



Steven Bensusan

President, Blue Note Entertainment Group

Blue Note Entertainment Group was founded in 1981 by Steven's father, Danny Bensusan, with the opening of the legendary Blue Note Jazz Club in New York's Greenwich Village; one of the first contemporary venues in the country to present jazz in an intimate, upscale setting. Notable performances at Blue Note Jazz Club include sets by the late greats Dizzy Gillespie, Oscar Peterson, Sarah Vaughan, Lionel Hampton, Cab Calloway and Carmen McRae; as well as shows with contemporary jazz masters Dave Brubeck, Wynton Marsalis, Chick Corea, McCoy Tyner, Etta James, Keith Jarrett, Diana Krall, Chris Botti and Cassandra Wilson. The venue continues to present both jazz royalty and up-and-coming instrumentalists and vocalists seven days a week to regularly sold-out audiences. Striving for an international reputation of excellence, Steven Bensusan has led the expansion of the Blue Note brand overseas by spearheading the opening of multiple Blue Note Jazz Clubs in Japan (Tokyo, Osaka, Fukuoka and Nagoya) and in Milan, Italy.

Mr. Bensusan applied the jazz club model to a multi-genre venue concept with the opening of the B.B. King Blues Club and Grill at Times Square, New York in June of 2000. Over the past eight years, B.B. King Blues Club and Grill has grown to become New York City's premiere supper club venue, presenting a wide array of celebrated artists performing in a variety of genres including rock, jazz, R&B, hip hop, global, country, theater and cabaret. Notable performances include Aretha Franklin, James Brown, John Mayer, Mos Def, Bruce Hornsby, The Roots, Brian Wilson, Sonny Rollins, Isaac Hayes, Alicia Keys, Erykah Badu, Jeff Beck, Chuck Berry, Buddy Guy, Pat Benatar, Peter Dinklage and, of course, the venue's iconic namesake B.B. King, who continues to visit the club yearly.

In May of 2007, Steven Bensusan opened The Highline Ballroom in New York's newly trendy Meatpacking District. The 700-capacity venue specializes in cutting edge music and eclectic booking, quickly establishing itself as the hottest Manhattan showcase venue for major artists to perform personal sets. Noteworthy shows from The Highline's inaugural year include performances from Paul McCartney, Amy Winehouse, Rhianna, Gnarls Barkley, James Blunt, Lou Reed, KT Tunstall, Queen Latifah, Stevie Wonder, The Roots and Carlos Santana.

Mr. Bensusan is also a Grammy Award nominated and winning producer for his work with Half Note Records, the company he established in 1999 with the goal of capturing "Live at the Blue Note" performances. Half Note has recorded albums with Elvin Jones, Paquito D'Rivera, Arturo Sandoval, Kenny Garrett, McCoy Tyner and many more. Additionally, Mr. Bensusan is the head of the Blue Note Management Group, an artist management company for both established jazz icons (including pianist McCoy Tyner and vocalist Cassandra Wilson) and up and coming jazz newcomers. He has also managed talent booking for the Regattabar Jazz Club at the Charles Hotel in Cambridge since 2004.