

**Minutes for ACWC Meeting by Zoom, Sat, Nov. 20, 2021**  
**12:00noon EST/9:00am PST**

**Present:** Patricia Morehead, Katherine Bonness, Fiona Evison, Amelia Grace Yates, Sylvia Rickard, Linda Fletcher, Caroline Bordignon, Tawnie Olson, Diane Berry, Amanda Lowry, Elise Letourneau, An-Laurence Higgins, Carol Ann Weaver, Jana Skarecky, Beverley McKiver, Jean Ethridge, Janet Danielson, Julia Mermelstein, Emily Hiemstra, Stephanie Orlando, Terri Hron

**Regrets:** Diane Roblin, Elaine Keillor, Gayle Young, Edith Covach, Anna Pidgorna, Afarin Mansouri, Christie Morrison, Deborah (Hyun Hee) Park, Colleen Muriel, Stella ter Hart, Alexandra Fol, Kathryn Rose

**1. Welcome, and “finale” words, from the Chair. Welcome to new ACWC members, Terri (Teresa) Hron, Hyun Hee (Deborah) Park, Anneli Loepp Thiessen, Susan Frykberg, Amelia Grace Yates, Linda Fletcher, Katherine Bonness and prOphesy sun.**

Carol began by welcoming everyone to the meeting, adding that this will be her last one as Chair. She went on to say that it was a pleasure and an honour to serve in the role, and she has enjoyed being in touch with so many members. As an addition, Carol mentioned a piano teacher in B.C. featured on CBC who had her students all write compositions for veterans, noting what an important role teachers play in encouraging young composers. She continued by welcoming all our new members, taking a minute to hear from those who were present. Amelia Grace Yates said it was her first meeting which was a pleasure to attend, and thanked everyone for their warm welcome. Linda Fletcher introduced herself, saying she has four children, five grandchildren, has been a teacher of piano and voice, only teaches voice now, and that she writes mostly for students, as well as choirs of all levels. Katherine Bonness is originally from Winnipeg and is now living in Vancouver. She told us that, as a violist, she has been a teacher and a performer and has recently begun composing. Carol finished by acknowledging Beverley McKiver who joined a few weeks ago but was attending her first meeting. She also extended a special thank you to Beverley for her participation in the Indigenous panel, earlier in the month.

**2. We want to acknowledge the recent COP26 Climate Change conference, noting that all of us are part of Mother Earth, and that our work can be part of its healing.**

Carol spoke briefly about the recent Climate Change conference, noting that it brought a bit of hope to all of us, and adding that many of us are writing music about the earth and care deeply about what is happening.

**3. Acceptance of previous minutes – both an AGM and a General Meeting, Sat, August 21, 2021**  
here: <https://acwc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/ACWC-AGM-Minutes-Aug21-2021.pdf>

Moved – Amanda Lowry

Seconded – Pat Morehead

Amanda pointed out that in the section regarding the financial report, it said there would only be one Roberta Stephen award; but, in fact, it meant the funds are restricted only to the Roberta Stephen award. It is possible for more than one award to be given as a result of the yearly call for applications. Amanda felt this should be clarified. There were no other issues, and the minutes were accepted.

**4. Looking Forward – Julia Mermelstein, Emily Hiemstra**

**a. Words from Julia Mermelstein, who will become Chair, Jan. 1, 2022**

Julia began by saying she would like to thank Carol for all her work as Chair, which has been so important in getting the organization to where it is today. She noted that Carol has created a welcoming space for all of us, which she hopes to be able to carry into the future while hoping to bring the same kind of energy to the organization.

**b. Words from Emily Hiemstra, who will be the new Publicity Manager, Jan. 1, 2022**

Emily told us that it has been an honour and pleasure getting to know everyone; she is looking forward to new projects. She asked for members to send in any feedback they have on our social media, to

let her know what things they like, what they would like to see more of, or would prefer were done differently. Members can email Emily directly with their comments, but she added that there would also be a survey in the next SoundBox.

