

Minutes for ACWC AGM and General ACWC Skype Meeting Wed., March 6, 2019

8:00 pm EST/5:00 pm PST

Present: Diane Berry, Evelyn Stroobach, Carol Ann Weaver, Stephanie Orlando, Janet Danielson, Julia Mermelstein, Edith Covach, Christie Morrison

Regrets: Katerina Gimon, Fiona Evison, Jana Skarecky, Veronika Krausas, Jean Ethridge, Ilkim Tongur, Joanna Estelle, Paulette Popp, Lieke Voort, Colleen Muriel, Elaine Keillor, Diana Cotoman, Karen Sunabacka, Julia Jacklein

1. Brief words from Chair, Carol Ann Weaver. Welcome to new member, Evelyn Stroobach.

Carol welcomed everyone to the meeting. She welcomed new member Evelyn Stroobach, inviting her to tell us about herself. Evelyn is a freelance composer, who received her M.A. from Indiana University twenty years ago. Her pieces have been performed around the world. Evelyn also teaches privately and has a studio of sixteen students. Carol noted that Evelyn has been quite prolific and a few years ago a CD of her music was released with much commendation. Carol also asked if Evelyn had been a member previously, which she had and so she knows some of our current members from that time.

2. Acceptance of Last ACWC Skype Meeting Minutes, Sat., Jan. 12, 2019, 12:00noon EST/9:00am PST

Edith Covach moved, Stephanie Orlando seconded. All were in favour; motion passed.

3. Update on ACWC member, Rebekah Cummings.

The group was informed about Rebekah who is struggling with cancer that has spread to her liver, lungs and beyond. She also told us that she had heard from Rebekah's sister, Gillian, that Rebekah has been discharged from hospital. Carol, Janet and Diane sent flowers and good wishes on behalf of the ACWC. Gillian sent a note to Carol to say that the flowers were lovely, much appreciated and they have been on her windowsill at the hospital. Rebekah hopes to do some painting, as her health will allow. Her sister said that it was great to hear from people who are part of Rebekah's life and how much love and support she has. Carol told us that we could follow Rebekah's progress and send her notes on Caring Bridge. Carol encouraged members to go to Caring Bridge to leave messages of support for Rebekah, or if members preferred they could send their notes to Carol, who would pass them on to Rebekah.

4. Stephanie Orlando is the winner of the ACWC Initiatives Fund, 2019, for ACWC members.

Stephanie was congratulated on being the first winner of the ACWC Initiatives Fund. There were three adjudicators for this prize, one of whom is from New York City. Carol invited Stephanie to say a few words about her project. Stephanie told us that the award will go to help her with renting equipment and travelling to the performances in Toronto, NYC and Ann Arbor, MI, of her piece for flute, percussion and electronics. The work explores thought patterns or ruminations, how negative thoughts can consume a person. Mental illness is a topic she frequently addresses in her work. The electronics are inspired by 1980's new wave music. The electronic will use a variety of synthesizers.

5. ACWC New Web Manager announced:

Mary-Catherine Pazzano will be our new web manager. The process of finding a new manager took a fair amount of time and so the information is new. Mary-Catherine is a well-known professional jazz and classical singer who also has her own WordPress website and has a lot of cyber experience. Mary-Catherine was invited to attend this meeting but is teaching in the evening. As she is not a composer or a member of the ACWC, she will be receiving an honorarium for her work from March 2010 - March 2020.

If there is anyone in ACWC interested in/qualified to do this kind of work, contact Carol. While Kat is very busy with works being performed across Canada, she has been very helpful with the transition and will continue to be as long as needed. Carol acknowledged, Kat's wonderful work as web manager.

6. Update on Roberta Stephen Award, Deadline March 15, 2019 – Janet Danielson

Janet told us that we haven't yet received any applications for the Roberta Stephen award. She encouraged everyone to please send in your applications. Janet asked if there should be a notice sent out

to members reminding them of this award and the approaching deadline. Carol felt that as this award is a sizable amount of dollars it is surprising there are no applications. To apply one needs to be 35 years of age or older. One past winner of the award, Veronica Krausas wrote an opera, which will be performed in June. Those at the foundation are thrilled by this news. It was decided that the deadline could be extended and suggested that, as there were a lot of applicants for the Initiatives fund, some of those applicants should be encouraged to apply for this award.

7. Brief Board Reports

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

Janet reported that we have a healthy balance going forward but there have been a couple of unexpected expenses. One was the funding for the web manager and the other was \$200 to change our bylaws. These changes were needed to complete our application for charitable status. This process is almost complete, though there have been some frustrating aspects in sorting out the details. Janet hopes to have the new status confirmed by the end of the month. If there is anyone interested in writing grant proposals there are a number of grants for which we will be able to apply, including one for operating funds. This change will put us in a whole new league. Janet was also pleased to tell us that we are now up to 85 members. Things look good for the next fiscal year, even after the funding for the Montreal concert and the Art Song Concert are subtracted. There is funding available for 2019/20 if anyone would like to apply.

