

Electronic Press Kit



A.J. Merlino, DMA
Director of Music Industry Studies

Curriculum Vitae

-Education-

Doctor of Musical Arts, UNLV (University of Nevada Las Vegas)	2014
<i>The Percussionist Bodybuilder: Optimizing Performance Through Exercise and Nutrition</i>	
Master of Music, UNLV	2012
Bachelor of Arts in Music, Kutztown University	2010

-Professional Employment-

Director of Music Industry Studies/Assistant Professor of Music, Albright College	2015-Present
Founder/CEO, Reading Samba School	2013-Present
Instructor of Percussion Studies, Kutztown University	2013-2016
Assistant Band Director, Crestwood High School	2015-2016
Percussion Instructor, Menchey Music	2015-2016
Music Instructor, Reading Music Foundation	2014-2016
Mexican Marimba Ensemble Director, New York Youth Musicians	2014-2015
Front Ensemble Instructor, Kutztown University Marching Unit	2014-2015
Chamber Music Instructor, Kutztown University Chamber Festival	2014-2015
Front Ensemble Instructor/Coordinator, Skyliners Drum and Bugle Corp	2014
Percussion Instructor, Yocum Institute for Arts Education	2014-2015
Lead Instructor of Performing Arts, ESF Camps	2014-2015
Talent/Booking Assistant, Hayden Productions, Las Vegas	2011-2014
Talent/Booking Assistant, E-Plus Entertainment, Las Vegas	2011-2014
Talent/Booking Assistant, Best Models/Entertainment, Las Vegas	2011-2014
Percussion Graduate Assistant, UNLV	2010-2013
Music Director, <i>Resurrecting Sin City</i> , Las Vegas and Adelaide, Australia	2012
Composer, <i>Resurrecting Sin City</i> , Las Vegas and Adelaide, Australia	2012
Music Director, <i>Carnival of Venice</i> , Venetian Las Vegas	2012
Composer/Arranger, <i>Carnival of Venice</i> , Venetian Las Vegas	2012
Studio Manager, Kutztown University, Kutztown, PA	2007-2010
Manufacturing, Publishing, A&R, Mostly Marimba Corporation, Neptune NJ	2007-2010

-Professional Organizations-

<i>Percussive Arts Society</i>	<i>Music and Entertainment Industry Educators Association</i>	College Music Society
<i>The Recording Academy</i>		<i>Broadcast Music International</i>

-Endorsements-

<i>Yamaha Percussion</i>	<i>Innovative Percussion</i>	<i>Paiste</i>
<i>Remo</i>	<i>Meinl Percussion</i>	<i>Alternate Mode</i>
<i>DrumTacs</i>		<i>Pigtronix</i>

-Awards-

Grammy Foundation, Music Educator Award Nomination	2017
Asbury Music Awards, Top Multi-Instrumentalist Nomination	2016
Asbury Music Awards, Top Multi-Instrumentalist Nomination	2015

-Select Teaching Experience-

*Music Business I
Demo to Distribution
Artist & Repertoire*

Albright College
*Music Business II
Music Law
Senior Seminar
Percussion Lessons*

*First Year Seminar
Music Marketing
Artist Management*

Fundamentals of Music Business

Kutztown University
*World Percussion Ensemble
Concert Percussion Ensemble*

Percussion Lessons

History of Rock and Roll

UNLV
*Steel Band
Marimba Band*

Percussion Ensemble

International House of Blues Foundation
Migration of World Music

-Service-

Albright College
Performances

Domino Players Pirates of Penzance, 2017
Reading Samba School at Diversity Week, 2016
Albright College Faculty Concert, 2016

Reading Samba School at WXAC Pond Concert, 2016
Reading Samba School at Block Party, 2016
Albright College Faculty Concert, 2015

Albright College Gallery Performance for *Metaphysics*, 2015

Recruitment

Spring 2016 Open House
PA Liberal Arts Tour Presentation 2016
Recruitment for Music Department Kutztown High School
Recruitment for Music Department Wyomissing High School

