

Joan began her formal piano studies at age 5. She was a scholarship student at Manhattan School of Music where she earned a BM in Piano Performance and studied with Leon Kushner. She studied pedagogy with Vera Wills and under Vera's tutelage, Joan gave workshops designed for the classically trained teacher on how to approach teaching pop music. Joan founded and edited *On Key, The Magazine For Young Pianists*. In 1982 she interviewed composer **Gian Carlo Menotti** for her new publication. It is this interview that serves as the basis for an entertaining lecture that she presents to Music Educational Groups. Joan started playing in bands when she was in 6th grade. She has appeared on cable and national TV – on the Phil Donahue Show in the 1990's, and in 2013 she accompanied for actor Mandy Patinkin, REM frontman Michael Stipes, and comedian Stephen Colbert on The Colbert Report. Joan Bujacich has played on numerous CD's and has also produced two original CD's in her singer-songwriter style. She is a published BMI composer. One of Joan's passions is teaching piano, which she began at age 17 as an apprentice to her teacher Adell Williams. She currently is serving as President of The Music Educators Association of NJ. In addition to that office, her responsibilities expand to Coordinator of the Auditions Program, Auditions Center Head, Website and Glissando Coordinator and she was instrumental in revising the MEA Theory Test Program as part of the Theory Committee. She is an adjudicator for the MEA and other piano organizations in the NY Metro area. Joan also served on the adjunct music faculty at County College of Morris. In recent years she has been invited to speak to many professional music teachers. Her lectures call upon her experience from a wide variety of musical styles, composing and music technology. This great range of resources makes her a dynamic source of information.