

# Latest Work Commissioned by the AAA Composers Commissioning Committee: *Three Tributes, by Guy Klucevsek*

Robert Young McMahan, Chair,  
AAA Composers Commissioning Committee



The AAA Composers Commissioning Committee is proud to announce the world premiere at this Festival of its latest commissioned work, *Three Tributes*, a solo for standard piano/stradella accordion by noted New York accordionist/composer and long-established artist extraordinaire in contemporary music Guy Klucevsek. The composer will not only give the premiere performance as part of the Thursday evening concert, but will also conduct a workshop on “unusual and unorthodox techniques” possible on the accordion on Saturday. (See biography and workshop description elsewhere in the Journal.)

This collection of tributes memorializes three important and contrasting figures in the accordion world who have only recently left us: the uniquely creative and eclectic accordionist Evan Harlan\* (1953-2014; first movement, entitled “Evan-essence”); the highly distinguished and invaluable accordion manufacturer, writer, AAA and CIA administrator, and tireless advocate for the accordion in all its aspects, Faithe Deffner \* (1931-2014; second movement, “Ballad of Faithe”); and German-born New York accordionist, founder and owner of the lower east-side Manhattan accordion store The Main Squeeze and organizer of two unique accordion bands, one of which was all-female, Walter Kuhr\* (1956-2015; third movement, “Sir Walter’s Main Squeeze Rag,” with subtitle, “for Walter Kuhr, who loved riding his motorcycle”).

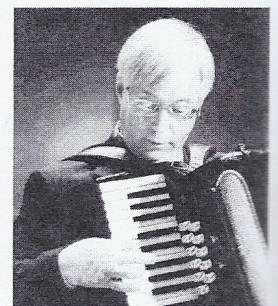
Accompanying the submission of his final score to the CCC were these remarks: “I had a blast writing these pieces, though, of course, the experience was bittersweet since I’m celebrating our dear colleagues who have passed away in recent years. I hope that Evan, Faithe, and Walter would be pleased and honored to be remembered in this way, and that I did justice to the wonderful legacies they have left us with their accomplishments.” In addition, the introductory pages to his score include the following acknowledgements: “It was my performing the AAA commissions of the 1960s that introduced me to the world of contemporary music and, eventually, led to my becoming a composer, so it is an honor for me to add to the repertoire for accordion in this way.” He also thanks the Headlands Center for the Arts in the Marin Headlands, in California, for the Artist-in-Residence grant that provided him with the “gifts of time and a studio” to complete the work expeditiously.

The three movements are inventive and quite delightful. They are also considerably challenging, but quite accessible to both professional accordionists and advanced students. The sheet music may be purchased through the composer’s website, [guyklucevsek.com](http://guyklucevsek.com).

\*For obituaries and other remembrances, see  
<http://www.evanharlan.com>,  
<http://www.ameraccord.com/memorial.html>, and  
<http://www.npr.org/2015/01/10/376300671/walter-kuehr-spread-the-gospel-of-the-accordion>

## *Some fun statistics of the AAA commissioned works:*

- With the recent addition of the Klucevsek offering, there is now a total of 58 AAA commissioned works to date.
- Of the 58 there is a total of 35 composers, writing from 1 to 4 works each.
- Of the 35 composers, six are professional accordionists: Joseph Biviano (1 work), John Franceschina (3 works), Karen Fremar (2 works), Guy Klucevsek (1 work), Robert McMahan (2 works), Pauline Oliveros (1 work), and William Schimmel (4 works).
- Of these, all are extant except for Joseph Biviano, and have performed (or soon will have, in the case of Guy Klucevsek) one or more of their commissioned pieces in one or the other AAA sponsored event since 1996, not to mention numerous prominent non-accordion concert venues



Viva the AAA CCC and its trailblazing contributions to the advancement of accordion concert works over the past 61 years! We hope it will continue to flourish! However, the cost of commissioning high quality composers is very high these days and needs to be supplemented by contributions beyond what is available in the present day AAA budget. Your help is needed and would be greatly appreciated. Donors will be gratefully acknowledged in future AAA publications. No contribution is too small (or too large!) to help in this worthy and prestigious endeavor that is one of the jewels in the AAA’s crown.