Fall 2016 Open House
Accepted Students Day 2016
Recruitment for Music Department Boyertown High School

Committees

WXAC Advisory Board

Advising

Lion Enterprises Student Organization, 2016-Present
10 Advisees, 2016-2017

Events

Albright College Music Business Forum, Host/Coordinator, 2016
Albright College Music Business Forum, Host/Coordinator, 2015

-Service Continued-

Kutztown University

Performances

La Creation du Monde, Kutztown University Faculty Scholarship Recital, Kutztown, PA, 2014

It's About Time, Kutztown University Faculty Scholarship Recital, Kutztown, PA, 2014

Coming Home, Kutztown University Faculty Recital, Kutztown, PA, 2013

Committees

Music Department, New Programs Committee, 2013-2014

Music Department, Recruitment, 2013-2014

Grants

Kutztown University Professional Development grant for travel to Adelaide, Australia, 2013

Community

Performances

Remember Jones/Joe Cocker, Paramount Theater, Light of Day Festival, Asbury Park, NJ, 2017

Remember Jones Soul Revue, Paramount Theater, Light of Day Festival, Asbury Park, NJ, 2017

Remember Jones Soul Revue, House of Independents, Light of Day Festival, Asbury Park, NJ, 2017

Reading Samba School at Sister March, Reading, PA 2017

Reading Samba School w/Low Cut Connie, Reading Bandshell, Reading, PA, 2016

Reading Samba School, Arts on the Ave, Reading, PA, 2016

Reading Samba School, Penn St. Market, Reading, PA, 2016

Reading Samba School, Reading Salsa Festival, DoubleTree, Reading, PA, 2016

Reading Samba School, Relay For Life, Muhlenberg High School, Muhlenberg, PA, 2016

Reading Samba School, Lancaster Hispanic Festival, Lancaster, PA, 2016

Adjudication

Oley Valley Jazz Festival, 2017

Oley Valley Jazz Festival, 2016

Reading Musical Foundation Scholarship Audition, 2016

Committees

Berks JazzFest, Education Committee, 2015-2017

Educational Music Presentations

Music Business Forum, Albright College, Reading, PA, 2016

The Percussion Primer, Red Bank Regional High School, Red Bank, NJ, 2016

Reading Samba School, JazzFest, Reading, PA, 2016

Cultural Journeys Educational Presentation, William Penn Elementary School, PA, 2014

Cultural Journeys Educational Presentation, Robert K. Shafer Middle School, PA, 2014

Cultural Journeys Educational Presentation, Samuel K. Faust Elementary School, PA, 2014

Cultural Journeys Educational Presentation, Settlement School of Music, PA, 2014

History of the Marimba Band Presentation, Ragtime Piano Festival, IL, 2013

-Select Recordings 2016-

Ladies and Gentlemen Remember Jones, Remember Jones (Kickstarter Funded \$19,600)

Stranger Heads Prevail, Thank You Scientist (Billboard: #14 Top Rock Album, Billboard 200 #193)

