



SATURDAY, FEB. 12, 2022 — 12PM EST/9AM PST

## Minutes for ACWC Meeting by Zoom

**Present:** Jennifer Bennett, Jana Skarecky, Janet Danielson, Carol Weaver, Sara Constant, Patricia Morehead, Anna Zeidman, Katherine Bonness, Elise Letourneau, Stella Ter Hart, Jean Ethridge, Diane Berry, Amanda Lowry, Fiona Evison, Emily Hiemstra, Julia Mermelstein, Christie Morrison, Beverley McKiver

**Regrets:** Stephanie Orlando, Alice Ho, Linda Fletcher, Edith Covach, Leila Lustig, Diane Roblin, Tawnie Olson

### 1. Welcome! And Welcome to new member Anna Zaidman

Julia began by welcoming everyone to the first meeting of 2022. She said she felt it was awesome to have everyone present. Julia went on to welcome new member, Anna Zaidman and asked her to introduce herself. Anna said that she is excited to be at the meeting and to be a member of the ACWC/ACC. She told the meeting that while she had been composing all her life, in some ways she is new to it. Much of her work has been for the choirs she has worked with, she has written works for her own children and quite a bit of improvisation. This is a move to a more formal style of composing.

### 2. Acceptance of previous minutes – General meeting Sat, November 20, 2021:

Janet Danielson moved that the [minutes of the Saturday, November 20, 2021 general meeting](#) be accepted and Fiona Evison seconded the motion. There were no questions and all were in favour so the minutes were accepted.

### 3. Brief word on upcoming Initiatives Fund – Julia Mermelstein

Julia explained to the meeting that the Initiatives Fund is different and separate from the Concert fund. This fund can be for composing new works; for a new project, or one in progress; for creative networking; for creating a CD; for doing an online recording; for a workshop; and can be digital or live. The application and details for this year are currently being compiled. Julia asked everyone to watch the website for the applications to be available, which will be closer to the end of the month.

**4. Update on Scarborough Philharmonic Orchestra's collaboration with ACWC/ACC (40<sup>th</sup> anniversary event continued)**

**a. Flute workshop with Scarborough Philharmonic Orchestra — Sara Constant.**

Sara told the meeting that she has been working with the Scarborough Philharmonic Orchestra, and with Matthew Fava of the CMC, to present a workshop as part of the SPO's festival of flute music by women. The workshop will involve two performer/composers, who will work with two composers each, at a workshop to be held Saturday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022. It will consist of readings of works in progress, and each of the composer/performers will work closely with the participants. The workshop will be held on zoom and open to the public. An audio technician has been hired to record the pieces for each of the participants, which they will be able to add to their portfolios. The ACWC/ACC contribution to the festival is in organizing the workshop and contributing to the artist fees. The CMC is covering other expenses, such as the space to hold the workshop and the technicians. It will be held from 12 noon-4 pm EST.

Julia thanked Sara for her work and said she is looking forward to watching the workshop. She said she will coordinate with Emily about getting a notice, with the links, out on social media.

**b. SPO's Flute Music by Women Composers Festival — Amanda Lowry**

Amanda told the meeting she is involved in the festival as both a composer and a performer, and that this is the first time the festival has occurred. It is all online and has international scope. Amanda told us that the festival was launched last week with an opening zoom event, and that there will be a closing event on Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>, hosted by Flute 360 Podcast. Connected to the festival are a series of podcasts by Heidi Kay Begay of Flute 360 which are interviews with composers, including Amanda, Julia, Dr. Cléo Palacio-Quintin, and others. As part of the festival there are also videos, and new recordings by women composers, from both North America and around the world. Julia said she would look into getting links to everyone, either through a mass email or on the website.

**5. Brief Board Reports**

**a. Treasurer Report – Amanda Lowry**

Amanda reported that things are going well and our bank account is quite healthy. She pointed out that the funds for the Roberta Stephen award are included in our total amount so that needs to be taken into account when considering the bank balance. Amanda said the Roberta Stephen funds are doing well and the organization looks to have at least 8 years for the awards, hopefully longer with added donations. Our general funds look good and there has been more revenue than what was budgeted for, so we will be able to do more than is currently planned.

**b. Secretary Report – Diane Berry**

Diane reported that things have been running smoothly.