## **5. ACWC 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Events and new initiatives which will continue beyond 40th**

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

Diane said that she is feeling a bit like Carol at this meeting, because it will be her last one as Chair of the anniversary committee and is feeling surprised that the year is almost over. One of her favourite events of the year as been the monthly playlists, and she thanked Amanda for all her work in getting them curated and online. Diane told us the plan had been to post them on the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month and that Amanda had done that for every month but one, and even that was only a couple of days late. She also said that she had enjoyed the job of notifying everyone when they had a piece on the list. Diane went on to say that the most recent anniversary event had been the Indigenous panel, which was a huge success, bringing in a lot of interest from outside the ACWC/ACC. Some 70+ attenders were at this Zoom, the largest attendance at any of our online ACWC events. She also gave a special thank you to Beverley McKiver for her participation on the panel and asked that Beverley convey those thanks to the other women involved, when she is next speaking with them. Diane went on to say there are two more anniversary events. There will be a concert/lecture on Ann Southam's piano music presented by pianist/ACWC member Amelia Yates, and the Vancouver Island members, who call themselves the Salish Sea Chapter, will be releasing three videos celebrating where they live in mid-December.

### **b. Upcoming Piano lecture-recital on Ann Southam – Amelia Grace Yates**

When introducing Amelia, Carol told members that she had heard Amelia's dissertation on Ann Southam's music, said it was stunning, and should be seen by everyone. Amelia then told us that she had finished her DMA from Western and had focused on the solo piano music of Ann Southam. When she held her dissertation in London, in October, she was pleased to see so many colleagues of Ann's in attendance. Amelia added that afterwards Carol encouraged her to join the organization and asked if she would repeat her presentation as part of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. Amelia pointed out that it is in the form of a lecture but there a many video clips of performances. Carol added that she admired Ann, who was both a wonderful and accomplished composer, as well as a special person. (Go here to register for this event:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/ann-southams-solo-piano-music-a-performance-guide-tickets-213391639137> )

### **c. Continuation of composer interviews – Patricia Morehead**

Pat began by saying some of her work had been part of first concert Ann and Mary Gardiner organized, that she heard Ann's music for the first time at the Heliconian Club and that it was a piece using all kinds of kitchen implements! She also remembered Ann as a wonderful person and composer. Later in the meeting, Pat added that she has done an interview with Diane Berry, which will be published soon, and hopes to do more in the future.

### **d. Flute workshop with Scarborough Philharmonic Orchestra – Sara Constant, Amanda Lowry**

Sara was unable to attend, so Amanda offered to speak about the plans with the SPO, though she hasn't been directly involved. Amanda started with some background information on the planned event. The Scarborough Philharmonic Orchestra (SPO), in collaboration with 360 Podcast and other organizations, is planning an online flute music festival of music by women, in February. Sara has been on the committee as a representative of the ACWC/ACC and, in collaboration with the CMC, is proposing a one-day workshop on February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at the CMC. There would be a call for participants which would be open to those outside the organization, though still focused on women, and those who self-identify as women. The form of the workshop would be decided by the proposals brought by applicants so could include things

such as a reading, a recording, or a demonstration of extended techniques. The organizers will have to find a jury to go over the applications and will need to find a flautist. Amanda did say she thought Sara would be a good choice, particularly as she is an ACWC/ACC member, but Sara has been reluctant to put her name forward because she is on the committee.

## **6. Playlist update and ideas for 2022 – Amanda Lowry**

Amanda said there is one playlist left to post of electro-acoustic music, to be posted on December 15<sup>th</sup>. She asked anyone, particularly newer members, who haven't had something on a previous list, and who has a recording that could be included, to please send them to her before December 12<sup>th</sup>. Amanda feels we should keep the SoundCloud account active after January, but for her to try to do curated, monthly lists would be too much work. She suggested that members without SoundCloud accounts would be able to send in recordings to be posted the following month. She felt that using the same deadline as used for SoundBox would be good. Amanda added that she would like to see recordings from our performance members as well because so many of them are playing works by members, as well as other Canadian women composers. Carol added that if there was anyone who wanted to work with Amanda on this, they should get in touch.