Carol asked if an organization that didn't receive full funding could reapply for more. Janet said yes.

b. ACWC Journal Report – Julia Mermelstein

Julia is currently working on the next issue for spring/summer. Carol commended Julia for her exceptional work on the journal, which was echoed by other members.

c. Website Report – CAWeaver, on behalf of ACWC Board and Mary-Catherine Pazzano

Carol noted that most of this had been covered in item five, but added that in the process of looking for a new web manager a lot of options had been explored. There were several people interested but it turned out that no one had either the time or experience/expertise necessary.

d. Secretary Report – Diane Berry

Diane reported that there is now an up to date membership list thanks to Carol and Janet. She asked that if anyone had any changes to make to please let her know, or send it Carol or Janet. Diane added that she is currently working on the report from the ACWC for the IAWM journal. Carol asked if she needed more information on ACWC member's activities but Diane said that this report is exclusively for the activities of the organization.

e. SoundBox Report – Stephanie Orlando

Stephanie told us that there had been a problem with mailchimp and that she has been sending out the SoundBox as a pdf for the last couple of months. It turns out the problem is a change in gmail's privacy policy. She asked if members felt that receiving the SoundBox as a pdf was fine, or if anyone was having any problems opening the file. No one seemed to have any issues. Stephanie said one way to deal with the problem, going forward, would be to have a domain name. She didn't know if there would be a cost involved, or if it would be difficult. Stephanie felt Mary-Catherine may have an answer to that question. Carol asked Stephanie to send her the question and she would pass it on to Mary-Catherine. Julia Mermelstein said there would probably be a small annual fee for having a domain name. Janet said that she had found a tech resource for non-profit organizations called Techsoup. They have some free software and good technical help. Janet felt they may have something that is an equivalent to mailchimp, perhaps for a small fee. Carol commended Stephanie for her work in dealing with the problem and ensuring SoundBox continued to be received by members each month.

8. Further discussion regarding new Journal initiatives – Julia Mermelstein, Journal Editor

Julia pointed out that as we now have a number of francophone members it would be good for the journal to have some articles in French. She told us these articles could have a short English summary at the end. Julia was interested in knowing if members felt we should try this for the journal. Everyone felt it was a good idea. Julia was asked who would be writing the English summary and she felt it would depend on the original author. Some of our francophone members would be comfortable writing in both

languages. If that isn't the case, we do have members who are working on translating the website and who may be willing to help with this aspect of the journal. Julia felt a trial run was a good idea. Having articles in both languages would also help make the organization more inclusive.

9. New ACWC Art Song Concert, Sat., May 18, 2019, Grebel Chapel, UWaterloo, Ontario.

Edith Covach is the Coordinator for an Art Song Concert to be performed in Grebel Chapel, at U of Waterloo, with funding provided by the ACWC. Composers included are part of a "local Ontario" group *outside of Toronto. Edith said that she was really excited about the concert and the response to it, so far, has been really great. Two local performers have been confirmed: singer Clarisse Tonigussie (a soprano who has toured all over Canada performing the works of Canadian women) and pianist Narmina Efendiyeva (who works closely with Clarisse.) *Christie Morrison, a native of Waterloo, will also be flying in from BC to join the concert. Edith wanted to thank everyone for the team effort and the support received from members.

10. Other items

There were no other items to discuss.

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

- Diane Berry has pieces in two concerts this month, one on either coast. A brass quintet of hers will be played in Halifax on March 10th, and the piece she wrote for Open Doors Milwaukee, for clarinet and cello will be performed in Vancouver at the end of the month.
- Evelyn Stroobach is busy putting together parts for a large chamber work to be performed soon.
- Stephanie Orlando is finishing the electronics for the piece in the Initiatives Funding. She is quite excited about it and feels it should be done by next week
- Janet Danielson has been experiencing a lull in composing but she will be in Ottawa to give a talk and play a recording of an ensemble piece with an environmental theme. This will be done for an environmental organization. Then she hopes to continue work on her string quartet.
- Christie Morrison told us something is in the works; she will fill us in next time.
- Julia Mermelstein is finishing up a piece for two marimbas, sandpaper, electronics and dancers. She will be starting soon on a piece for two pianos, writing for a duo in Toronto.
- Carol Ann Weaver will have her pieces "Songs for My Mother" and "Desert Allelulia" performed in Waterloo on March 20, then in New York City at a concert in honour of her late composition professor, John Eaton (at Symphony Space, Manhattan) and at St.JME Luthern Church in Brooklyn, March 30 and 31 this month.

12. Next ACWC Skype General Meeting:

The next ACWC meeting will be Tuesday, May 21, 2019, 8:00 pm EDT/5:00PDT

13. Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm EST/ 5:50pm PST

Minutes respectfully submitted by ACWC Secretary, Diane Berry, March 7, 2019.