

**ON THE ROAD**  
The World Famous  
**GLENN MILLER ORCHESTRA**  
The One and Only  
**TOMMY DORSEY ORCHESTRA**  
and  
**JUKEBOX SATURDAY NIGHT**  
Big Band Newsletter #239

**NEWS FROM THE ROAD...**

**Fall Tour 2025: October-November**

By Jenny Swoish



The leaves are falling, the holidays are quickly approaching, and we are touring! This leg of our tour began in mid-October and ended in late November, and my, my, we covered some ground!

**Back to Work!**

We regrouped in the "city of brotherly love" (Philadelphia), but we immediately headed south to our nation's capitol, **Washington, D.C.**



We were in town to play a venue that has been on our “bucket list”:

**The White House?**



Psych! It was the **Kennedy Center!**



We did not play the big hall, rather one of the smaller theaters within the complex. It was an amazing milestone nonetheless, and a beautiful show.





But the real party started when we headed over to the bar for a late-night set at the “**speakeasy**” which turned into a **jam session**.

What a memorable evening! It was our first time playing The Kennedy Center, but we have a feeling it won't be the last.

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Up next, a fun concert at the **Des Plaines Theater** with a dance floor in front of the stage.



One of our favorite October shows was at **The Strand** in **Shreveport, Louisiana**.

The Strand Theatre opened in **1925** as a Vaudeville venue and was nicknamed “The greatest theatre of the South”, and we can see why! The details on the ceiling medallion and stage apron were stunning, complete with a lavish front curtain.



### Give These Kids Extra Credit!

This group of students drove **two and a half hours** to see our Shreveport show! They are their members of their high school's jazz band and were very happy to attend the show, even if it meant staying out late on a school night.

## Festive for Fall

We took the Chattanooga Choo Choo route and made a few stops in the 'Volunteer State': **Chattanooga** (of course), **Cleveland, TN**, and **Jonesborough, TN** were on the list this round.

We love seeing all the festive decor around our various stops.



Speaking of festive!? Below, we have what appears to be a cross between a harvest/Halloween...scarecrow? It gets double points for the use of *both* seasonal gourds and scary elements. Not sure who (or what) it's trying to scare off...but it nearly worked on us!



We said “nearly”! Yes, we stuck around to play a fun show at the **Harvester Center in Rocky Mount, VA.**

Originally built in 1945, this performing arts venue used to be an **International Harvester tractor dealership** as well as a hardware and dry goods store. Still bearing the Harvester name, it now serves as a performing and cultural arts space for local and touring acts alike.

We love coming back here (they always feed us so well), so, thank you!



### **Blowing Overtime!**

Whenever we get new musicians out on the band, we have to fit in a few extra rehearsals when we can.

Here are some of our new reed section guys looking over some of the music with our lead trumpeter **Ashley Hall**.

Hey, it never hurts to brush up on the classics, no matter how long you’ve been on the road!



## Virginia is for (Music) Lovers

We played a our last couple of Southern shows for the year in Virginia. It was fun to see both new and familiar faces in the Commonwealth.

Below, you can see a good amount of the **veterans** who stood to be recognized at our show in **Waynesboro, VA**- although we couldn't fit them all in the frame.

Thank you, Veterans! It is our honor to play for you!



And how cool are these creative “**Glenn Miller**” themed drink specials they had out at the bar!

“**YOU’ve Got a Gal in Kalamazoo!**”  
(If you say so, haha!)



We also ran into the daughter of fellow legendary bandleader, **Vaughn Monroe**.

Here's our vocalist Jenny with Ms. **Candy**, who just so happened to be volunteering that evening as an usher.

It's a small world, especially in big bands!

## Vi-VA la Beach!

While in Virginia, we stopped in **Virginia Beach** to play a lovely concert.





And we couldn't go to *Virginia Beach* without taking a gander at the ocean (before the weather gets too wintry). Along the way, we ran into good ol' Poseidon presiding over the board walk.