## **7. Brief Board Reports**

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

Amanda reported that the bank account is good. The current total balance is larger than it has been, because it includes the Roberta Stephen Fund. She went on to say the membership dues are now up to pre-covid rates. Many members were late paying their dues because they find it hard to keep up with all the fees from various organizations and she thought it might be helpful to set up an autopay option. Members would have to opt in, so those who choose not to would continue paying as they do now. This would be set up to start in July of 2022. Amanda asked how many of those present would be interested in the auto pay option; many were, so she will go ahead and investigate how to set it up. Jana asked that a reminder of dues be sent out close to the time they are due. Amanda said currently notices go out in the SoundBox, but there hasn't been a separate email notice. Carol and Jana both felt a specific email notice of dues would be a good idea. Amanda agreed that could be done.

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

Diane reported that everything has been running smoothly. She was pleased to have sent out so many welcome emails to new members, particularly after the Indigenous panel.

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

Stephanie reported that things have been going smoothly and wanted to remind members to send in their submissions before the 24<sup>th</sup> of the month. In a note to new members, Stephanie said that the kind of content she is looking for are notices of concerts – live or virtual, interviews, articles, and opportunities. She suggested members look at past versions of the SoundBox to get an idea on formatting.

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

Fiona said that she has started to round up material for the next journal, promising lots of interesting things to read. Carol noted that Tawnie Olsen, the first Journal Editor, and Julia Mermelstein, the second Editor, were all in attendance at this meeting. She noted that each one had raised the bar on the journal quality and that Fiona was meeting those high levels and running!

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

Carol said the Mary-Catherine was unable to attend the meeting, but had sent in her report, which Carol read: "I have added lots of new bios and photos for new members, have continued to update and address Anniversary page matters, have continued to update playlists as Amanda sends them in, and have helped to

upload Zoom links and ACWC panel info to the website, creating pages for events as needed too.” MC After reading Mary-Catherine’s report, Carol noted that she has been doing a wonderful job, but that previously, the web manager had come from within the membership. So if anyone would like to be involved in that role, they should get in touch with Carol.

#### **8. Update on Piano Collective, ACWC music in Canadian Music Festivals, online catalogue – Edith Covach, Stella ter Hart, Amelia Yates**

Stella and Edith were unable to attend the meeting, but Stella sent her report to Carol. Stella’s report said that Emily Hiemstra will be doing an interview with her on Nov. 25 on the importance of showcasing the Canadian voice in contemporary educational music, as well as discussing writing educational music. Stella also cited Stephanie Orlando as being “so wonderful and diligent in making sure that this initiative has been included in the SoundBox for the last few months.” For those who may have missed it, more will be posted soon. Stella’s report included this information: “Ten members have contacted me [Stella] and expressed their interest in having their works included in the catalogue. These composers have indicated they have appropriate material for piano, choir, solo voice, solo instrumental, band, string quartet, string orchestra, chamber groups, and solo strings. In other words - EVERYTHING! Even without specifics, the number of works is over 150. Emily Hiemstra has provided excellent ideas concerning related projects stemming from this one, as has Carol Ann Weaver on the potential of incorporating educational piano works into our existing Piano Collective. The first step was to garner interest, which has now been completed and the interest is definitely there, with a number of members also offering their assistance. The next step will be to compile a thorough list of compositions, gather PDFs, decide on formatting, assign tasks, etc. Members who have expressed an interest can expect to receive more information and next steps by the end of November.” – Stella ter Hart

#### **9. Member info – comments from participating members about recent, current work (very brief!)**

**Katherine Bonness** has been working on a string quartet, which she’ll be submitting to various places. She is also working on a solo violin piece about the goddess Athena, and working on the board of Vancouver Pro Musica.

**Linda Fletcher** has just published a book of children’s Songs of Praise, that contain 12 songs for choir and piano, with some including flute. She has also edited a book of Canadian songs for children that contain some of her works, plus those from other Canadian composers.

