

Contact:  
Sydney Masters  
212.580.0835  
[sydney@rcourihaycpr.com](mailto:sydney@rcourihaycpr.com)

## **Asherwood**

### **A magnificent estate in Carmel, Indiana Contents to be auctioned in support of The Great American Songbook Foundation**

On November 17 and 18, Guernsey's will be conducting a monumental, unreserved auction of the contents of Asherwood, one of America's most prominent homes.

Situated on more than a hundred acres in Carmel, Indiana (ranked among the nation's best places to live by many publications), the 50,000-square-foot mansion, massive second home and private golf club house (the grounds include two golf courses) were generously donated to the Great American Songbook Foundation by Bren Simon, wife of the late respected commercial real estate developer Melvin Simon. The auction event and preceding preview dates will provide first-time public access to the fabled estate.

Hundreds of ornate examples of antique and bespoke 20th-century furniture, furnishings and decor, substantial works of art, Oriental rugs and countless smaller objects, virtually all in pristine condition, will be sold. All of the approximately 1,000 lots being sold will be offered without minimum reserve. In addition to these 1,000 regular auction lots, a separate section of the event will be devoted to selling a substantial portion of Asherwood's vast library of antique books.

Also located in Carmel, the Great American Songbook Foundation, founded by accomplished vocalist, pianist and music preservationist Michael Feinstein, will directly benefit from the remarkable sale. Dedicated to preserving America's rich musical legacy, the Foundation's efforts focus on the work of such noted composers as George and Ira Gershwin, Irving Berlin, Cole Porter, Rodgers and Hammerstein, Lerner and Loewe and many other composers and performers whose collective body of work will live on through the important efforts of the Foundation.

Behind imposing entry gates, at the end of a majestic tree-lined drive, the Asherwood home and surrounding gardens are nothing short of breathtaking. Some say it would cost upwards of \$100 million, and many years' time, to duplicate this remarkable property today. For those who appreciate richly appointed furnishings, this auction will be like no other.

On November 10 and 11, as well as November 16, the public will be invited to inspect the Asherwood treasures to be auctioned. Those attending these preview days will also have the opportunity to make onsite purchases of specially selected items offered in a separate tag sale that will coincide with the preview.

For those unable to experience the grandeur of Asherwood in person, absentee bidding will be available via [LiveAuctioneers.com](http://LiveAuctioneers.com) and [Invaluable.com](http://Invaluable.com). Please visit [www.guernseys.com](http://www.guernseys.com) for the full event schedule or feel free to contact the auction house in New York.

#### **ABOUT GUERNSEY'S**

In its forty-third year, Guernsey's has built a reputation as the auction house known for representing the most extraordinary properties. From the largest auction in history (the ocean liner S.S. United States) to vintage racing cars on to artwork from the Soviet Union, pre-Castro Cuban cigars and the \$3 million baseball, the firm has few rivals when it comes to the presentation of wildly diverse artwork and artifacts. The John F. Kennedy, Franklin Roosevelt, Princess Diana, Elvis Presley, Jerry Garcia, John Coltrane, Dick Clark, Mickey Mantle and the Beatles events were all conducted by Guernsey's. The auction house is particularly proud of its work with the Library of Congress in the preservation of the complete Rosa Parks Archive.