



Glenn Miller Birthplace Society (GMBS), 122 W. Clark Street, Clarinda, IA 51632
712-542-2461 Contact: Shari Greenwood – shari@glennmiller.org

The Glenn Miller Birthplace Society - Is a private 501(c)3 non-profit organization formed in 1977. The Glenn Miller Birthplace Society receives no federal or state funding. The Society offers a membership program. The revenues raised from membership donations are used to support the operations of the Museum and the Glenn Miller Music Scholarship program.

Our Mission - The mission of the Glenn Miller Birthplace Society is to celebrate the music and memory of Alton Glenn Miller, America's favorite musical patriot.

History of the Music Scholarship Program—Since 1977, the Glenn Miller Birthplace Society has honored the music and memory of Glenn Miller by offering an annual scholarship competition open to high school seniors and college freshmen who intend to make music a part of their future. Students from across the country apply in two categories: vocal and instrumental with 10 vocal semi-finalists and 10 instrumental semi-finalists invited to compete live for the top 3 spots during the yearly Festival.

Eligibility – The competition is open to graduating high school seniors and first year college students who intend to make music a central part of their future.

NEW THIS YEAR – A 'REVAMPED' PRIZE PACKAGE - Three winners are selected from each category and perform at the Stage Show the next day during the Festival. This year, the Glenn Miller Society will award a total of \$36,000 (\$10,000 for 1st place, \$5,000 for 2nd place, and \$3,000 for 3rd place in each category) prize money. Please read the following information contained in this competition packet and good luck!

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE 2026 COMPETITION

Wednesday, May 20th - (5:00 PM (Central time) Deadline) – Application forms, Statement of Musical Intent, links (to musical selections being performed), and checklist.

Thursday, May 28th – The top 10 vocal and instrumental semi-finalists will be notified that they are proceeding to the live round of the Scholarship competition.

Tuesday, June 2nd – Coordinate with Shari all travel plans and arrangements while in Clarinda. (Additional information can be found in this packet).

Wednesday, June 10th - If a pianist to accompany the performance is required, there will be a practice session during the afternoon, and fee required, however, if no accompaniment is required, inform Shari.

Wednesday, June 10th – 7:00 pm – Meeting with all performers and/or parents to go over the guidelines for the competition. This is a required meeting.

Thursday, June 11th – 8:15 am – Instrumental semi-finalists will compete.

Thursday, June 11th - 1:00 pm - Vocal semi-finalists will compete.

Friday, June 12th – 8:00 am – Top 3 winners in each category will perform one tune and receive their prizes.

Thursday, June 25th – All 6 winners need to email Shari a short paragraph about their experience in Clarinda, the Scholarship Competition, and other highlights from the Festival so they may be included in our yearly post-Festival newsletter.



Communication and Submission of Files and Documents – Students who are interested in competing in the Music Scholarship Competition need to email Shari Greenwood, Executive Director GMBS at shari@glennmiller.org and request a Dropbox for submission of files and documents. Once you receive your Dropbox information, you can begin to upload the required files and documents as detailed in this packet. Any questions or concerns can be directed to Shari.

Application Requirements– Applicants need to fulfill the following requirements and have them uploaded to their Dropbox by **May 20th at 5:00 pm (Central time)**. Forms are included in this document and will also be available on our website: www.glennmiller.org/scholarship. When you have uploaded all documents, email Shari and let her know you have sent the required files.

- **Application Form** – You can enter in only ONE category (instrumental or vocal). Complete the application form, legibly, sign and have a parent sign and return via “Dropbox” procedure outlined in this document.
- **Audition Pieces**: Upload (2) music selections of your choice on YouTube and send Shari the links to your audition pieces. It is best to provide contrasting selections of ‘concert quality.’ The competition does not require Glenn Miller tunes to be performed, however if you are comfortable with the tunes, you may submit them. **REMEMBER**: This is a professional competition so concert quality dress and performance is expected.
- **Statement of Musical Intent**: Explain how music will become a central part of your future and why you have applied to the Glenn Miller Music Scholarship Competition.

Narrowing the Field- All entries will be graded by our professional staff of Music Educators who will narrow the applicants down to the top 10 in each category. Once the semi-finalists have been identified, they will be notified that they have been accepted to the live competition. Semi-finalists will be notified by Thursday, May 28th at which time they should make arrangements to travel to Clarinda for the Competition.

Judging the Competition: The competition is judged by professional Doctors of Musical Arts, using the State of Iowa Adjudication forms and the top 3 winners (in each category) will be announced. The judges will communicate with each student after their performance, giving tips and pointers and offering students the opportunity to discuss their performances. Prizes will be awarded on Friday morning during the Stage Show.

Travel Arrangements: We recognize the investment students make by participating in the Competition.

Semi-finalists traveling WITHOUT a parent/guardian will take advantage of our ‘home-stay’ arrangement and transportation.

- Semi-finalists will need to fly into the Kansas City, MO airport and arrive by noon or shortly after on Wednesday, June 10, 2026. Students will be picked up from the airport and driven to Clarinda, Iowa by one of our music Scholarship team members.
- We will arrange for a ‘homestay’ arrangement for students traveling without a parent, where one of our Clarinda residents will provide a room in their home and transportation while the students are in Clarinda.
- After the competition awards, students will be transported back to the Kansas City Airport for their return flight home. If students prefer to stay and enjoy the Festival, just let us know.