**Terri Hron** just delivered an electro-acoustic piece to an ensemble in Australia and she is working on a new performance piece that will include ceramic pieces that she has made herself. She is Executive Director of the Canadian New Music Network. < <https://www.newmusicnetwork.ca>>

**Amelia Grace Yates** has just finished up her DMA from Western University and is looking forward to learning and performing more works by Ann Southam, as well as other Canadian women.

**Pat Morehead** just finished an interview with Diane Berry, which will be published soon. She has written a solo violin piece that the violinist requested to be made into a string quartet, which Pat is finding an interesting task.

**Fiona Evison**’s research on community music was presented recently in France, though she was unable to be there. She was interviewed about her work as well, and is currently working on Christmas music to be premiered at her church in December (in Owen Sound, ON).

**Sylvia Rickard** said that she is working on a song cycle of three songs for mezzo-soprano and piano. The mezzo, Leah Giselle Field, who is in Vancouver, chose the work of a well-known Winnipeg poet for the lyrics. Sylvia has just started, so doesn’t know when it will be performed.

**Beverley McKiver** has been offered a mentorship opportunity from the Canadian New Music Network, so will be working on a commission for them – an art song cycle about the Ottawa River.

**Jana Skarecky** has just had a string quartet performed by the Lehner string quartet, available online. She had to leave at that point, as there was a masterclass for singers taking place at the University of Ottawa, which included some of her work, and they had asked for her input.

**Jean Etheridge** is working on getting the orchestration for her opera ready to send to the CMC.

**Amanda Lowry** just finished her first CD, which will be released on December 10<sup>th</sup>. Next week she will have her first live performance in two years. She has begun working towards her DMA recital in July.

**Caroline Bordignon** has sent several piano pieces to a number of pianists in Europe, for performance.

**Tawnie Olsen** has been working on an art song piece for soprano and piano that will be performed in the spring, as well as a percussion piece. Her tabla piece was performed recently, as was a piece for bassoon and electronics.

**Emily Hiemstra** has been busy wrapping things up, as her third child is due any time. That has included finishing a recording of solo viola music by women composers, for which she'll be working on post-production aspects in the next little while.

**Julia Mermelstein** is working on a commission for the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, a miniature, which will be performed in May 2022. She is also working on a piece for solo cello and live electronics, for a cellist in Halifax.

**Janet Danielson** has been working on mastering the steel tongue drum part for her piece for the Salish Sea members' ACWC 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary project. She is also working on writing an additional movement for one of her pieces at the request of the performers, an ensemble from Tennessee. Soon, she'll start working on a commission for a conference that will mark the declaration of Howe Sound as an important biosphere, which will be about the glass sponges found there.

**Diane Berry** is currently working on piece for flute and guitar that she hopes will be performed in the spring, as well as the video that is her contribution to the Salish Sea members' anniversary project. Her piece was recorded on a beach, near Victoria. She assures everyone it will be worth taking a look at, when it is released.

**Carol Ann Weaver** is working on "Silence to Silence – Remembering Murray," a choral piece in memory of Murray Schafer, to be performed by a Inshallah, a choir in Waterloo, ON. She has been asked to have her name stand as Vice-Chair for CASE (Canadian Association for Sonic Ecology), with Hildegard Westerkamp on the slate for CASE Chair, which is very exciting.

## 10. Final thank you from CAWeaver

Carol finished the meeting by telling everyone what an amazing pleasure it has been for her to be Chair. She encouraged everyone to read her article, "Notes from the Chair" in the upcoming ACWC Journal, which says it all. Many of the members attending, including Tawnie and Janet, expressed gratitude to Carol for her leadership, her personality, her generosity and sacrifice, and for all the work she has done for ACWC/ACC, acknowledging what a difficult job it is.

## 11. Next ACWC Zoom General Meeting

The next general meeting will be **Saturday, February 13, 2022, 12:00 pm EST/ 9:00am PST**

## 12. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 1:05 pm, EST/10:05 am PST.

Respectfully submitted by  
Diane Berry,  
ACWC Secretary