

**Minutes for ACWC General Meeting by Skype, Sat., Jan. 12, 2019**  
**12:00 noon EST/9:00 am PST**

**Present:** Stephanie Orlando, Diane Berry, Janet Danielson, Carol Ann Weaver, Diana Cotoman, Fiona Evison, Joanna Estelle, Tawnie Olson, An-Laurence Higgins, Tina Pearson, Julia Jacklein, Karen Sunabacka

**Regrets:** Julia Mermelstein, Kat Gimon, Leslie Uyeda, Veronika Krausas, Christine Donkin, Sylvia Rickard, Jana Skarecky, Paulette Popp, Edith Covach, Jean Ethridge, Leila Lustig, Lieke Voort, Ivana Jokic, Hildegard Westerkamp, Sara Constant, Thais Montanari, Elaine Keillor, Véronique Girard, Brenda Muller, Christie Morrison, Kye Marshall, Tawnie Olson

**1. Brief words from Acting Chair, Janet Danielson who served from September – December 2018.**

Janet was pleased to report that things had run smoothly while Carol was away, and there were no crises to deal with during that time. She has had the happy job of working on the New Initiative Fund, which now has a deadline of January 15th, 2019. Janet also pointed out that it would be good to receive more applications for this new fund.

**2. Brief words from returning Chair, Carol Ann Weaver, post South Africa.**

Carol thanked Janet for her work as Chair from September to mid-December. During that time Carol had scant internet access so there was little communication with the Board. She is excited about the initiatives that are coming in from Quebec and British Columbia, as well as being able to acknowledge so many new members at this meeting. She observed that things come in waves, either up or down, and that this is certainly an up wave.

**Welcome to new members:** Rebecca Gray, Leslie Uyeda, Diana Cotoman, Lieke van der Voort, Sara Constant, Véronique Girard, An-Laurence Higgins, Thais Montanari, Gabrielle Harnois-Blouin, and Shelley Marwood.

Carol invited the new members present to say a few words.

Diana Cotoman told us she is originally from Romania, and is now living in Montreal. She is excited to be here and to be connected to the ACWC.

An-Laurence Higgins joined the meeting later and at that time told us that she is originally from Quebec City but is now living in Montreal. As a performer she has become dedicated to performing the works of women composers, particularly new works. She has been following the ACWC for a while and is pleased to meet us, and to be a part of the organization.

**Notes from a few members who cannot attend:**

- Julia Mermelstein cannot attend “because she’s having a piece performed and workshopped by the TSO; it’s a full day workshop on Saturday”
- Edith Covach is currently in Argentina
- Colleen Muriel has rehearsals in London, England
- Paulette Popp teaches piano all day Saturday
- Christine Donkin is holding workshops in Whitehorse, Yukon
- Jana Skarecky is doing music examining in Vancouver, BC
- Thais Montanari has a “newborn and time is kind of tricky for [her]!”
- Elaine Keillor teaches Sat, waited till last minute to contact us in case students cancelled, but none did

**3. Acceptance of Last ACWC Skype Meeting Minutes, Wed. Sept. 5, 2018, 8:00pm EST/5:00pm PST**

Karen Sunabacka moved that the minutes of the Sept. 5th meeting be accepted, Janet Danielson seconded the motion. All were in favour so the motion was passed.

**4. Update on Roberta Stephen Award – Janet Danielson**

Janet reported that she has delayed opening the application process for the Roberta Stephen Award until the deadline has passed for the New Initiatives Fund. It is difficult to get enough applicants at any

time, so she felt we shouldn't have two competitions active concurrently. She reported that in the fall she had been contacted by Roberta Stephen's daughter, who wanted to address the issue of the decreasing amount of money in the fund. Ideally, the interest generated by the money in the fund would be used for the awards each year. Their board is looking for ways to increase the amount in the fund so the awards are more sustainable. Janet was also asked if there were tangible results from the previous competitions – what pieces had been written, for instance. Janet told us that Veronica Krausas had written an opera, which will be premiered in Calgary in June and Janet will be letting the family and the Board members know of this performance. She will also be making sure both organizations are acknowledged in the program. Essentially the Boards of the Roberta Stephen Award and the ACWC want to make sure the money awarded is well spent. There will be a notice on our website soon about this year's competition.

Janet pointed out that any donation to the Roberta Stephen Award would be tax deductible.

## **5. New Initiatives Fund for 2019 for ACWC members – update; discussion, extended deadline, adjudicators**

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe4kgUYs48qkFC4KvrLjvP2ckCpAtXyY3xtZ9N\\_yHkhFX0B4Q/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe4kgUYs48qkFC4KvrLjvP2ckCpAtXyY3xtZ9N_yHkhFX0B4Q/viewform)

The deadline for the New Initiatives Fund has been extended to January 15, 2019, and we are hoping to receive more applications before that time. The adjudicators are ready to review the applications once that date has passed.

