

Remembering Pat Shaw

For *Long Live Pat Shaw* by David Smukler & Carmen Giunta

Charlene E. Thomson (2017)

Musical score for "Remembering Pat Shaw" in 3/4 time, key of A major. The score consists of three staves of music. The first staff starts with a circled 'A' and contains measures 1-6 with chords Em, C, D, G, B⁷, and Em. The second staff starts with a circled 'B' and contains measures 7-13 with chords B⁷, B⁷, B⁷, Em, B⁷, Em, and B⁷. The third staff contains measures 14-18 with chords Em, D, Em, B⁷, Em, and Am. The piece ends with a double bar line.

This composition celebrates Pat Shaw, the composer and deviser of numerous English Country Dance tunes and dances. Margaret's Waltz was the first Pat Shaw tune I learned over 30 years ago. Our Binghamton, New York jammers loved it, and played it in the key of G. It wasn't until I became acquainted with English dancing and the Barnes Bible of music that I learned it was written in A... a bright sounding key for the violin. I now play it in both keys depending on whether it's an English dance or a Binghamton jam session!

Levi Jackson is another popular Pat Shaw tune and dance. It is one of my favorite Pat Shaw dances, and also one of my favorite Pat Shaw tunes. I danced it long before I knew he had written both the music and dance. Then, I found the music and discovered he was the creative genius who had devised such a clever tune and dance for 5 couples. I love to play Levi Jackson with a ragtime flavor on the piano. The music and dance give much joy to dancers, musicians, and appreciative listeners and watchers!

Pat Shaw was a gifted composer and dance deviser. Over the years I have learned many more of his works. Some of my favorites include: Bare Necessities; Long Live London; Miss De Jersey's Memorial; and John Tallis's Canon.

When I discovered that 2017 was the centenary of Pat Shaw's birth, I read of his many contributions to traditional dance and music. It was fascinating. When I played his music, I found much joy. When I danced his dances, I found kindred spirits dancing with me. Most of all, I appreciated his many diverse talents.

I wrote Remembering Pat Shaw as I reflected on all these things.

Charlene E. Thomson
Endwell, New York 2017