

**Minutes of ACWC/ACC AGM Meeting by Zoom, Sat, Aug 21, 2021**  
**12:00noon EDT/9:00am PDT**

**Present:** Jean Etheridge, Carol Ann Weaver, Anita Pari, Amanda Lowry, Stella ter Hart, Janet Danielson, Fiona Evison, Emily Hiemstra, Diane Berry, Julia Mermelstein, Jana Skarecky, Patricia Morehead, Colleen Muriel, Stephanie Orlando, Julia Jacklein, Wendalyn Bartley

**Regrets:** Gayle Young, Veronika Krausas, Diane Roblin, Joanna Estelle, Tawnie Olson, Jennifer Bennett, Mary Knickle, Sylvia Rickard, Leslie Hinger, Erika Yost, Leila Lustig, Kye Marshall, Marilyn Broughton, Zosha Di Castri, Tina Pearson, Carmen Braden, Kristin Flores, Edith Covach, Paulette Popp, Kathryn Rose, Christie Morrison

**1. Welcome from the Chair. Welcome to new ACWC members, Alexandra Fol and Beverley McKiver.**  
Carol started by welcoming all and noting that we have two new members, Alexandra Fol and Beverley McKiver

**2. We note the passing of two important composers: Roberta Stephen (April 17, 1931– June 19, 2021), esteemed ACWC member and supporter of an ACWC fund in her name. Her obituary is here: <https://www.choicememorial.com/memorials/roberta-stephen/4643769/>. Canadian composer/ecomusicologist/writer/pedagogue R. Murray Schafer (July 18, 1933 – August 14, 2021) led us via soundscapes and environmental/epic compositions into new ways of hearing the world. His impact is felt around the world. <https://www.cbc.ca/music/r-murray-schafer-composer-writer-and-acoustic-ecologist-has-died-at-88-1.5404868>**

Janet told us that Roberta died on June 19<sup>th</sup>, after a struggle with Parkinson's disease. She went on to tell us that Roberta was an amazing person, and a wonderful composer, with strong organizational skills. Roberta raised four children and returned to school to study composition in her forties. The experience of being too old for the opportunities available to younger composers, caused her to set up the Roberta Stephen Award, which is specifically for women composers over the age of 35. Janet also told us of Roberta's other activities in the music and composition community and her support for all other composers. She was awarded an honorary membership with the ACWC/ACC and was given the lifetime achievement award by the Prairie Region of the CMC. Donations in her memory can be made to the Award Fund.

Carol told us about the death of R. Murray Schafer on August 14<sup>th</sup>. She described him as being the composer who built on the ideas of John Cage, with the sense of silence, and care for the environment. She also told us Murray was a wonderful pedagogue. Currently, Carol is working on a letter to his partner, and if anyone would like to add a few words, they should send them to her, so she can include them.

**3. Acceptance of previous ACWC AGM Meeting Minutes, Sat, August 22, 2020 here:**  
Colleen Muriel moved that the minutes of the Saturday, August 22, 2020 AGM be accepted and Jean Etheridge seconded the motion. There were no questions.

**4. Acceptance of previous ACWC General Meeting Minutes, Sat. May 8, 2021 here:**  
Amanda Lowry moved that the minutes of the Saturday, May 8, 2021 general meeting be accepted and Fiona Evison seconded the motion. There were no questions.

**5. Election of New Officers: unanimous online vote Aug. 4 – 20, 2021 for new officers:**  
**a. Treasurer, Amanda Lowry, effective August 21, 2021**  
**b. Chair, Julia Mermelstein, effective January 1, 2022**  
**c. Publicity Officer, Emily Hiemstra, effective January 1, 2022**  
**d. Other Board Members remain in office: Diane Berry, Secretary; Stephanie Orlando, SoundBox Editor; Fiona Evison, Journal Editor**

A live Zoon vote occurred for the new officers, bringing unanimous approval. New Board members are thus voted in by the ACWC membership. New members were then asked to make comments.

Julia said that she was excited and honoured to become the new chair. Her goal for the new year is to find ways to bring more voices into the conversation, to connect more with other organizations that share our values and to bring the ACWC/ACC to a larger audience.

Amanda thanked everyone for their votes and said that she is looking forward to working with Julia and supports her vision for the future of the ACWC/ACC.

Emily also thanked everyone for their votes and that she was honoured to be asked to fill this new office. She echoed the idea that connections to the larger community are important and that we need to take advantage of the tools we have to do that.

## **6. Presentation of 2020-2021 Annual Financial Statements, as approved by Board – Amanda Lowry**

Carol informed the meeting that the Board had already approved the financial statement.

