing members. She has also updated and cleaned up the homepage where necessary, as well as keeping the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary calendar current and updated.

Carol informed the committee that the money paid to Mary-Catherine for her work on the website has been increased to compensate for the heavier workload due to the anniversary.

#### 11. Other

There was no other business.

#### 12. Member info – comments from participating members about your recent, current work

*Jana Skarecky* has been working with the Heliconian Club for an event on April 25<sup>th</sup> involving a number of disciplines. She is also busy writing piano pieces and painting.

*Julia Mermelstein* is finishing up an orchestral work, and has started a piece for accordion and electronics.

*Christie Morrison* is continuing to work on getting her holocaust piece recorded so that her dedicatee, a holocaust survivor, will be able to hear it.

*Evelyn Stroobach*'s composition for chamber orchestra entitled Nonet received a television broadcast on Dec. 27, 2020 out of Miami. Meanwhile her studies are keeping her busy as she continues to conduct research and compose her orchestral work. She will present her research before fellow PhD students and professors on April 23.

*Fiona Evison* is keeping her head above water as she approaches the end of term. She is busy reading, writing her thesis and composing.

*Elise Letourneau* has been busy working with her choir online. She has them recording their parts separately then putting them together, which began with just a few members participating but has been growing over time. With ticket sales and no budget, the choir has also been using her music catalogue as a source for their repertoire.

*Ilkim Tongur* is working on another degree, this one in music education, as well as writing pieces for piano.

*Janet Danielson* hasn't been doing much music, as she is providing care and support to her mother and sister, as well as her daughter and two grandchildren.

*Pat Morehead* had her piece for string orchestra performed recently, and a piece for oboe and piano received a wonderful review after a performance in Chicago.

*Stella ter Hart* has had some of her choral works accepted for publication, is working towards getting them recorded, and is putting together songs for her grandchildren, as well as working on maple syrup!

*Morgan Lovell* is working on a recording, in which she is playing cello, for NUMUS, the Kitchener-Waterloo new music society, as well as continuing to write music.

*Carol Ann Weaver* is doing a lot of administration these days, and is also playing a mix of jazz, bluegrass, world and original work for virtual services at her church, with her husband. She continues to serve as Secretary for CASE, Association for Canadian Sonic Ecology.

*Diane Berry* is rehearsing for an online concert on Wednesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, that will include two of her songs (one for voice and piano, one for voice, piano and flute) as well as three songs by Leila Lustig (one for voice and piano, one for voice and flute, one for voice, flute and drum).

*Amanda Lowry* is working on learning the music for an upcoming livestream concert at the CMC, and continuing to work on her DMA!

*Stephanie Orlando* has been busy organizing the concert co-sponsored by the CMC as part of the 40th anniversary events, which they are planning to record and live stream in May!

#### 13. Next ACWC Skype General Meeting, Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 12 noon EST/9 am PST

#### 14. Meeting adjourned at 1:01 pm EST/ 10:01 am PST

Minutes respectfully submitted by Diane Berry, ACWC Secretary, March 22, 2021.