

**Minutes for ACWC - Skype Meeting, Saturday February 3, 12pm EST / 9am PST**  
(including Board Member reports)

Present: Maria Eduarda Mendes Martins, Janet Danielson,  
Fiona Evison, Julia Mermelstein, Jana Skarecky, Bekah Simms, Carol Ann Weaver

Regrets: Colleen Muriel, Veronika Krausas, Katerina Gimon, Diane Berry, Ilkim Tongur, Jean Ethridge,  
Christie Morrison

1. Brief words from the Chair, including mention of new member(s) since last meeting (Nov. 15):
  - New members: Ilkim Tongur, Fiona Evison.
  - An introduction to Fiona another time, as there are ongoing audio issues.
  
2. Acceptance of Nov 15 Minutes:  
[https://acwcweb.files.wordpress.com/2017/11/acwcminutes\\_nov2017web.pdf](https://acwcweb.files.wordpress.com/2017/11/acwcminutes_nov2017web.pdf)
  - Janet moved the motion to move the minutes. Jana seconds the minutes.
  - Motion passed and minutes are accepted.
  
3. Membership update: is at 60 paid-up composers; a campaign in November took place through Carol to renew membership fees, with 12 new people paid-up, including Fiona who lives in Owen Sound.
  
4. French translation of our site – updates. Claire Pencolé has been fantastic behind the scenes, and doing amazing work. She has been featured in the journal and has been lovely to work with. The major part of the site has been translated. We also gifted her a scarf that she's wearing in the journal photo, as shown on p. 26 of this ACWC Journal link:  
<https://acwcweb.files.wordpress.com/2017/12/acwc-fallwinter-2017-journal.pdf>
  
5. More on 'regional concerts' for ACWC, a la Maria Eduarda Mendes Martins' proposals:
  - There's a composer from the east called Amy Brandon who is very interested in helping, as well as Sylvia Riccard in Victoria who is interested, but Maria is still searching for people. In terms of events, she has ideas for concerts that can easily be organized anywhere in the country at any time. The concerts are related to violence against women. As the ACWC, we could put concerts to put awareness against this kind of thing. Logistically, we could use women's choir (at least in Victoria there are groups willing to participate) or else string quartet; we could gather pieces from our members for these formations. If we want to use the same pieces for different events in different places we can. As far as grant writing, the national grant agencies could be SOCAN and Canada Council. Some of these concerts could begin at the end of 2018. She needs people from other regions who would be interested in contributing in some sense; they wouldn't need to do all the work, but something in terms of finding a venue and booking a venue, contacting groups that they know, etc. would be necessary for those. An idea for one performance: members should report to each other about our projects we are already working on which include ACWC composers, and then compile them in a yearly period and report them as a season.
  
6. Charitable status and button for donations on our website (for which we could be doing seasonal requests):

If we get our national arts certification, it's the equivalent of a charitable organization except with service to the arts. Janet has all the application materials ready to go in the mail – ready to go!! Carol suggests we wait for donation logistics until this application is processed.

