



SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2022 — 12PM EST/9AM PST

Minutes of ACWC/ACC Zoom GM Meeting

Present: Lauren Greenberg, Jana Skarecky, Amanda Lowry, Diane Berry, Fiona Evison, Stephanie Orlando, Julia Mermelstein, Carol Ann Weaver

Regrets: Laura Hawley, Jean Ethridge, Anna Zaidman, Monica Pearce, Emily Hiemstra, Christie Morrison, Tina Pearson, Paulette Pop, Patricia Morehead

1. Welcome! And welcome to our newest ACWC members:

Julia began by welcoming everyone to the meeting and saying how much she appreciates everyone attending, as it can be a busy time of year. She went on to recognize those that sent regrets, then to note there have been a number of new members since the last meeting in February. The new members are Coreen Morsink, Sophie Lanthier, Camille Kiku Belair, Marie Josée Simard, and Lauren Greenberg, who was in attendance. Julia invited Lauren to introduce herself. Lauren told everyone she was from Toronto, but is currently in Boston attending Berkeley for composition.

2. Acceptance of previous ACWC General Meeting Minutes, Saturday, February 12, 2022

Stephanie Orlando moved that the minutes from the [Saturday, February 12, 2022 General Meeting](#) be accepted. Carol Weaver seconded the motion. There were no questions and all agreed so the minutes were accepted.

3. Website Infrastructure & Platform Update — Julia Mermelstein

Julia began by saying that the current web manager, will be leaving in August, and she wanted to thank Mary-Catherine for all her work in this role. She went on to say that, at the moment, there are a number of different accounts connected to the website. For instance, one for the domain, another for the email hosting, and one for the website itself. Since the website was first set up, the technology has changed and so it is easier for anyone to look after. Julia told the meeting that all of the accounts will be consolidated into one account through Google Workspace, which also has many other features that will be available to the organization. Since the ACWC/ACC now has charitable status, an application for a non-profit account is in the process. Julia acknowledged the work Janet Danielson and Carol Weaver did to get charitable status for the ACWC/ACC and said it will give the organization free access to many business features. The move will help to simplify how the website is managed, particularly with regard to emails. Julia told the meeting that currently, mass emails are limited to 50 an hour, so mailing to the entire membership can take a long time. The move to the new

platform, called Squarespace, will be done during July so Mary-Catherine will still be available if questions or problems arise. Julia told everyone that moving the website will make it easier for the membership to manage, and the money saved will be moved back into concert and initiative funding. Another advantage that Julia discussed was the ability to make the website available in French or English, a visitor to the site would be able to choose which language to view the site in. Carol asked if the current translations would remain available on the site. Julia responded that they would remain as part of the French language version, in essence be on a parallel site.

a. Website Redesign — Emily Hiemstra

Emily was unable to attend the meeting but had prepared a video discussing the redesigning of the website. In the video, Emily thanked Mary-Catherine for all the work she has done on the website, and went on to say she is excited about the possibilities of using Squarespace, which will be more user friendly, enabling more members to help with managing the site. The month of July will be spent by Julia, and Emily with Sophie Dupuis as a Francophone advisor, choosing a new template for the site, as well as updating and moving things from the current site. Once the video finished, Carol asked who would be taking charge of the website. Julia replied that the task of posting would initially be shared among board members, with the possibility of creating a volunteer team to take over, in the future. Carol congratulated Julia on the change and the ability to keep the management within the organization.

4. Brief Update From Chair — Julia Mermelstein

In giving her update, Julia told the meeting she wanted to report on the progress of achieving various goals that had been outlined at the beginning of the year. The main goals are to bring more voices into the organization and to connect more with those outside. Currently the ACWC/ACC is working on initiatives to help achieve both those goals. Julia said that the new website, and the improvement in the organization's online presence is part of that. Another is the new process of filling the various roles in the organization. The ACWC/ACC will need a new secretary in August, for which applications are now being accepted and an information session was held. Julia acknowledged that this is a new process, it will take time to get it right, and that at the moment these new methods are being tried out. The hope is that having a more transparent, informed, and clear process will help to create a more inclusive board, and a more engaged membership. Julia noted the gap between the number of members and those who are volunteering and said the task of making sure members feel engaged and excited about getting involved is a shared responsibility.

5. Applications Open For Next Secretary — Diane Berry

Diane began by saying that she has been secretary for four years now, two of which she was also chair of the anniversary committee, and that she feels it's time to take a break. She told the meeting that she enjoyed the connections she was able to make as secretary, and the communication with members that she would not have had otherwise. Diane went on to say that the work of secretary tends to be busy, at certain times, for instance the weekend of the meetings, and the work involved with the initiatives fund, but quiet at others. In finishing up she thanked Carol for the support she had been given and said that it had been good to work with her. Diane also added that any new secretary would enjoy working with Julia.

