

**Minutes for ACWC AGM and General ACWC Skype Meeting Tue., May 21, 2019
8:00 pm EST/5:00 pm PST**

Present: Stephanie Orlando, Tina Pearson, Janet Danielson, Nephenee Rose, Carol Ann Weaver, Laura Hawley, Julia Mermelstein, Lieke van der Voort, Fiona Evison, Amanda Lowry

Regrets: Karen Sunabacka, Kye Marshall, Elaine Keillor, Sylvia Rickard, Diane Berry, An-Laurence Higgins, Susan Griesdale, Jana Skarecky, Edith Covach, Christie Morrison, Joanna Estelle, Colleen Muriel, Julia Jacklein

1. Brief words from Chair, Carol Ann Weaver. We now have 90 members! Welcome to new members.

Carol welcomed everybody present. We now have 90 members, which is fantastic! The most recent member to join is Amanda Lowry.

A few notable quotes:

- “Thank you, and thanks for all your hard work with the ACWC, which is really thriving now. I am so happy to see so many young women involved. Ann Southam would be so proud.”
- Linda Catlin Smith
- “I’m looking forward to reading through all these [ACWC] links! It feels this is exactly the community I’m looking for. I’ve been looking for ways to promote female conductors and composers and, behold, here is this organization. I did a kind of facebook “advent calendar” where each day (almost) I posted a video or recording featuring a female colleague (conductor or composer) which generated some interest and even some sales and collaborations, I believe. Word of mouth is so powerful. These small efforts, among other things, add up to a lot!” – Laura Hawley

Notes from new members:

- Laura Hawley – Composer, conductor pianist, working in Ottawa. She recently accepted three new positions: taking over as artistic director for Da Camera Singers, starting a new women’s choir, and teaching at Concordia University in Edmonton. She is busy getting ready for next year’s commissions.
- Amanda Lowry – Contemporary flautist who likes to premiere new works and work with composers. She enjoys working with extended techniques and electronics. Her compositional work is geared towards multimedia/performance art. She is part of the theatre company in Kitchener-Waterloo, “Empty Space”.
- Lieke van der Voort – from the Netherlands, moved to Toronto 10 years ago. Composer, vocalist, improviser. Her roots lie in jazz. As a composer she likes working with chamber ensembles and soloists. Likes working with electronics. Adding facial expressions and movement is important to her work.

**2. Acceptance of Last ACWC Skype Meeting Minutes, Wed., March 6, 2019,
8:00pmEST/5:00 pm PST**

Open for mtg: <https://acwcweb.files.wordpress.com/2019/03/acwc-minutes-march-6-2019-1.pdf>

Stephanie Orlando moved that the minutes of the March 6th meeting be accepted, Janet Danielson seconded the motion. All were in favour so the motion was passed.

3. We commemorate ACWC member, Rebekah Cummings (May 3, 1980 – March 23, 2019) Her Celebration of Life was Saturday, April 13, 2019 in Ancaster, ON. Also on April 13 the Mercer Duo performed her “Our Strength, Our Song,” in Hamilton, ON. Rebekah’s website is now re-activated, and working well: <http://www.rebekahcummingsartist.com/home> Other postings about her work can be found here:

<https://www.vancourier.com/entertainment/music/why-we-should-be-listening-to-classical-music-by-canadian-women-1.23138638> Rebekah’s music can be found on her website above, as well as here on SoundCloud: <https://soundcloud.com/search?q=rebekah%20cummings>

Amanda Lowry had a few words to say about Rebekah: “She was a good friend. She might have been the first person I commissioned to write a piece for me. She wrote two pieces for me and they can be found online. I have been speaking with Matthew Fava about her application as an associate composer, to ensure her scores are available at the CMC.”

4. ACWC has met requirements for tax-exempt status and has now become a registered charity! This results from work of ACWC Treasurer, Janet Danielson. New benefits, opportunities. – Janet Danielson

Janet announced that we now have charitable status and are now able to apply for grants. There will be a lot of things to work out, but we can now apply to Canada Council grants and accept donations from donors and issue a tax receipt. She suggested starting a strategic planning committee to search for sources of funding. This is a ‘first’ for the ACWC and we are all very grateful to Janet for her hard work to make this happen.

5. Brief Board Reports

a. SoundBox Report – Stephanie Orlando

“The SoundBox has been running smoothly and I have been sending it out in PDF form since January. I am looking for a way to embed the content within an email and will be experimenting with rich text format this month. I will send a test email to myself beforehand to see if it will work in desktop and mobile platforms. Everyone is encouraged to continue sending in news, content, and opportunities.” – Stephanie Orlando

b. ACWC Journal Report – Julia Mermelstein

Julia reported that she is working on the Spring/Summer issue of the Journal which will come out the second week of June. She can always use more composer news and encouraged everyone to send her their news. She tried to reinstate the Journal on the website– which would make it scrollable instead of a link– but has had no luck in making it responsive. It is not compatible with our version of Wordpress. She approached Mary-Cathrine Pazzano and they are working to figure it out. For now, it is a PDF on the website. Tina suggested that she find a template that works for the Journal and then she would be able to copy and paste the Journal to the website.

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

Janet reported that the current amount of funds is very healthy. We still need to pay one juror for the Roberta Stephen Award. For next year we have committed to paying our web manager and assisting to fund the Émergence Concert. We committed funds to commissioning three new women composers. We have 90 paid members* and 2 honorary life members. We have had 4 new members join. It is amazing to see the organization grow.