It's amazing what a cup of hotel lobby coffee and a little sunshine can do for the soul!



[ photo: Joe Young IV ]



### Any Way You Slice It...

We all get the post-show munchies every now and then...

Our pianist, **Nate**, decided to save some of his pizza dinner for just such an occasion.

We thought he *might* have enough to share, but we were surprised to find that this box was only for his *one piece*?!

Looks like we'll have to take a rain check on a GMO pizza party...

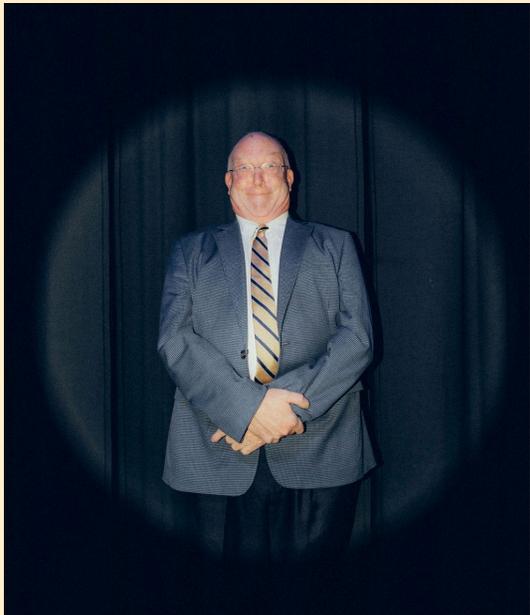
## Playin' in PA

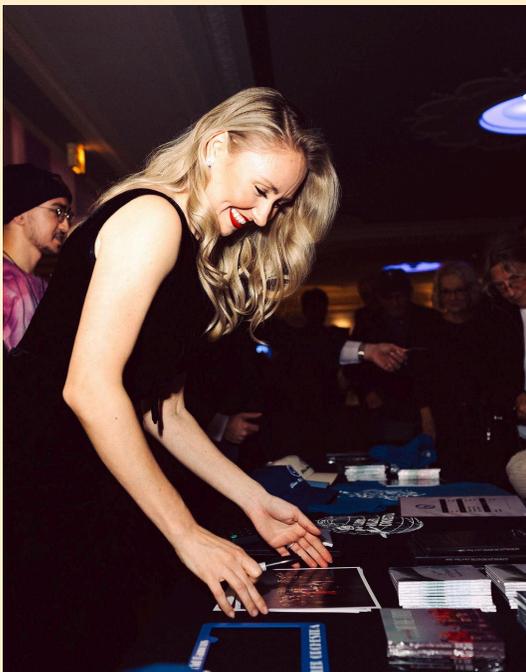
**The Keswick** in **Glenside, PA** is a favorite venue for the band. It's always a great turnout, the staff is friendly, and there's a Primo Hogie's right across the street (if you know, you know).

This time, we had the talented **Sava** taking some photos of our concert. Sava is a professional photographer who spends much of her time photographing weddings, but her skills translate perfectly to capture our show. She is a big fan of the band and we're sure glad she is! Here is some of her beautiful work below:









### Can't Miss Scranton!

Known as the setting for the hit TV show "The Office", **Scranton, PA** was ready to have us back for another round.

We didn't see Michael Scott in attendance, but we did meet this "**little boss**" at the venue.

Here he is overseeing transport of the piano for the evening.

He even signed off on the merch commission at the end of the night!

Get that kid a raise, he's going places!





## Happy Birthday, Dean!

Our drummer, Dean, celebrated his birthday this month the best way one can on the road: a feast at Denny's with friends and a scratch-off lottery ticket.

He didn't win the jackpot this time, but he's always a winner to us.

## Midwest, for the Moment...

We got right back to work with a show in **Waverly, OH**. We were thrilled to have the **Waverly High School jazz band** join us for "In the Mood".