Amanda explained that the financial statement was for the year just ending, and also included the previous year as a comparison. She informed us that there were two revenue streams listed, memberships and donations. While the membership revenue is down due to covid, as some members were unable to pay the full amount, donations were up as many members gave extra to cover the shortfall. Expenses for the year have included the website, some of which goes to pay Mary-Catherine. Amanda added that Mary-Catherine has been doing a superb job, always ready to do work on the website when asked. Included in last year's expenses are the honorariums for jury members choosing the repertoire for the CMC concert in Toronto. The Initiatives Fund for 2020 didn't get paid out until 2021, which is why it appears for this year, and there were three awards given this year as concert funds weren't going out due to covid. The year shows a slight deficit, but that is good because we have been carrying a surplus and as a non-profit our surplus should be smaller. The current bank balance is good, it is divided into two as we now have the funds for the Roberta Stephen Award. Amanda said she has separated the two funds, as the Roberta Stephen funds are restricted to one award. Grant money for the CMC Toronto concert is also included as it has not gone out. The concert itself has been delayed a number of times due to Covid restrictions.

## **7. ACWC 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Events and Updates**

### **a. general update – Diane Berry**

Diane reported that it has been quiet summer in terms of anniversary events. Amanda has posted the playlists and the Did You Know section as been added to. There are two concert events coming up in Victoria. The first is an online concert featuring the music of Leila Lustig, Sylvia Rickard, Christie Morrison and Diane. There is information and a link to the page where the concert is found, on the anniversary web page. The concert will be available through that link from August 28<sup>th</sup> to Sept. 2, then it will be moved and a new link posted. Diane told us that the venue for this concert is on Triangle Mountain with a view over the Juan de Fuca strait and will be worth a look just for the visuals. Diane went on to tell us the Salish Chapter of the ACWC/ACC, those who live in the Greater Victoria area, are having a weekend celebration of the fortieth, which will be comprised of short, outdoor performances of pieces that celebrate the place they are being performed in. It will be September 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> and Diane said that those involved are hoping there will be a video record of the performances that they will be able to share with other ACWC/ACC members. Diane then said there are plans for another panel that Carol would be discussing next. She added that if anyone wanted to organize an event for this year, there was still time and if members wanted to help, or get some ideas, they are free to contact her. Carol asked for information on next Saturday's concert. Diane will send so that it can be circulated around.

### **b. Indigenous Zoom Panel/Event, Fall, 2021 – Karen Sunabacka, Carol Ann Weaver, Tina Pearson**

Carol mentioned that all of us are aware of the discussion going on around the indigenous community in Canada, and many of us desire to learn more. She has been in discussions with Tina Pearson and

Karen Sunabacka, who is a member and has Metis status, about the possibility of holding a panel on Indigenous issues and culture. There is still discussion as to what shape this will take. Carol has also been speaking with local Indigenous women Kelly Laurila (prof at WLU) and Jean Becker (Senior Director, Indigenous Initiatives, UW), who formed Good Hearted Women Singers, an Indigenous drumming/song circle. Both women have a Ph.D.'s and are teaching in Waterloo. Carol said that her discussions with these women have been wonderful. She also informed the meeting that one of our new members, Beverly McKiver is Anishinaabe, and the mother of composer Melody McKiver.

## **8. Roberta Stephen Award update – Janet Danielson**

Janet also reported that the jury is currently in final deliberations for this year's award.

## **9. Brief Board Reports**

### **a. Treasurer Report and Playlist update – Amanda Lowry**

Amanda reported that we have a healthy bank balance and that most membership dues have come in. She will continue to contact those whose dues are in arrears. She also said that she has posted the August playlist and that it's still possible to make submissions, as long as they fit into the format of the next few months. After December there will still be the opportunity to submit but the process and the lists will be much less formal and there will need to be discussions on how to proceed beyond the anniversary year.

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

Diane reported that everything has been going smoothly, and she has been sending out welcoming letters to new members.

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

Stephanie said that the SoundBox has also been going with few problems. There were some issues with the emails in June and Mary-Catherine was a great help in sorting those out. She did tell members that with some email services the SoundBox can be bumped to junk mailboxes, or, with Gmail can be put in promotions. If members don't receive their SoundBox, they should check those other folders. Unfortunately, there is nothing she and Mary-Catherine can do on their end to fix that issue

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

Fiona said it has been a quiet summer for the journal. She is hoping to introduce a new column containing the bios of international women composers. She has also been in contact with a woman in Australia who has been looking at the number of women teaching composition at the post-secondary level and the results are quite disturbing. The study has yet to be published but Fiona will have the opportunity to interview her about her findings in the next edition of the journal. Fiona encouraged anyone who had ideas for the journal to get in touch with her.

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

Mary-Catherine sent in her report since she was unable to attend the meeting. She reported that she has continued to update the homepage, the Anniversary page and the Playlist page, with upcoming events, monthly playlists, "Did You Know" blurbs, and any other incoming Anniversary related materials. She has updated the site with new ACWC/ACC branding on all pages and uploaded the new banner as well. She has added new Members to the Member Page and updated incoming bios, photos, and French language translations. In June, she helped to troubleshoot the ACWC email issues and if there are ongoing issues, she asks that members let her know. She said she is happy to address any website user issues, such as Contact Forms, PayPal buttons etc.