(* ACWC is currently reviewing latest member numbers. Danielson revised her number after the ACWC Skype, s showing a current 90 member list.)

d. Secretary Report – Diane Berry

“There is little to report to this meeting. The system for keeping the memberships lists up to date is working. Carol sends the information from each new member to the board members which enables us to keep our membership lists up to date.” – Diane Berry

e. Website Report – CAWeaver, on behalf of Mary-Catherine Pazzano, web manager

Carol reported that Mary Catherine Pazzano is in Italy. We are paying her a tiny stipend but she is doing great work. She is very savvy with Wordpress and we are happy to have her.

6. 2019 Roberta Stephen Award status; Roberta Stephen reception in Calgary, AB, June 2, 2019, surrounding the premiere of *Ghost Opera* by ACWC composer Veronika Krausas, a 2017 recipient of the Stephen Award – Janet Danielson

Janet said that we are hoping to have lunch before the premiere of *Ghost Opera* on June 2nd. Roberta Stephen’s daughters are working to make the reception nice, as is John Reid who is part of the CMC Alberta. It would be great to see members based in Alberta attend this reception. Roberta Stephen has generously been donating to the ACWC for many years.

7. ACWC Art Song Concert, dedicated to memory of Rebekah Cummings, Sat., May 18, 2019, Grebel Chapel, UWaterloo, ON. Concert coordinator: Edith Covach. Music by 9 ACWC composers based in or native to Southern Ontario region (outside of Toronto): Fiona Evison, Jana Skarecky, Edith Covach, Carol Ann Weaver, Julia Jacklein, Karen Sunabacka, Nephenee Rose, Rebekah Cummings, and Christie Morrison. Clarisse Tonigussi, sop., Efendiyeva, pno., Christie Morrison, sop. – Nephenee Rose, Fiona Evison

Nephenee said that she was blown away by the quality, diversity, and stunning performance. Beautiful performances by Clarisse and Narmina. Fiona said that it was an honour to be part of the event, especially because Rebekah’s family was there. Rebekah’s song using the text of Anne of Green Gables was stunning. Clarisse was quite emotional at the end to be singing in honour of her friend, Rebekah. It will be a memory to hold and cherish.

Fiona Evison was “moved to tears” by the music, esp. the work by and meaning of Rebekah Cummings’ compositions. She mentioned her great respect for Clarisse, who sang all the music (besides the Morrison pieces). She found the variety in the concert “amazing.”

Also, to be noted: this was the First ACWC concert where the lead vocalists, both Clarisse Tonigussi (who sang all but one of the songs), and ACWC member Christie Morrison sang **everything totally by memory** – a stunning tour de force!

8. Recent Concert: Soundtrack From.....the music of [ACWC member] Leila Lustig:

“The ACWC recently supported a tribute concert to member Leila Lustig on the occasion of her 75th birthday. It was held on April 29th, 2019 at St. Matthias Anglican Church in Victoria, B.C. Performing that night were Marnie Setka-Mooney, voice, Kathryn Le Gros, piano, Diane Berry, flute, Nathan Friedman, clarinet and Erik Abbink, saxophone. Originally it was to be part of a CMC concert series but due to unforeseen circumstances it was postponed for a year and moved to Vancouver. It was the decision of the musicians to present the concert as originally planned.

The programme consisted of music written by Leila over her career, as well as two flute pieces by Diane. Most of the works were for voice, in various combinations with the other instruments, including a drum which Kathryn played. The title of the concerts was "The Soundtrack from.....", taken from Leila's one instrumental piece on the programme for baritone sax and piano.

Leila was delighted with the surprise addition of a twelve-tone version of Happy Birthday, played and sung by the musicians. The audience of about 35-40 joined in for the more

traditional version at the very end.” – Diane Berry

9. Upcoming Émergences Concert, Friday, August 2, 8pm, Canadian Music Center (Toronto); and Wed, July 31, 2019, Galerie d’art Le Livart, Montreal, Quebec:

five new ACWC composers from Montreal & Toronto: Véronique Girard, Gabrielle Harnois-Blouin, Shelley Marwood, Thais Montanari, & Lieke van der Voort performed by Sara Constant flutist, An-Laurence Higgins, guit. – Lieke Voort

Lieke said that An-Laurence is the main organizer the concert. She has written a piece that will be performed. The idea of the concert is to shine the spotlight on women composers and performers. The date has changed from August 5th to July 31st in Montreal. The program is also going to be performed on August 2nd at the CMC in Toronto. An-Laurence wanted to program works with subjects that concern women. The way Lieke interpreted it is to create a piece that deals with mental health issues, specifically changing thought patterns. Members are encouraged to attend! Carol thanked An-Laurence for bringing members of different backgrounds to the ACWC, and increasing our francophone membership.

10. In two years ACWC will have its 40th anniversary! How can we best celebrate? Ideas. – CAWeaver

Suggestions included to put on a series of concerts or have a national conference. Tina suggested to think 40 years ahead and join with other organizations to expand our vision. Use of technology to link us together from different locations was also mentioned. Questions were raised as to how we could most effectively use such technology for proposed national meetings. Carol encouraged members to email any ideas to her.

11. Other items – WOMENS COMPOSERS PROJECT (Vilma Campitelli); Other

Other: Janet is looking for volunteers to join a strategic planning committee regarding our new charitable status. Please contact her if you are interested and have experience with grant writing experience, arts administration experience, and/or ideas and visions for the organization.

12. Member info – one-sentence brief, compact comments from participating members, as time allows

In the interest of time, Carol suggested we skip this item.

13. Next ACWC Skype General Meeting:

Saturday, September 14, 2019 12:00 pm EST/ 9:00 am PST

14. Adjournment

9:10 pm EST/ 6:10 pm PST

-Minutes respectfully submitted by Stephanie Orlando, May 22, 2019.