**c. SoundBox Report – Stephanie Orlando**

Stephanie was unable to attend the meeting but sent a report to Julia, which she read out to everyone. The report said that work on the SoundBox is going well and that Stephanie would like to thank everyone for their contributions.

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

Fiona reported that she is beginning to put out feelers for articles for the next edition of the journal. She said that if someone is reporting on a concert or event, it is really nice to include photos and that a screen shot is just fine. She asked everyone to send in their ideas for articles. Fiona also told everyone to check out the fall/winter edition of the journal, which is now online and available through the website.

**e. Outreach Manager – Emily Hiemstra**

Emily reported that social media has been going well, and that there has been an influx of people sending messages. She also told the meeting that they are always looking for ways to improve our use of social media and so welcome any ideas or feedback from members.

**f. Webpage - Mary-Catherine Pazzano**

Mary-Catherine was unable to attend the meeting, so she sent a video update, which was shown to everyone. In the video Mary-Catherine introduced herself and gave a report to the meeting of what she has done for the website in the last year. She reported that most of her work involved things pertaining to the anniversary. As well as creating the anniversary page, she set up the Youtube account, so the panels and concerts could be saved and viewed by members after each event. Over the year she posted the playlists; created a playlist page; made changes to member's pages, including new pictures and bios; as well as adding pages for new members. She also kept the home page updated with grant applications, and anniversary related posts. Mary-Catherine also added and updated the contact forms. It was quite a heavy year due to the anniversary. Julia added that she liked having the video format for the update, since Mary-Catherine was unable to join the meeting in person.

**6. Update on ACWC/ACC music in Canadian Music Festivals, online catalogue - Stella Ter Hart**

Stella reported that they have been receiving submissions for the educational music catalogue and that there is music for many different instrumentations, including band, as well as many levels from beginner to university. Currently they are working on templates which will make it easier for composers to submit their works and that should be available through the website, fairly soon. Stella told the meeting they are also working on a template for the catalogue itself, which will be available both digitally and in print. They are giving composers lots of time to get music submitted, and so are hoping to have it all ready by mid-May. Stella also asked those attending that if they knew of other members who write music for students, who may not be aware of the

creation of this catalogue, to please pass on the information. Not all members read the minutes of meetings, or the SoundBox regularly. Stella said that she should have mock ups of the templates available by our next meeting. Julia said she can coordinate with Stella about adding the information to a mass mailing.

Fiona asked if the plan was to continue to update the catalogue and Stella replied that yes, this would be what is described as a living document. Stella went on to say that once the list has been compiled, it will be easier to know where there may be gaps, for instance there seems to be a dearth of works for band. This may enable the ACWC/ACC to put out a call for works, perhaps encouraging members to write for band or other instrumentation that has fewer entries. Stella went on to say that part of the information in the catalogue will be where the music may be available, such as directly from the composer, through the CMC or another publisher. Jean asked if it was necessary for members to wait for the template to submit music. Stella answered that members could email her with their works.

Pat pointed out that more band music gets played than orchestral music and so would be a good area for members to contribute. Beverley asked Stella how she might be added to the list, and that she had concerns about her ability to decide on the which level various pieces may be. Stella said that many members have been examiners and teachers and so will be able to help members with that issue.

#### **7. Brief update on winners of the 5<sup>th</sup> Roberta Stephen Award – Janet Danielson**

Janet reported that it has been exciting to review all the applications for this year's Roberta Stephen award. One of the winners is Deborah Park, who is a performer, composer and conductor. Janet pointed out that we try to be inclusive with people who don't identify as a composer first and foremost and that Deborah has won many awards for her performing. Deborah's project is research which takes a deep look at the spirituality found in jazz, and to look at jazz as an art form of resilience. Janet told us the other winner is Alexandra Fol, who is based in Montreal, and is working on a 12-minute piece for a singer and a German ensemble based in Dresden. The ensemble consists of 10 instruments and the piece is the setting of a speech given by the Australian prime minister in 2012. Noting that the pandemic has unfairly affected women, and that there has been an increase in threats to women and women politicians, Alexandra wanted to use this speech as the words for this work, to reflect on how it still is apt today. She contacted the prime minister (Julia Gillard) to request permission, which was quickly granted. Janet said both projects addressed important issues. She also encouraged members to think as imaginatively as these two and consider applying for this year. She also encouraged members to go to the website to learn more about the two winners.

