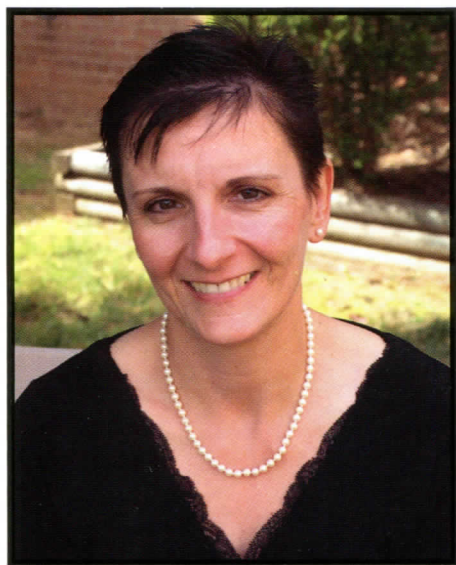


AIDA GAMBOA & MARJORIE LOPRESTI NAMED MASTER MUSIC TEACHERS

KATHLEEN SPADAFINO
NJRMEA PRESIDENT-ELECT
KSPADEB@AOL.COM



Marjorie LoPresti has been teaching music in East Brunswick for the past 25 years. She currently provides instruction in piano, music theory, composition, and digital recording at East Brunswick High School. A widely recognized music technology educator, Marjorie credits the support of her colleagues, administration, and NJMEA members and conference presenters for her success in teaching music with technology.

Throughout her professional life, Marjorie has displayed a gift for collaboration. At the Mason Gross School of the Arts, she was a founding member of the collegiate MENC (NAfME) chapter and served as Chapter President for two years. She was a founding co-director of the East Brunswick All-District Elementary Chorus and mentored student teachers from Westminster Choir College. Her dedication and team spirit lead to her selection for the East Brunswick Public Schools Governor's Award in 1997.

An early adopter of music technology, Marjorie was captivated by its ability to enhance instruction and engage young learners. Her innovative work integrat-

ing technology for music instruction, composition and self-assessment at Lawrence Brook Elementary School was documented in a local television episode. In 2000, she received a generous grant from the East Brunswick Education Foundation (EBEF) that provided 28 electronic piano keyboards for her elementary general music classroom. Four years later, she was chosen for a newly created music technology position, splitting her teaching time between Churchill Junior and East Brunswick High Schools.

Ongoing support from colleagues, administration, and the EBEF enabled Marjorie to explore additional music technology tools and methods. From 2005-2010, she applied for and received grants to create a digital music studio. She also established programs to help "nontraditional" music students master essential music skills. Marjorie and her arts department team also won grant funding for a composer residency. This year-long project culminated with a concert that featured the premiere of student-composed musical works, performed by students and their peers. The EBEF is currently funding a second composer residency focused on film score composition. In April 2014, the EBEF honored Marjorie as their educator Partner-In-Excellence.

Eager to share what she has learned and give back to the professional community, Marjorie has been a frequent music technology presenter for NJEA, NJMEA, and the Middlesex County ETTC. Of late, she has assumed a leadership role, serving on the executive board of the NJ Chapter of the Technology Institute for Music Education (TI:ME), and has been its President since 2011. She is very proud of the NJ TI:ME Chapter's Student Music Technology Expo – an event celebrating student creativity that has become a model for student music technology festivals. In February 2012, Marjorie presented a session documenting this model at TI:ME's national conference.

Educational researchers have cited some of Marjorie's work in their research studies, including *Theory and Practice of Technology-Based Music Instruction* (Dorfman, Jay. Oxford University Press 2013.) Her program at EBHS is profiled on www.musiccreativity.org, and she has published articles on engaging non-traditional music students through technology.

Outside of school, Marjorie loves to spend time outdoors with her husband, Steve, listening to the music made by the songs of woodland birds, the crunch of leaves under hiking boots, the crash of ocean waves against a jetty, and the caw-caw of seagulls waiting for the tide to turn.