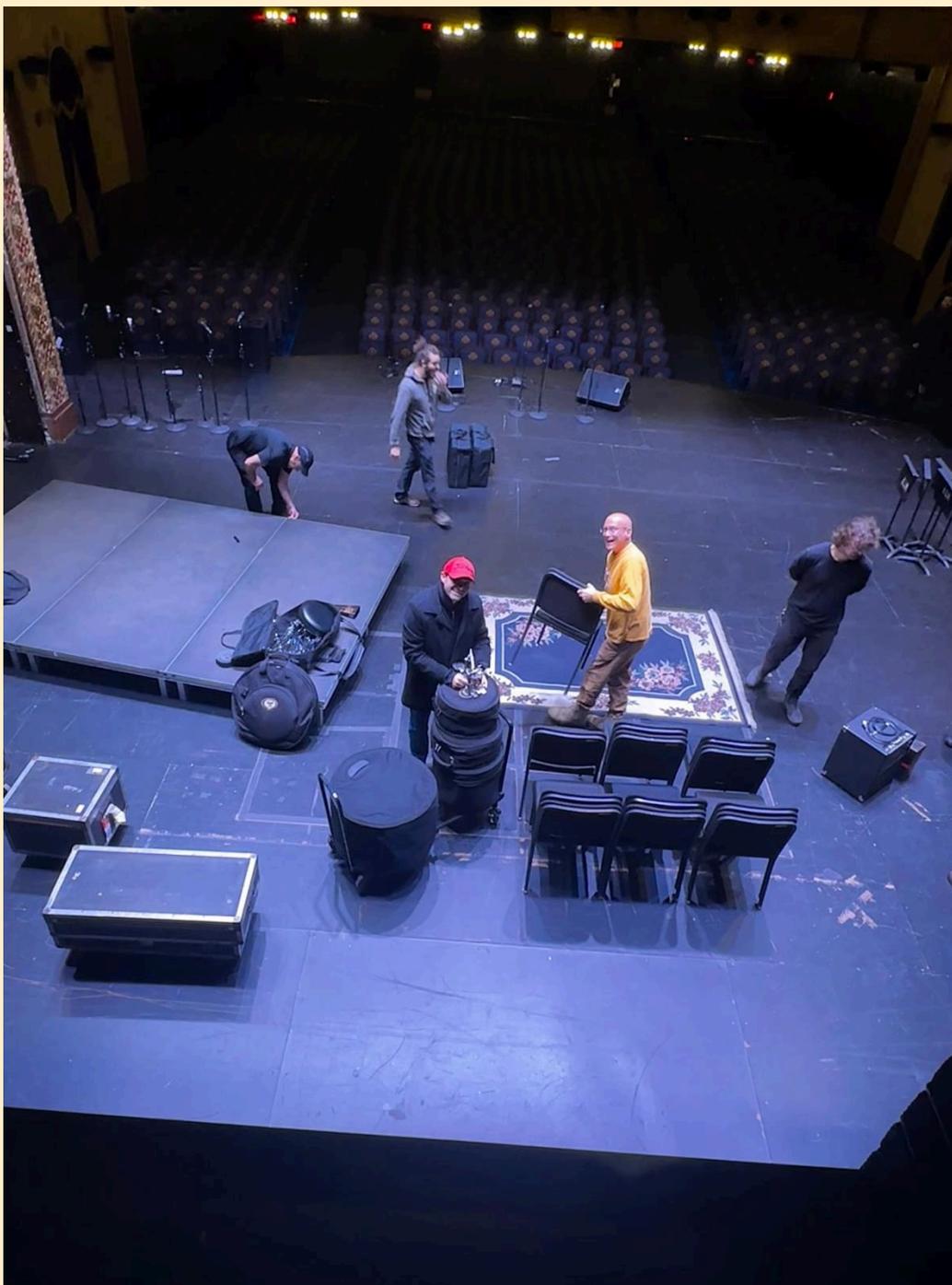


Before the show, the familiar sound of scratchy records floated through the cafeteria as folks enjoyed a meal benefiting the high school band program.