Carol pointed out to new members that while there are restrictions on who is eligible this year, that may change in the years to come. The Board wanted to honour those long term members who have been active within the organization by giving them this opportunity to receive financial help.

The question of whether Board members were eligible was put forward. Janet reported that she had taken the extra measure of consulting with a reputable law firm about this issue. We are a small organization so it is harder to keep things at arm's length. She was assured that if there is an adjudicator from outside the organization, that would be sufficient. Janet has asked Kathleen Shimeta, a professional singer from New York City, to serve on this year's panel and she readily agreed. This means that we are covered if Board members would like to apply for this grant. So, yes, ACWC Board members may apply.

## **6. Brief Board Reports**

### **a. Treasurer: Financial Report, Membership Report – Janet Danielson**

Janet reported that we have a healthy bank balance, which is why we are able to fund new initiatives. One of the reasons for that bank balance is that a proposed ACWC concert fell through. We do need to show we are actively engaged in presenting concerts, so the opportunity to support the Émergences concert is very positive. Janet also reported that we have 75 paid up members, more than we have seen in a very long time. There are still some members in arrears. Janet pointed out that Carol has been instrumental in bringing new members in, and also noted that we have many active members. This can be seen by the number of attendees to the meeting as well as the number of regrets that were received.

### **b. ACWC Journal Report – Julia Mermelstein**

“The new Journal issue for Fall/Winter 2018 is up and online. From my [bit.ly](#) stats, we've had 56 total clicks (opening the Journal link from the email). This unfortunately is quite a bit less than the previous issue, most likely due to its release close to the holidays. From our issue stats (viewing the Journal displayed on the website), we've had 67 reads with 140 impressions and 6 publication shares. I'll continue to collect these stats overtime to find a way to improve engagement.

On another note, I created a submenu on the ACWC website to display older Journal issues since having all Journal links on one page was getting to be too long for one page.

Lastly, I had a great suggestion from member Fiona Evison about creating a house style guide for the Journal to help make the editing process more efficient. I'll be looking into this for when I begin working on the Spring/Summer 2019 issue.” – Julia Mermelstein

Janet noted that Julia has done a great job with the journal and encouraged the members to go to it on the website and have a look.

**c. Website Report – Kat Gimon,**

“I’ve added some more photos and member bios as usual, as well as the Initiatives link on the ACWC Resources page” here: <https://acwc.ca/resources/>

**d. Secretary Report – Diane Berry**

Diane reported that things have been running smoothly. She has sent out two sets of reminder letters to those members in arrears, or whose membership has lapsed. The first was sent in September, the second in October. The response was quite good, with a number of members paying their dues immediately. Two people notified her that they would be letting their membership lapse. In early December another letter was sent out, notifying members of the extended deadline for the New Initiatives Fund. That letter included a note saying that one of the requirements for applying is paid up membership. If they were unsure as to their status they were invited to contact Diane to find out. Work will be continuing on ways to keep the membership list up to date.

Stephanie asked if she could get a copy of the list of paid members in order to send out the SoundBox. Diane said that it is a Google document and she would send a link to Stephanie.

Joanna pointed out that rules on the status of membership with regards to payment of dues will be in the ACWC Constitution. She also said that she was thrilled to hear that the current number of members is so high. At its lowest point, the ACWC had only three members. Janet pointed out that Joanna herself was responsible for bringing the organization through that time.

**e. SoundBox Report – Stephanie Orlando**

Stephanie reported that things have been going smoothly with the SoundBox but she ran into some difficulty in January. When she had January's edition ready to go, she received a note from Mailchimp telling her that she was in violation, though she hadn't done anything differently from previous months. She contacted Mailchimp but is still waiting for an answer from them; it has been two weeks. Since she is using a free version she does not have tech support, so she can't do anything but wait for their response. While waiting, all her privileges and her ability to use Mailchimp have been suspended. January's Soundbox was sent out to everyone as a pdf. Stephanie is currently looking into Mailerlite, as it does the same thing as Mailchimp. Tina thought the incident was curious and that there may just be a glitch somewhere. She felt using other options would be fine. Carol told us that a church group she knew of had stopped using Mailchimp and wondered if it was for the same reason. Janet said that we would be looking into special software for the membership list, so perhaps we could find something that would serve both purposes. Carol thanked Stephanie for her work and suggested she go ahead with Mailerlite for now.

**7. The ACWC Board has just approved a concert grant for a Montreal Émergences concert featuring women composers in Quebec and Ontario As well, all seven members of Émergences have joined ACWC in January, 2019. (Émergences publicity has been sent to all attending members of this Skype)**

Carol reported that all seven women involved in the Émergences concert individually became members of the ACWC. She has never seen so much energy in such a short amount of time, and such a quick response from Émergences. An-Laurence immediately submitted an application for funding for this concert, which was thorough and complete. The board voted unanimously to grant them the requested funding. Congratulations to An-Laurence.