## **10. Working towards more ACWC music within Canadian Music Festivals – Stella ter Hart**

Stella told us that she adjudicates at festivals in the Maritimes and in Ontario had has found that the Canadian composer class often consists of students playing pieces such as 'Monkeys in the Tree', and others found in the RCM books published by Frederick Harris. She doesn't know if this is because teachers are focusing on the RCM books, or are overwhelmed by trying to find new music in the CMC library or if there are other reasons. Stella said she feels it is time for something new and is suggesting that the ACWC/ACC

put together a catalogue of works by members that would be suitable for students to perform at festivals. She also said she would be willing to work on such a project. Pat told the meeting that Mary Gardiner had put music in the CMC library that includes many Canadian composers, and covers all the grade levels, but it has never been catalogued. There was a grant for that project at one point, but it never came through. Pat also told us that one problem is the number of grade categories used for the music, and that in the USA it is divided into much fewer and so is easier to work with. Carol said that we should form a committee to follow up on this issue and asked Stella to head this, to which Stella agreed. A notice about this will be going out in the next SoundBox.

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

\*Note: longer entries had to be sent in electronically due to technical issues during the Zoom meeting.

*Anita Pari* has just moved to Montreal to start her second year, having been online for her first. She is also working on a Wind Orchestra piece.

*Julia Mermelstein* is working on a commission for the Toronto Symphony Orchestra that will be performed in the spring to celebrate their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

*Stella ter Hart* is working on a commission for mezzo-soprano in New Brunswick who was a student of hers and is now a professional singer.

*Julia Jacklein* hasn't been writing much, though she has some projects in mind. She has, instead, been working on learning new languages, Spanish, French and some Italian.

*Jana Skarecky* told us her Emily Carr opera will be made into a film; she has received Canada Council funding and is currently working with Indigenous groups to ensure it is done with proper care.

*Stella ter Hart* is working on a commission for a soprano in New Brunswick.

*Colleen Muriel* is very pleased that 6 of her piano pieces and 2 of her string quartets will be performed at a two-day Music Event (with 3 concerts each day) in October at the Riverside Arts Centre in Sunbury, UK.

*Pat Morehead's* "Landscape" for flute, oboe, and string orchestra will be premiered on Sunday, Sept. 12 by Whispering River Orchestra; a concert of her music is being presented on Facebook, Sept. 24, 25 (10 AM to 10 PM) as part of the Spotlight concerts in Chicago preceding the "Ear Taxi" New Music festival where she will perform "Sounds and Sighs for John" for oboe, oboe d'amore, and electronics, live Oct. 2, at University of Chicago (part of the Ear Taxi).

*Janet Danielson* is working on a piece for two tongue drums and trio of women's voices in celebration of Mermaid Creek in Sidney B. C. as part of the Salish Sea Chapter/ACWC 40th Anniversary series, "From This Place."

*Stephanie Orlando* is taking a kind of break from composition now while enjoying the natural world.

*Jean Ethridge* took advantage of needing to stay in her apartment because of heavy smoke from forest fires to complete the task of organizing the orchestral score and parts, as well as the piano/vocal score of the soprano arias from her opera, *The Ballad of Isabel Gunn*, to deposit at the Canadian Music Centre.

*Emily Hiemstra* has finished a piece for a new music festival, and is working on a solo viola while waiting for the birth of her third child.

*Fiona Evison* been doing the conference circuit to talk about research and make new contacts of interest to the ACWC members, including some doing new research on the dismal representation of women composition professors in Canadian higher education, and has been writing community compositions and performing with a local trio and soloist, as well as writing a setting of Psalm 13 for mezzo soprano and piano for a concert project with ACWC's Emily Hiemstra.

*Amanda Lowry* released her my first (EP) album, "Find Your Light" with 5 original songs funded by a Kickstarter campaign, fully funded within the first week but continuing until the end of August for digital or physical copies (<https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/amandalowry/find-your-light-ep>), as she prepares flute parts for the upcoming CMC concert, and a return to U of T for the third year of her DMA.

*Diane Berry* is currently busy preparing to record the Afterglow concert for streaming on August 28<sup>th</sup>, and working on her piece "Water, Rock, Tree, Sky", for soprano, flute and clarinet, which will be part of the Salish Sea Chapter's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in September.

*Wendalyn Bartley* anticipates rejoining ACWC member (having been an earlier, very active member who organized an ACWC conference in Montreal in the 1980s) and is currently working on a piece about underground waterways in Toronto.

*Carol Ann Weaver*, who will be doing a vocal/choral composition based on poetry by Rae Crossman (a close friend of the late R. Murray Schafer), has recently gained a Wikipedia account [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carol\\_Ann\\_Weaver](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carol_Ann_Weaver)

**12. Next ACWC Skype General Meeting will be November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 12 noon EST/9 am PST.**

**13. The meeting was adjourned at 1:01 pm EDT/10:01 PDT**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Diane Berry, ACWC Secretary, August 21, 2021.