How amazing is this personal collection of **Glenn Miller memorabilia!**?







### "The Buckee Blues"?

This photo taken by trumpeter Ashley Hall during sound check.

It almost looks like it could be our pianist Nate's new album cover.

We're not in "Buckee" territory at the moment and the no-beaver-nugget and brisket blues are real...

If you've ever experienced a Buckee's in person, you know what we mean!



### A Swoop of Swoishes?

Jenny was happy to have some family come out to the show.

The Swoish clan has lived in and around Ann Arbor for many years, so this was the perfect date for them to catch the band.

Jenny's dad is also modeling his brand new, handy-dandy "Glenn Miller Orchestra" **license plate frame!**



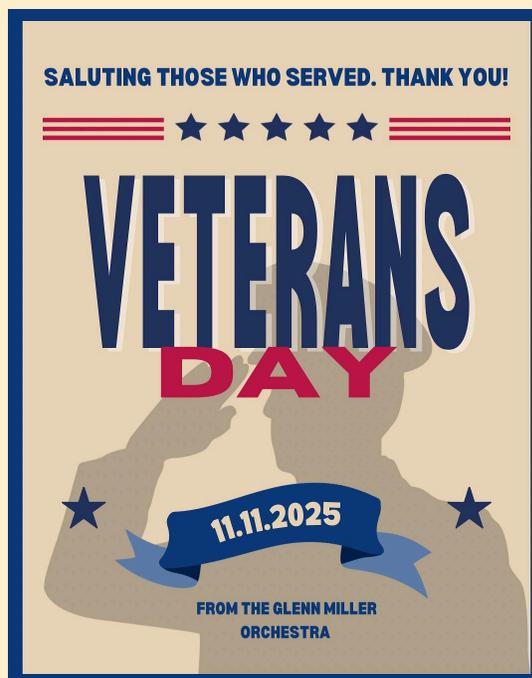
**Thank You, Veterans!**

We celebrated Veterans Day with a show in **Lafayette, IN** at the **Long Center**. We played a number of patriotic songs beyond what we normally would in a 'typical' show-including "America the Beautiful", "The White Cliffs of Dover" and a "**Salute to the Armed Forces**".

We asked members who served in each branch to stand during the excerpt of their song. It was moving to see all the different folks representing their particular outfit.

We are so thankful for our veterans and active-duty service men and women.

We salute you each and every day and thank you for your service and sacrifice!



## GMO vs. TDO



### Battle of the Bands

We answered the call to "battle" with the **Tommy Dorsey Orchestra** in **Shipshewana, IN**.

We love playing the Blue Gate Performing Arts Center, and its extra-large stage is the *perfect* size for a round of "**Battle of the Big Bands**".

This show was truly electric: both bands onstage taking turns playing their respective hits.

While it's difficult to say who "won", we certainly had a wonderful time.

The show ended in 'neutral territory' with both bands together playing Benny Goodman's "Sing, Sing, Sing", complete with a dueling drum solo between the two drummers. It was a night to remember and we can't wait for the next one!