As well, the ACWC is working with the Vancouver Island Symphony in BC on their initiative to achieve gender equality in their programming, with further support to be determined. Words from their director, below:

“Info from Vancouver Island Symphony: re: help/involvement moving forward - thanks for any help! The VIS is including this in its operating budget, which is (as with every orchestra) tight, so any funding that can offset some of the costs would be welcome - whether travel assistance for the composers, or funding copying costs or partial commission, or funding possible recording of works. All would be awesome. Non-financial assistance is also welcome - promoting the project, letters of support, sending representatives to the premieres, etc. This would all be very welcome. Thanks again

for your quick action - very appreciated!" – Paolo Bortolussi

Carol told us that we haven't received an application from Paolo yet. She also told us that one of the composers commissioned by the Vancouver Island Symphony is Kat Gimon.

It was pointed out how good it is to be funding events in Quebec as that hasn't happened for quite awhile.

**8. ACWC Choral and Piano Collectives: Discussion about boosting them, allowing them to be yet more effective:** <https://acwc.ca/projects/choral-collective/> and <https://acwc.ca/projects/piano-collective/>

Carol said it would be good to have more energy in both collectives. If members are interested in either one, they should look them up on the website, or through this link. She reminded us that there had been a concert in Waterloo through the piano collective and told us of plans for an art song concert in the future. Edith Covach, currently the chair of the Piano Collective, has recently completed her ARCT in Composition from the Royal Conservatory of Toronto. Edith found the experience an exciting and fulfilling one.

**9. Reminder of ACWC Facebook Group, which all members are encouraged to join and post:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/181080832525102/> and ACWC Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/ACWCAFFCC/> where members can also post via Visitor Posts on the site, or by sending items to Facebook manager, Kat Gimon to post as news items: [katerina.gimon\(at\)gmail\(dot\)com](mailto:katerina.gimon@gmail.com) (no further discussion, here)

**10. Other items**

Kat Gimon has been a stellar web manager with many good things happening for her. In fact all those good things have made her too busy to continue her work with the website and the board. She regrets that she will need to resign from both of those. Kat is willing to stay on until we find someone to replace her. If any one has suggestions on how to proceed, or if they would like to volunteer, please contact Carol.

**11. Member info – one-sentence brief, compact comments from participating members.**

- Karen Sunbacka is working on three pieces, all within a four-month time frame. She also recently set a Psalm that was performed at her husband's ordination.
- Julia Jacklein is working on a choral piece as well as a duet arrangement for students, all while working on her Masters at York University.
- Stephanie Orlando is working on a piece for percussion and orchestra, which will be performed in Toronto in the fall.
- Janet Danielson is working on a string quartet about global warming. She also used this time to remind us that we have an Associate category in our ACWC membership, for those who support us but are not composers themselves. We should let all our friends know.
- Diana Cotoman is working on a piece for soloist and choir based on the Wizard of Oz, from the dog's point of view. She is also working on music for a student film.
- Fiona Evison is working on a second piece based on medieval Jewish text from Egypt. The Maureen Forester singers performed the first piece and Fiona is hoping to get a performance of this second piece once it is finished.
- Joanna Estelle has just signed a contract with Parma Records to record one of her trios. Details are still being sorted out but it will probably be performed by a group from California and will be done in Philadelphia. Once completed it will be included on Parma's next collection and it will go on tour.
- Tina Pearson will be facilitating a panel on Sustainability for the Canadian New Music Network professional development session in Vancouver in February. The questions for the session to consider are the realities of alarming decreases in wilderness areas and biospheric health and pondering what the responsibilities and roles of those of us who “dwell in sonic space” can and might be, now and in the coming decades.

- Carol Ann was still *thinking* music while in Africa, the result being a choral piece, “Desert Alleluia” that was premiered at Rockway Mennonite Church, December 30. She will be in New York City for performances of "Songs for My Mother" at Symphony Space and in Brooklyn. She has also made some 200+ field recordings from natural areas in South Africa, which gives her lots of material to work with over the coming months.
- Diane Berry is working on a piece for the community string orchestra in Parry Sound, directed by Brenda Muller. It will be performed at the arts festival there in June.
- Edith Covach sent in these words for the meeting from Argentina: “It’s been an amazing journey filled with challenges and successes but it’s been worth it all the way. The growth and musical maturity that took place during the training years is noticeable as well as the great influence of great Canadian music teachers that lead the composing world currently. The ARCT in composition is a complete and thorough program that helps students feel prepared in all areas when graduating. ACWC has also been a great platform to help put it all together by providing appropriate venues to help developing. Looking forward to a bright composing future.”

**12. Next ACWC Skype General Meeting:**

**March 6th - Wednesday - 8:00 pm EST/ 5:00 pm PST**

**13. Adjournment**

**1:00pm EST/ 10:00 am PST**

– minutes respectfully submitted by Diane Berry, ACWC Secretary, Jan. 14, 2019