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

**Stella Ter Hart** is looking forward to starting up her two choirs again soon, after having been shut down due to covid, with one group hoping to start rehearsals at the end of February. She has written two works for that choir and is looking forward to working on them.

**Jean Ethridge** is continuing to proofread and organize the orchestral parts for her opera, so she can submit it to the Canadian Music Centre by the end of the month.

**Amanda Lowry** just finished a piece for flute and electronics which will be released on Friday as part of the SPO's festival. She has been cutting back on things so she can work more on her thesis.

**Emily Hiemstra** had baby number three last month, another boy. She is currently working on a string quartet as part of a program for emerging composers, as well as having another string quartet performed by the Odin quartet as part of their Lockdown Lullabies.

**Julia Mermelstein** recently recorded a video, which is for an online concert. A piece she was commissioned for quite a while ago, will finally be premiered next Saturday and she is also working on a piece for cello and electronics for a cellist in Halifax.

**Christie Morrison** is rewriting her string quartet to reflect the experience of family members who have had covid. She is also working on a piece of children's music that she hopes to share with her two young granddaughters in the future.

**Beverley McKiver** has two collaborations on the go, one is with another composer and is a suite for two pianos. They hope to perform it in March, either to a small audience or online. She has also been working with an Ottawa poet on a song cycle about the river.

**Fiona Evans** just finished the last course of her Phd, which she started at the beginning of covid. Now she will be moving on to the research part of her degree. She is also working with a trombonist on music for the two of them, primarily in the genre of sacred music.

**Carol Ann Weaver** just finished a piece written in honour of R. Murray Schafer, done with a poet who was close to Schafer. The parts of just been sent off and it will be performed by a community choir. This choir has a variety of members, many of whom don't read music, so it was a challenge to write. Carol has also just taken on the role of vice-chair with the Canadian Association for Sound Ecology.

**Janet Danielson** has been working on a project involving the sounds of the glass sponges in the Burrard Inlet in B.C., which has been on hold due to covid. She is also working on another movement of her piece written for an ensemble in Tennessee.

**Jennifer Bennet** has been working on a commission for the Linden Singers in Victoria and they are hoping to perform it, along with another work of Jennifer's in the spring. Jennifer has been struggling with computer and Sibelius problems since the beginning of the pandemic, which has slowed her ability to work on new music.

**Sara Constant** has been working on organizing the workshop for the SPO flute festival, as well as other projects as a performer, including some recordings.

**Pat Morehead** will be having a piece recorded by a chamber orchestra that was originally commissioned for orchestra in Ontario and was supposed to be premiered in 2020. That performance was cancelled due to the pandemic. She is also working on turning a solo violin piece into a string quartet, at the request of the violinist. As well, she is learning how to use Cubase so she can write for film.

**Anna Zaidman** has been working on a set of seven songs, which are nearing completion, with plans to video them. She is also working on piano pieces for adults and children.

**Katherine Bonness** has just sent out the parts for a string quartet which will be performed at the Sonic Boom festival in Vancouver, having also done the hiring for that concert. She also has a piece for violin which will be premiered on May 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Elise Letourneau** has been writing pieces for women's voices, which should be presented virtually soon. She has had two grants accepted, one a multi-movement piece for women's choir, and one for a piece about the forest in Essex county in Ontario.

**Diane Berry** has been taking a bit of a break after a year of chairing the anniversary committee but does have a flute and guitar piece being played at the Sonic Boom Festival in March. She is planning on attending the concert and since it will be her first time off Vancouver Island in two years, she is looking forward to that as much as the performance.

## **9. Soundcloud playlists – Amanda**

Amanda reminded members that we are continuing to maintain our Soundcloud account, but postings are on a much more informal basis. Music will be posted once a month and members who don't have their own Soundcloud accounts can submit works through a google form on the website, or send the music directly to Amanda. The deadline is the same as the SoundBox, the 24<sup>th</sup> of the month, though if the deadline is missed, it will be posted the following month. Amanda also reminded those that do have a Soundcloud account, to follow the ACWC/ACC page.

## **10. Schedule next ACWC/ACC Zoom General Meeting**

The next meeting will be Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 12:00 noon EST/9:00 am PST

## **11. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:01pm EST/ 10:01am PST

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Berry

**ACWC/ACC Secretary**