Semi-finalists traveling WITH a parent(s)/guardian(s) have several options. If the family decides to drive to Clarinda, or fly into Kansas City, they should plan to be here by noon or mid-afternoon on June 10th. Clarinda has 3 hotels: Cobblestone Inn 712-850-1471, Super 8 Inn 712-542-0013 or Celebrity Inn 712-542-5178. (We do have some residents who are able to house a student and a parent, and we can check into that option as well). Shari can help with coordination of transportation needs.

Something to consider when making your travel plans; the Glenn Miller Festival runs from June 11-13, 2026 and during this weekend, the love and support of our members and community of Clarinda embrace the Music Scholarship Competition and the students and families who visit and participate in the competition.

Clarinda is a charming, very small town and we hear, every year, heartwarming stories of how a participant from a large city, somewhere like New York, is embraced by the community from the moment they arrive in Clarinda. They are exposed to everything small town Iowa has to offer, and they arrive in Clarinda unknown to everyone and by the time they leave, they have made friends and family that they will cherish forever. Clarinda residents still sit around the coffee shops and 'brag' on the Scholarship competitors that came to town and 'wowed' us with their talents.

Participants have a unique opportunity to meet some of the entertainers and bands at the festival, sit and have a sandwich with other scholarship competitors and a local restaurant, and watch some of the best big band groups they will ever see. Our house band, the GMBS Big Band each year offers some of the competitors an opportunity to play with the group on the Thursday evening, downtown on the Square and Friday morning at the Stage Show. Jarrod Harrah, the Director of the GMBS Big Band will reach out to the students who show an interest in playing with the group. This is such a treat for both the students and those of us that attend the Stage Show. If you plan to stay longer and would like to see any of the concerts, please contact Shari.

2026 Glenn Miller Festival Concerts – The Festival Booklet contains all the information about the performers, meal events and history of the bands. This year we are featuring: The Glenn Miller Orchestra, The Tommy Dorsey Orchestra (along with their separate concerts, they will perform for the first time in Clarinda “Battle of the Bands” on Saturday evening), Gooch & His Big Band, Adam Swanson – Ragtime Piano Player, Moonlight Serenade Orchestra, Dr. Richardson & the Northwest Missouri Big Band performing at the Saturday morning pancake feed, opening Festival picnic downtown on the town Square followed by the GMBS Big Band led by Jarrod Harrah, ‘Producing the Glenn Miller Story’ historical presentation and panel discussion by Dennis Spragg of Glenn Miller Collections and much more. The complete booklet can be found at www.glennmiller.org/festival

Glenn Miller Birthplace Museum – The 3,000 sq. ft. Museum, located within our visitor center, will immerse you in the life of Glenn Miller. The Museum is divided into several sections that help to tell the fascinating story of Glenn’s rise to stardom, his service in World War II, and the impact his music has had through the decades. One of a kind artifacts and rotating special exhibits make each visit a unique experience.

Glenn Miller Birthplace Home – Next to the Glenn Miller Museum lies the original birthplace home of the legendary band leader and musician. On March 1, 1989, Glenn Miller’s daughter, Jonnie Dee Miller, purchased the home where her father was born 85 years earlier. The Glenn Miller Birthplace Society manages the preservation, maintenance and interpretation of the home.

Both the Museum and Birthplace Home are open from 10:00 to 3:00 pm during the Festival.

2026 GMBS Music Scholarship Competition
122 W. Clark Street, Clarinda, Iowa 51632 712-542-2461

APPLICATION FORM

Deadline for all documents: May 20th, 5:00 pm (Central Time) 2026

- Meeting Wednesday, June 10th – 7:00 pm at Glenn Miller Birthplace Museum
- Competition – Thursday, June 11th - 8:15 am – Instrumental / 1:00 pm - Vocal
- Awards / Stage Show – Friday, June 12, 2026 – 8:00 am

NAME _____ **EMAIL** _____

AGE AS OF JUNE 11, 2026 _____ **GRADE IN SCHOOL ENTERING 2027** _____

ADDRESS _____ **CITY** _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____

PHONE _____ **PARENT NAME** _____

PARENT / GUARDIAN PHONE & ADDRESS _____

ENTERING COMPETITION AS **INSTRUMENTALIST** **WHAT INSTRUMENT** _____

VOCALIST **VOICE TYPE:** _____

NAME OF SONGS SUBMITTED WITH APPLICATION: _____

If chosen as a semi-finalist, I will travel to Clarinda, Iowa at my own expense on June 10, 2026 for practice with accompanist (if needed) and for the meeting on the evening of the 10th. I will be available for the competition on Thursday, June 11th and the awards/stage show on Friday, June 12th (if one of the top 3 winners)

(DO NOT APPLY IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO TRAVEL TO CLARINDA FOR THIS EVENT

YOU MUST HAVE PARENT OR GUARDIAN APPROVAL TO APPLY FOR THE COMPETITION)

SIGNATURE OF SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANT:

SIGNATURE OF PARENT / GUARDIAN:

DEADLINE FOR ALL FORMS 5:00 PM (Central Time) ON MAY 20, 2026