

2016 MMTA Lifetime Achievement Award

Maria Reesman



Maria Reesman has been a loyal and active member of MMTA for many, many years. I remember her attending every meeting, function, and event that MMTA held, as far back as my first Presidency in 1983, but I know that she was active long before that.

From the generation of dedicated “behind the scenes” workers, Maria was and continues to be supportive, warm and encouraging to every colleague in her orbit, always looking for the positive in any situation.

Maria has served MMTA in many capacities. She has served as judge for several Competitive Student Programs that included the Bay State Contest and the Connecticut State Music Teachers Association. Notably, she served as Chair of the MAE (Music Achievement Evaluations) program, which she organized and vastly improved over her initial six-year term of office. Maria continued to chair this program unflinchingly, even after moving to Florida for a period of time and returning to Massachusetts. While staying in Florida, she served as President of the FMTA as well as Chair of the successful Competition Day in Tampa, a large and successful program offering competition in piano, violin and voice.

Maria has always sought out learning and growth opportunities as both a teacher and musician. Colleagues tell me that her students perform beautifully and professionally in NEPTA recitals and that any transfer students they receive from her studio are well prepared and ready to learn. Maria attended Anthony

DiBonaventura's "Piano Institute at Colby College" for several years and was a faithful attendee at NEPTA lectures, taking extra courses whenever she could.

Maria Reesman embodies the quiet determination and dedication that has been present in so many of the (mostly) women upon whose shoulders our profession and our organization now stand. Without Maria and people like her, we would not have the programs we now have, nor the stature within the music teaching community we so nonchalantly enjoy.

Through all the vicissitudes of life, Maria has remained lovely, positive, supportive and cheerful no matter what comes her way. *She has recently celebrated a milestone birthday and is still actively teaching!* I remember having lunch with her a several years back to introduce someone to the MAE program. She brought notes, ideas and encouragement in large amounts. She has lovingly supported the Lifetime Achievement Awards of both Joan Garniss and Irene Reed, who was her dear friend. **Congratulations, Maria, on this honor!**

Submitted by Alison Barr, MMTA Secretary
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