

## **Minutes for ACWC/ACC Zoom Meeting, Sat, May 8, 2021**

**12:00noon EDT/9:00am PDT**

present: Jana Skarecky, Jean Ethridge, Diane Berry, Amanda Lowry, Stephanie Orlando, Fiona Evison, Carol Ann Weaver, Julia Mermelstein, Janet Danielson, Emily Hiemstra

regrets: Christie Morrison, Elaine Keillor, Morgan Lovell, Sophie Bisson

### **1. Welcome from the Chair.**

Carol began the meeting by welcoming everyone and telling us that today is World Migratory Bird Day, the only special day that recognizes our migratory birds and all their major flyways worldwide. She also extended a welcome to new member, Sophie Bisson, who is a singer, interested in learning more about, and getting to know Canadian women composers.

### **2. Acceptance of previous ACWC General Meeting Minutes, Sat, March 20, 2021:**

Amanda Lowry moved that the minutes of the Saturday, March 20, 2021 meeting be accepted and Julia Mermelstein seconded the motion. Questions: Jean Ethridge asked if Anita Pari's name had been spelled correctly. (It actually was spelled correctly.) There were no other questions.

### **3. New Policy on membership payments, created and approved by Board members.**

Carol reported that she and Amanda have been in discussions about creating policies with regards to the payment of membership fees. She asked that people read the attached recommendations. Janet pointed out that, according to the constitution, memberships would lapse after two years without payment of dues, whereas this new policy has the time limit of six months, which she felt might be too stringent. She wondered if the constitution would have to be changed to accommodate the new policy. Amanda noted that if a policy document has been voted on by the Board and the membership before the constitution has been revised, it is acceptable. Amanda also noted that the conversation came about when members who had chosen not to renew their membership were still getting notices about fees not being paid, eight months to a year later. Due to that, she felt a definite cut-off date was needed. Carol reported that Board members had approved the new policies and then asked for a show of hands of those who are in favour of the new policy. A majority voted in favour. She said there can be time for more discussion.

### **4. New French name, L'Association des compositrices canadiennes, as preferred by all Francophone composers consulted.** "Thanks to each of you for your replies and your unanimous preference! We are now ACWC/ACC. Changes are being made on our publicities and website." - CAW

Carol was proud to bring forth the decision to change the Francophone name of the organization. All Francophone members who were polled replied promptly, and were unanimously in favour of changing the name to "compositrices canadiennes." While they recognized that the initial translation was preferred by Francophone members at the time, they now are following newer thinking by Francophones women who wish to reclaim feminine forms of words such as compositrices.

### **5. New ACWC/ACC Publicity/Outreach Board Member position created; Emily Hiemstra selected to be officially voted in at AGM, 2021.**

To begin, Carol wanted to credit the idea of creating a new Board position for Publicity and Outreach, to Amanda. The feeling was that a new position was needed, as this is an important aspect of the ACWC/ACC. Carol reported that the Board is recommending Emily Hiemstra to take on the role. She will be voted in at the next AGM, which will likely be in August. Emily said that she is honored to be nominated for this role, and that during Covid she has been learning new skills in marketing, particularly for musicians. As well, she is involved in other work ACWC/ACC work, which she has found quite rewarding. She is hoping her new skills will be a benefit to the organization.

#### **5a. Board Selection Procedure**

Carol reported that the Board has met and has been discussing board selection procedures. Both Amanda and Emily will need to be voted in at the AGM, which gives other members a chance to put

forward their own names or to suggest others if they wish. They are also able to ask any questions to Emily or to the Board. There will also be a new Chair announced shortly, as Carol's term will be coming to an end.

**6. Soundscapes and More - a Panel, Sat, May 15, 2021, 7:00 pm EDT/4 pm PDT, H. Westerkamp, et. al.**

Everyone is asked to mark their calendars for next Saturday's panel, featuring Hildegard Westerkamp, Tina Pearson and Carol. She told us that Hildegard is known worldwide for her work in Soundscapes and electronic music and that everyone should tune in.