7. Asking about creating a a kind of 'forum' section in the Journal which could include a question/questions posed to the members, who, in turn, are invited to submit short replies or comments. Or, possible a place for 'letters to the editor' – something to this effect, for this year:
  - Julia thinks it would be interesting to have the forum in the website, on the journal page. She thinks it would be good to have different pages for each issue, allowing for a comment forum on that page that people could openly discuss or post things that they like about the issue or wanted to have a conversation, they could have it directly on the website.
  - Carol clarifies that Julia could get started on it soon without waiting for Kat.
  - We could have a statement above the comment forum, saying “this is a space for people to share musical comments” or “if you’d like to reach out to one of the members [do it here.]” A clarifying/defining statement would be placed above the form, in order to avoid random sort of things.
  - Another direction, if it’s within the journal: we could save a space for one article where a member has really connected with a previous article; this person could then write a full article response – sort of response-based articles based on previous articles.
  - Carol was initially thinking letters-to-the-editor style as well.
  - Julia thinks it would make more sense for the format, for the feedback to be more in the form of a full-on article. She thinks there should be a format divide between small little comments and a more full-blown response.
  - Julia will take the lead on creating a format and soliciting possible contributions.
8. How can/does ACWC respond to/create awareness of the #MeToo movement? Is there a way for us to include stories, such as IAWM listserv is currently doing?
  - Carol asks for volunteered thoughts. Maria says that her idea of concerts were a unified event, not just about #MeToo but with any type of violence against women. And she thinks it would be a louder statement if we all did it together. She says if some of us are willing to do that in different places across the country, that would be great to compile all the concerts together under the umbrella of one season. She draws an analogy between her concert idea and the Suffragette concert held in Victoria previously, and that she could organize an additional concert in Victoria. She is hoping that our members will organize a concert with the same theme elsewhere.
9. Brief Board Reports
  - a. ACWC Journal Report – Julia Mermelstein
    - The last journal went very well; lots of responses from people, and Julia is very happy with the new format and the range of content she was able to present.
    - She says one thing she’ll do for the next issue is to create a Bit.ly account to track the article click rate, so we can track how many people open the articles and track the engagement rate.
    - Carol commends the journal quality, and Julia’s editing abilities.
  - b. Treasurer and Membership Report – Janet Danielson
    - All the receipts are out and the taxes done for the ACWC, now that we are incorporated (we now have a bizarre tax form.)
    - Very healthy amount in our bank account and about \$70 in our Paypal – nice!

- c. Secretary and SoundBox Report – Bekah Simms
    - The SoundBox continues to have open and click amounts above the industry average, although clicks have steadily decreased over time (meaning people aren't opening/reading/listening to included links.)
    - A reminder that items should be succinct, edited, and publication-ready and fit into what the SoundBox includes.
    - Caution Tape/ACWC Concert report: rehearsals booked, musicians hired, all scores/parts received from the composers. Would love some additional promotional help to peoples' various networks as the concert approaches.
  - d. Website Report – prepared by Kat Gimon (sent to and read by Carol, in meeting)
    - Steady continuation of translation, Kat has added the web pages for all the new members, and in the coming weeks she will reconcile our most up-to-date member list to make sure she has contacted everyone for their bios.
    - Request for members to send in headshots to Kat as well! She will send around an "ask" for that.
11. Member info – brief comments from participating members, as time allows
- Jana: Preparing some children's songs about Australian animals to be published by Alliance Publications in the States.
  - Fiona: Working on a piece to be played in Kiwanis for organ and soprano recorder, in a Celtic style. Also experimenting with more dissonance in the organ. She'll also be taking some organ lessons for writing the piece. She has also done an arrangement of "O Canada." She's also just started to take private composition lessons, and just applied to Wilfred Laurier for a Masters in Community Music. She's also working on a Lent concert, where she'll be accompanying the principal clarinetist of the symphony orchestra in Owen Sound, and they'll attempt to do all original works. Lastly, she's writing a musical about the Scottish highland clearances and how they came to Canada with a special focus on the women and children (and it turns out to be her own family history.)
  - Julia: In the midst of writing an interdisciplinary piece for two dancers, piano, percussion, viola, and sax to be performed in May as part of a new music experimental theatre company called Din of Shadows in Toronto.
  - Janet: Just got back from Tennessee, where there were two performances of her big Cosmos piece for two percussion, piano, violin, and cello. They will do the piece in Surrey, BC, May 2018, also.
  - Bekah: Just received a commission grant from OAC to write a concertante work for amplified cello, electronics, and orchestra for Esprit.
  - Carol: In NYC, they'll be doing a piece of Carol's, postponed from March 2018 to March 2019. There was a concert in Tallahassee Florida recently that was all Canadian women composers, and it included one of Carol's works.
  - Maria: I am still working on a long work for electronics and early instruments...it is going to be an hour-long mass, so it takes a while to prepare. Furthermore, I have a piece for piano and electronics being recorded in a CD produced by a Canadian/Brazilian pianist, and one other Mass for fixed media which I composed before I came to Canada were featured in some Radio shows in Brazil this past week.
13. Next meeting time: it was proposed that we alternate between Wed. pm and Sat. noon/AM, so our **next** meeting should be Wednesday, April 4 at 8pmEST.
- **Next meeting confirmed for Wednesday April 4, 8:00PM EST.**
  - **AGM confirmed for Saturday June 2, 12:00pm EST.**
13. Adjournment at 1:05PM EST.