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**PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERSHIP**

I am pleased to report to the membership of the Art Song Foundation of Canada for the fiscal year ending October 31, 2020, summarizing our activities over the preceding twelve months.

The Foundation received 9 applications from singers and collaborative pianists ahead of the early-March shutdown, which saw the immediate and indefinite end to live music-making. Before that, all nine applicants had been awarded bursaries to attend their 2020 programs; however, all but two participants saw their activities cancelled. The Orford Summer Music Academy adapted its 2020 offerings to an online version. The Foundation subsidized the full tuitions of those young artists to those online courses:

Ariane Cossette  
Martine Jomphe

Soprano  
Piano

Orford Summer Music Academy  
Orford Summer Music Academy

I invite you to visit our website to read the fascinating reports from their “virtual” studies. Please also “like” us on Facebook in order to receive ongoing updates from recipients over the course of the year.

In mid-December, 2019, the Board approved the implementation of the ASFC Endowment Fund. All assets which had previously been invested through CIBC were transferred to the fund, which is now held in perpetuity at the Ontario Arts Foundation ([www.ontarioartsfoundation.on.ca](http://www.ontarioartsfoundation.on.ca)).

Those involved in art song in Canada will always be indebted to James Norcop for his long career of passionate dedication to the encouragement of art song education and opportunity for singers and pianists. The ASFC is proud that Jim was one of our founding board members in 2015, and we were grateful for his advice and guidance, his planning of the Seminar on the Future of the Art Song Recital in 2018, and his management of our online magazine, *Art Song Canada*. Jim recently celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in good health and good cheer. He has decided to step aside from editing the magazine now. Jim, we thank you most sincerely for the energy and generosity of your mentorship during these formative years of the Foundation.

I am delighted to announce that Board Member, Brett Polegato, has assumed the role of Editor of *Art Song Canada*. His first assignment in the role is the Winter 2021 issue.

I wish once again to thank all the members of the Board for their contributions to our unique and gratifying enterprise. As always, we are pleased to continue to have the wise counsel of Françoise Sutton, one of our honorary directors, throughout our deliberations.

Respectfully submitted,



Catherine Robbin, O.C.  
President  
November 1, 2020