6. Brief Board Reports

a. Treasurer Report – Amanda Lowry

Amanda began by saying this will be a short report. She told everyone that the bank balance is healthy, relaying the separate amounts for the Roberta Stephen Fund, as well as the general funds, adding that the Roberta Stephen Fund has increased recently. The general funds will ensure that the ACWC/ACC is on track to meet its budget when the fiscal year ends in June.

b. Secretary Report – Diane Berry

Diane reported that things have been running smoothly, and that she has been spending time updating some of the membership information, and organizing the files so they would be ready to pass on to the new secretary.

c. SoundBox Report – Stephanie Orlando

Stephanie told the meeting that things have been running smoothly and that she has been asking members to include links for event announcements. She said that would enable other members to get more information if it were happening in their area and they were able to attend. Stephanie said she would appreciate more information on opportunities and encouraged members to send in anything they knew of that might be of interest to other members.

d. Journal Editor Report – Fiona Evison

Fiona told the meeting that the deadline for the next journal is next week and observed that many on the call would be submitting. She is excited about moving the email to a new platform that will make it easier for her to send emails to all the members.

e. Outreach Manager - Emily Hiemstra

There was another video from Emily in which she gave her report as outreach manager, telling everyone the season has been good for social media events and thanking the volunteers on her outreach team. She said there has been a special focus on promoting events and association news, such as the winner of the Initiatives Fund. Emily concluded by saying that if anyone has questions about the ACWC/ACC social media, or suggestions, the team would love to hear from them.

f. Webpage - Mary-Catherine Pazzano

Mary-Catherine was unable to attend the meeting, so she too put together a short video in order to make her report. She told everyone that most of her time had been spent on regular management of the website, as well as preparing to pass the duties over to other ACWC/ACC members. She has also spent time making sure Julia has all the necessary information on how things work on the website, particularly behind the scenes. Mary-Catherine said she has continued to post the playlists, and clean up the site overall. She ended by suggesting that take down dates be considered for material that gets posted as it is hard for her to know how long things should remain on the website.

7. Update on ACWC Online Educational Music Catalogue — Stella ter Hart

Julia read out Stella's report, as she was unable to attend the meeting. Stella reported that there was a strong response from members to the call for music for the catalogue. Members sent in descriptions, links, levels and other information on over 200 works. Stella did point out that a majority of the music listed is for piano, and currently there is a dearth of works for band, strings, small ensembles etc. The template for submission is on the website and was used by all of those that submitted. Pieces will be grouped by level and listed in alphabetical order. Julia said that an email will go out to members to let them know of the opportunity to contribute to the catalogue. Jana asked if it was too late to add descriptions of works already submitted. Julia said she thought it would be possible, as Stella was still working with a word document, which is easy to edit. The catalogue will be in the form of a pdf when it is posted.

8. SoundCloud Report — Amanda Lowry

Amanda reported that since January there has been a new format for the playlists. She has received one or two submissions by email and has completed the list by re-sharing works that are posted by members who are following the ACWC/ACC on SoundCloud. Amanda told the meeting this seems to be working well and is more manageable in terms of time and effort compared to what was done during the anniversary year. She added that it is harder to get stats on the playlist this way and would like to know if people are listening to the list and if the flow seems to be fine. Julia said she feels it is a good platform and a unique way to listen to everyone's music. Amanda added that she has been going through the membership list, in order to find, and link the ACWC/ACC SoundCloud page to those pages of members, though, in the case of members with common names, it is hard for her to know if she has the right person's page.

9. 2022 ACWC Initiatives Fund Winning Project — Monica Pearce

Julia began by saying it was a competitive year for the Initiatives fund, that there were a number of good applications and many projects that were worthy of support. The decision was a difficult one for the judges, but this year's fund will go to Monica Pearce. Monica was unable to attend so she put together a video to tell the meeting about herself and her project. Monica told us that she is currently living in Brownsville Texas, but lived in Toronto for many years and is originally from P.E.I. She first came across the ACWC/ACC when she was working for the Canadian League of Composers. Most of her work is in chamber music, vocal music, opera, and many works that include toy piano. This project, which is part of a larger project, is for voice and percussion, a favourite combination for Monica. The work will be for two musicians in Brownsville, and is the third in a series in which each piece is inspired by the work of visual artist. Monica continued by saying she will be working on the piece over the summer and there will be a performance in September or October. She also wanted to thank the ACWC/ACC for their support.

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

Lauren Greenberg has finished up her term at school and is not working on anything specific at the moment, though she has just finished three violin pieces which were performed, with a recording available soon. She has also recently finished a rag for piano solo.

Carol Ann Weaver has been responding to much of the current crises in the world, particularly that of Ukraine. She has been writing a piece entitled 'Singing to the Children', which has just been premiered. It will be performed again later in the week, by a choir and will be to honour the people of Ukraine.

Jana Skarecky has been working on an opera about Emily Carr and her close Indigenous friend, Sewin̄chelwet, Sophie Frank. Until now, it has been planned as a one-woman opera, but is now for two, so Jana is enjoying the possibility of including duets.

Amanda Lowry has no compositions in the works at the moment, though she has her first recital for her doctoral degree, in June, and will consist of works by Canadian women composers of the twentieth century. Over the summer she will be working on her dissertation.

Fiona Evison is pleased to have finished her course work for her Phd. at the University of Western Ontario, now she will have to work on papers connected to her research. She will be flying to the UK for a conference celebrating the 250th anniversary of the hymn Amazing Grace, which will be held in the parish where the hymn was written.

Stephanie Orlando isn't working on anything at the moment, and will be working as a bicycle mechanic for the summer. She does have an orchestral piece being premiered on Thursday, May 12th.

Julia Mermelstein is working on a piece for soprano and live electronics which will include 2 dancers and visuals. The piece will be performed in June at the Music Gallery in Toronto. She also has a piece being premiered by Esprit along with Stephanie Orlando's on May 12th and a premiere by the Toronto Symphony on May 19th.

Diane Berry isn't working on anything specific in the way of composition but is working on arrangements for her jazz trio consisting of flute, voice and piano, who will be playing at a local jazz club in July. The pieces are all jazz standards and she said it has been a challenge and a good learning experience.

11. Schedule next ACWC/ACC Zoom General Meeting

The next meeting will be Saturday, August 27th, 2022 at 12:00 noon EST/9:00 am PST

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:56 pm, EDT/ 9:56 am, PDT

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Berry

ACWC/ACC Secretary