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

Diane reported that notices had gone out to the CMC and CLC about the panel on May 15<sup>th</sup>, and there were eleven registrations so far. She said that Emily Hiemstra would be hosting the panel and if members had seen the panel in February, they would know what a good job she does. Diane asked that members pass on information about the panel to their friends and others who might be interested. Diane also reported that the SHHH! Ensemble's podcast had been postponed a couple of times, but was still planned for May 29<sup>th</sup> and that there would more information on the website. She said that there would be new playlist posted on May 15<sup>th</sup>; there is a new interview on the webpage, with Brenda Muller; April's "Did You Know?" is posted there as well. Diane told the members that the Victoria composers have been meeting to plan a fall event to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup>, and that she would be speaking to the CMC in Vancouver, as they were interested in planning something as well. She encouraged members to start to think about doing things in their own regions later in the year. She also said that anyone who is interested in being involved with the anniversary committee, or would like to help out in any way, should get in touch with her.

**8. ACWC Regional Representatives – survey and update – Amanda Lowry**

Amanda reported that she and Carol had been talking about revitalizing the role of regional representative and that she has been in contact with the three that are currently in place. She asked them what they have done and what could have been done differently. They told her they have, in the past, been involved in organizing events, holding in-person meetings, as well as reaching out to other composers and organizations in their regions. The representatives told Amanda that one of the challenges they faced was the need for someone to act as a coordinator, to help them work as a team. Amanda said that a good solution may be to add this to the job description of the new board position. Some of the positions of regional representative are currently unfilled, and some current reps would like to move on, so she suggested we wait until the coordinator position is established and then organize to fill the positions. Carol wanted to clarify that in the initial list, Tawnie Olsen was erroneously listed as the international representative. Carol also thanked Amanda for taking on this task.

**9. ACWC SoundCloud continuation beyond 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary? Discussion. – Amanda Lowry**

Amanda said this is both a technological and financial issue. The SoundCloud account was set up to accommodate the anniversary playlist, and is a paid subscription in which we are allowed unlimited uploads. The cost for a year is \$179.95. If the organization chooses to move to a free subscription, there would be a limit of three hours, which would mean we would be unable to keep the anniversary playlists posted. Amanda said that curating the anniversary lists has been a lot of work, and that she would not be continuing to do it after 2021, but felt that an option in the future would be an open submission form, with a monthly round up and posting of new material. Fiona pointed out that the cost amounted to \$15 a month, and she felt it was useful. Amanda reported that the playlist has been successful, with higher numbers of plays for each list. The current total is over 1500. Diane asked if it might be possible to apply for a grant, because there are grants help boost online presence. Janet suggested that if there were a grant, an honorarium for the curator could be considered. Carol cautioned that, as a volunteer

organization, it can become difficult to decide whom to pay for what job. It was decided that any decision on that should be left to the incoming administration. It was suggested that a donation to cover the cost for a year would be possible, and Carol offered to make that donation for next year. There has been work done on a donation button for the website. Jana reminded members that, in terms of taxes, a professional expense is more beneficial than a charitable donation, though Amanda pointed out that charitable donations can be carried over to other years. Janet pointed out that membership fees hadn't been raised for a number of years, and an increase of a toonie would be sufficient to cover the cost of the SoundCloud account.

## **10. Inclusion – expanding our base: welcoming, honouring and including ACWC/ACC members from a wider spectrum of ethnic/racial/social backgrounds. Short Discussion.**

Carol pointed out that this is a big topic that probably needs much more discussion. The question is how do we, as an organization, become more inclusive. She said that Fiona had mentioned opening up to different genres of music. Carol asked that members put their ideas down and send them in to her, with an indication if they can be shared widely with the membership.

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

Janet reported that the Stephen family is gung-ho to do more fundraising for the award fund. In this kind of situation, it is better for the fund to be using the interest on the capital to fund each year's award, not the capital itself, which is what is currently happening. In order to properly fund the awards that way, twenty-four to twenty-five thousand would be needed, where there is currently only eight. Another possibility would be to find a pocket within a larger foundation, able to invest with professionals, which would mean larger benefits. Janet thought that's what had been done for the Pentland fund, which was linked with the Vancouver Foundation. Janet also told us that the advertising for this year's awards had been done, but there no applications so far, so it may be decided to extend the deadline.

