

RONALD MERLINO - BIOGRAPHY

An ardent advocate of cultural aesthetics, Ronald Merlino has devoted his life to the calling of great music and fine wine. Owner and Manager of MusicVine Performing Arts and Wine Consulting since 2009, Mr Merlino manages a roster of renowned international orchestral conductors alongside his diverse projects as a consultant for artisanal wineries around the world.

Mr Merlino has helped guide the careers of many of the world's greatest conductors - among them Sir Andre Previn, Gerard Schwarz, Andrew Litton, and Keith Lockhart. As Vice President at Columbia Artists Management Inc. for more than ten years prior to founding MusicVine, he established a foundation for his identity as one of the most sought after managers of conductors in the world.

Prior to his professional work as an artist manager, Mr Merlino served as Director of Artistic Planning for the San Francisco Symphony, the New York Philharmonic, and the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra in addition to positions on the artistic staffs of the Baltimore Symphony, the American Symphony Orchestra and the Orchestra of St. Luke's. In those various roles, he worked closely with Michael Tilson Thomas, Kurt Masur, Sir Roger Norrington, Sir Andre Previn and David Zinman all of whom helped to forge his passion for and understanding of the art and skill of the conductor.

Mr Merlino has also worked as a consultant to Carnegie Hall, managing a New York residency for the Ensemble Intercontemporain with Pierre Boulez. He has also been a U.S. tour manager for the Staatskapelle Dresden and the Orchestre de Paris.

Mr Merlino holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Palaeolithic Archaeology from Yale University as well as an honorary year abroad Upper Second ranking from the University of Cambridge, England in Archaeology and Anthropology studies. He was a student at the Boston University Tanglewood Institute for two successive summer seasons - first as a pianist under Boris Berman and then as a composer, with Leonard Bernstein and Robert Sirota as teachers.

In the world of wine, Mr Merlino has worked as an apprentice to Patrick Bize at Domaine Simon Bize in Burgundy and has collaborated closely with many winemakers from California, Washington State, Oregon, New York State and Niagara, Canada on music and wine projects. He is currently a WSET Diploma Candidate in wine study through the International Wine Center in New York and is a Member of the U.S. Chapter of the Guild of Sommeliers. His burgeoning work as an ambassador for Bordeaux culture and wine commands a majority of his vinous study and activity at present alongside his official duties as Orchestra Sommelier to the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra and the Columbus (Ohio) Symphony Orchestra.

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