Hub Naughty, Sing Me a Story, Charity Recording, Remember Jones

Daytrotter Live Sponsored by Paste Magazine, Remember Jones

-Select Professional Performances-

- Karmic Juggernaut w/Screaming Headless Torsos, The Saint, Asbury Park, NJ, 2016
- Motor City Revue, Axelrod Performing Arts Center, Asbury Park, NJ 2016
- Moravian Wind Symphony Presents Hary Janos, Moravian College, Bethlehem, PA, 2016
- Reading Samba School Presents Mardi Gras to Carnivale, Building 24, Wyomissing, PA, 2016
- Reading Samba School, Ho Chunk Casino, Baraboo, WI, 2016
- Remember Jones w/Reading Samba School, Grunin Center for the Arts, Toms River, NJ, 2016
- Remember Jones Live Recording, The Strand Theater, Lakewood, NJ, 2016
- Remember Jones, Red Bank International Festival, Red Bank, NJ, 2016
- Reading Samba School Olympic Kickoff, Brooklyn, NJ, 2016
- Remember Jones Album Release, Convention Hall, Asbury Park, NJ, 2016
- Remember Jones Soul Revival, The Acoustic, Bridgeport, CT, 2016
- Remember Jones Jeff Buckley Tribute, House of Independents, Asbury Park, NJ, 2016
- Remember Jones Back to Black Tribute, Brooklyn Bowl, Brooklyn, NY, 2016
- Remember Jones Back to Black Tribute, Lincoln Hall, Chicago, IL, 2016
- Remember Jones Back to Black Tribute, Tires, Detroit, MI, 2016
- Remember Jones Back to Black Tribute, Ardmore Ballroom, Philadelphia, PA, 2016
- Remember Jones Back to Black Tribute, Stone Pony, Asbury Park, NJ, 2016
- Remember Jones Soul Revival, Musikfest, Bethlehem, PA, 2016
- Remember Jones Soul Revival w/Hip Abduction, Ardmore Ballroom, Philadelphia, PA, 2016
- Remember Jones Soul Revival, Shubas, Chicago, IL, 2016
- Remember Jones Soul Revival, Embers, Rensselaer, IN, 2016
- Remember Jones Soul Revival, Exit/IN, Nashville, TN, 2016
- Remember Jones Soul Revival, Headliners Music Hall, Louisville, KY, 2016
- Remember Jones Soul Revival, Shank Hall, Milwaukee, WI, 2016
- Remember Jones Live Recording for Daytrotter, Davenport, IA, 2016
- Remember Jones Soul Revival, Castle Theater, Bloomington, IL, 2016
- Remember Jones w/Days Awake, House of Independents, Asbury Park, NJ, 2016
- Remember Jones Soul Revival, Big Brothers and Big Sisters Gala, Ocean Township, NJ, 2016
- Thank You Scientist Album Premiere, Mexicali, Teaneck, NJ, 2016
- We Used to Cut The Grass, Zappa Documentary, House of Independents, Asbury Park, NJ, 2016
- University of Adelaide Percussion Festival, Presenter/Performer, Adelaide, Australia, 2014
- Cirque du Soleil's One Night for One Drop, Percussionist, Bellagio Las Vegas, 2013
- Delta Rae, Percussionist, Mandalay Bay Las Vegas, 2013
- Ragtime Piano Festival, Percussionist, Peoria, IL, 2013
- Percussion Festival, Percussionist/Instructor, Cordoba, Argentina, 2012
- 2012 Billboard Music Awards, Percussionist for Cee Lo Green, Las Vegas, 2012
- Resurrecting Sin City, Percussionist, Las Vegas and Adelaide, Australia, 2012
- The Witch and the Lady, Percussionist for Eric Marienthal/Bernie Dresel/Christian Tamburr, Las Vegas, 2012
- Jay-Z, Percussionist, Tao Las Vegas, 2011
- Zivkovic International Summer Academy (ZISAMP), Percussionist with Zivkovic, Las Vegas, 2011
- IBM Orchestra, Percussionist, Mandalay Bay Las Vegas, 2011
- Rebels in Paris, Cimbalom Soloist with Vox Ama Deus Ensemble, Philadelphia, 2011
- Moravian Wind Symphony, Cimbalom Soloist and premiere performer, Moravian, PA 2011
- Reading Symphony Orchestra, Cimbalom Soloist, Reading, PA 2009
- IPEW Performer, Percussionist, Bjelovar, Croatia, 2009
- Kutztown University Wind Ensemble, Percussion Soloist at Lincoln Center, New York, 2009

Hailed as, "One of New York's most exciting musicians..." A.J. Merlino's intense and versatile performing style has made him a highly sought after percussionist. His playing has taken him around the world including Scotland, Croatia, Greece, Thailand, Australia, and Argentina. While residing in Las Vegas, he performed on the Las Vegas strip with such artists as Jay-Z, Redfoo of LMFAO, Ronnie Vannucci of The Killers, Eric Marienthal, and Cee Lo Green for the 2012 Billboard Music Awards. He has also collaborated with famed percussionists Michito Sanchez, Pepe Jimenez, Christian Tamburr, Bernie Dresel, and Kurt Rasmussen.