## **12. Brief Board Reports**

### **a. Treasurer Report – Amanda Lowry**

Amanda reported a healthy bank balance, the most recent expense being for the Initiatives Fund, which was awarded to three people. She asked Stephanie to report on recent grants received. Stephanie reported that the Toronto concert, which has had to be postponed a few times due to Covid restrictions, has secured a Factor grant (Toronto), as well as a grant from Long and McQuade, and from Continuum Contemporary Music. She is hoping restrictions will soon be lifted and that plans for a new date for the concert can go ahead. Amanda pointed out that the current bank balance does not include those grant monies.

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

Diane reported that everything has been running smoothly.

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

Stephanie also said things have been going well, and there is not much to report. She has changed the French name in the email and will be working on making the change in the header.

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

Fiona reported that she is currently working on the next edition of the journal, which will be focused on the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. She asked that anyone who will be submitting a report, do so by the 15<sup>th</sup> of this month. She said that she will need to make some changes, due to the change in the French name, and Julia agreed to help her with that, as she has graphics experience.

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

Mary-Catherine submitted a report to Carol saying she continues to update the anniversary page; adding the monthly playlists; upcoming events; the 'Did You Know' section and new interviews. She has created an ACWC YouTube page to upload the Zoom panels, which can then be uploaded on to the website. She continues to update the Home/News/Events/Opportunities pages; add bios and photos that

members have asked to be uploaded to their pages; and has added an E-transfer drop down option to help members submit their fees.

**13. Other, including ‘Musical styles within ACWC’ -- can/should we broaden to include more accessible forms of music? (An ongoing discussion, and to be continued!)**

Carol said that this issue is a long range, big picture issue. Amanda said that in first year composition they had been tasked with defining contemporary classical music and had found it challenging. She told the meeting her feeling is that the organization should let potential members self-select, as the ideas around genre have broadened over the years. She felt someone who wants to join the organization would have a good reason to, and added that she wouldn't want to see someone excluded due to their musical styles.

**14. Member info – comments from participating members about your recent, current work (one sentence!)**

*Jean Ethridge* is currently working with a violinist. (Ethridge is a pianist.) Her new composition for Violin and Piano called *Ennui* is the middle movement of her *Covid Suite*.

*Amanda Lowry* is ready to record her first album, which features her songs in a singer/songwriter style, something she has been meaning to do for a while. She has also started work on a piece commissioned for the Scarborough Philharmonic's Virtual Flute Festival, for flute and electronics.

*Stephanie Orlando* has been taking some time off, but has just started a professional development residency with the Music Gallery in Toronto, and is working on creating a 'virtual room' for an existing piece.

*Fiona Evison* is pleased to have survived the first year of her doctorate at University of Western Ontario in March. She wasn't sure she would. She did enjoy having the chance to study choral composition, with both a choral director and composition professor. However, now this study just has to wait until choirs can sing together again.

*Julia Mermelstein* has just heard that her piece for piano and electronics has just been chosen for a new music festival in Los Angeles.

*Janet Danielson* is currently working on an article for Fiona for the ACWC Journal, and is working on a jingle that will convince anti-vaxxers to get the Covid vaccine.

*Diane Berry* is in between composition projects, and has been busy with playing, doing home studio recording and on location.

*Carol Ann Weaver* is working full-time on ACWC/ACC Chair duties, though she is also working on a piece for solo piano, which she hasn't done in a while. She is also formatting and recording online performances, as well as doing nature recordings and soundscapes, and has had some radio air play.

**15. Next ACWC Meeting – may well be the AGM (bring your calendars to this meeting!) August**

The next meeting will be the annual general meeting, on Saturday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021 at 12:00 noon EDT/ 9:00 am PDT.

**16. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:59 EDT/9:59 PDT

Respectfully submitted,  
Diane Berry