A.J. Merlino currently serves as the percussionist for Remember Jones, We Used to Cut the Grass, Bella Vita, Colton Kayser Band, and performs as a soloist for an electronic percussion show entitled Percussion avec l'électronique. He can be heard of various recordings including: *Ladies and Gentlemen, Remember Jones* – Percussionist for Remember Jones, *Woodpecker* – Percussionist for We Used to Cut the Grass, *Stranger Heads Prevail* – Percussionist for Thank You Scientist, *Lost Vegas* - Soloist and Principal Percussionist for UNLV Wind Orchestra CD, 2012, *Welcome to Las Vegas* - Ragtime Rebels Marimba Band CD, 2011, *Rebels in Paris* - Soloist and Section Percussionist for Vox Ama Deus Ensemble CD, 2011, *Colt Kayser EP* - Percussionist for Colt Kayser Band CD, 2010.

Merlino has worked as music director, composer and performer for many projects held at The Venetian, Mandalay Bay, MGM Grand, and Cosmopolitan in Las Vegas, as well as the production show Resurrecting Sin City, which premiered in Las Vegas and traveled to Adelaide, Australia. As a clinician, he has presented to numerous colleges, high schools, festivals and has worked for the International House of Blues with Kurt Rasmussen.



One of the few cimbalom soloists in the country, Merlino has performed as a soloist on this instrument with various college and professional ensembles such as Moravian Wind Symphony, Reading Symphony Orchestra, Vox Ama Deus Ensemble, and premiered the off-broadway production of The Vagabonds. A strong supporter of new music, Merlino uses his diverse skills on dozens of percussion instruments to commission new works from up and coming composers, such as a work for six-mallet marimba and choir by Los Angeles composer Justin Raines and new works for marimba by Casey Cangelosi and Pius Cheung. His work with new music also extends to numerous premieres utilizing various instrumentations by David T. Little, Virko Bailey, Jim Barnes, Scott Steele, Eric Whitacre, and Michael Daugherty.

Merlino holds percussion performance degrees from Kutztown University and the University of Nevada Las Vegas where he earned his Doctor of Musical Arts degree.

A.J. Merlino is the Director of Music Industry Studies/Assistant Professor of Music at Albright College, and CEO of the Reading Samba School.



Promotional Video Links

Video Compilation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qii2AZ9-R1o>

Remember Jones at Lincoln Hall

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL2rcE39jOu4Pp7YffflW_Tg5RAIJV8Cf

We Used to Cut the Grass - Woodpecker

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RTiH-PSqPPQ>

Billboard Music Awards - Percussionist for Cee Lo Green

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cgJZZ8o3ftw>

IBM Orchestra - Percussionist for IBM Conference

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Iq5HUG95jLM>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r2XnAwsUMOE>

Mocidade Rebelde with Kurt Rasmussen

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z7dpG7vZxbA>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V92m0M9UnTE>



Electronic Percussion Rep List

A Watched Pot – Owen Weaver

Can't See the Forest – Daniel Lentz

Dialogues II – Denis Eberhard (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qz14PQiDxPs>)

Memory Palace – Christopher Cerrone

Steal the Thunder – Jean Piche

Stop Speaking – Andy Akiho

Temazcal – Javier Alvarez (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=14GnGchoRzI>)



PERCUSSION

avec l'électronique

Featuring AJ Merlino



5th

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LUCAS OLIVERO (Argentina)
MOMO ISHIKAWA (Japan)
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