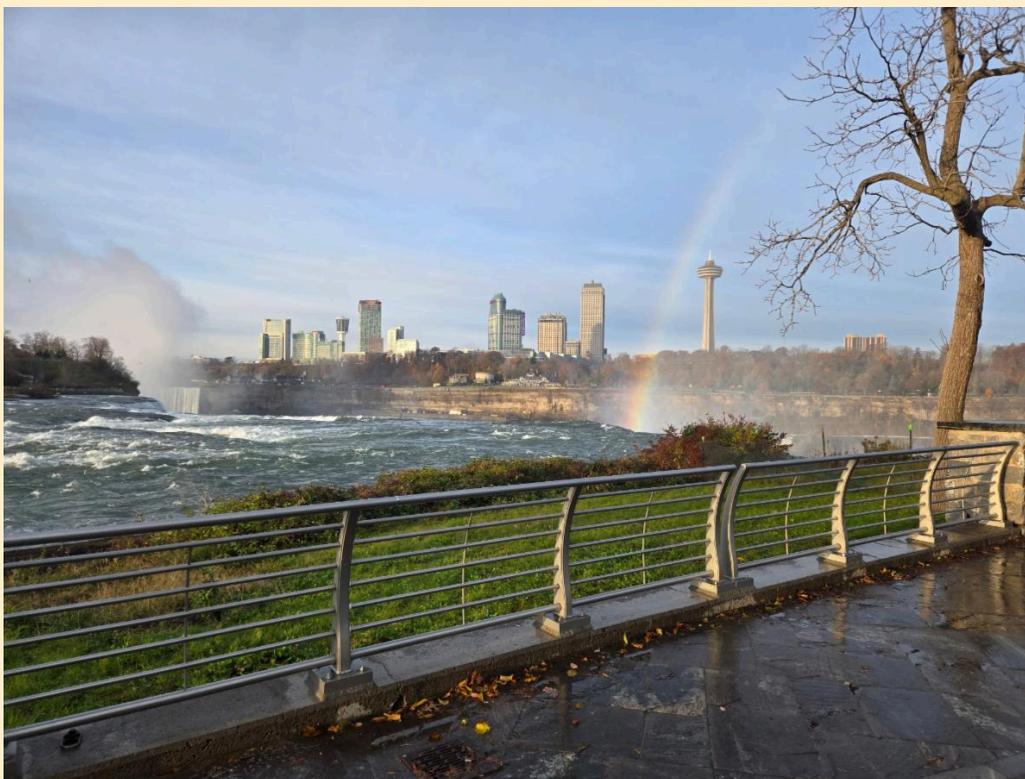


We found some familiar faces in the ranks of the TDO, many of which have spent time on the road with us before.

Here are some of the **members of both trombone sections** getting nice and friendly after a great show.

## Novemberrrr in the Northeast

**Western New York** was next! We stayed the night on the US side of **Niagara Falls** (photo credit: Derek Kwong) and made our way over to **Syracuse** for an evening appearance.



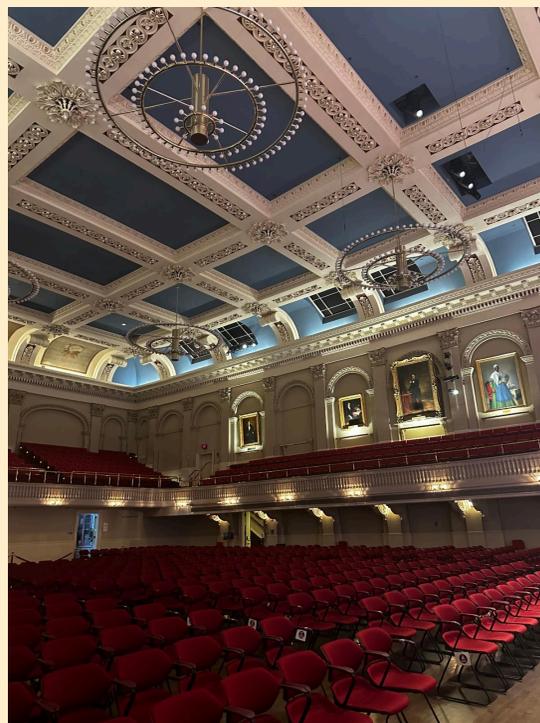
Here's our trumpeter **Joe** and lead clarinetist/saxophonist **Kevin** kicking off "**Puddle Wump**", one of our favorite charts to borrow from the **Tommy Dorsey** library (written and arranged by Charlie Shavers in 1949).



### Couldn't Be Bettah in Wuhstah!

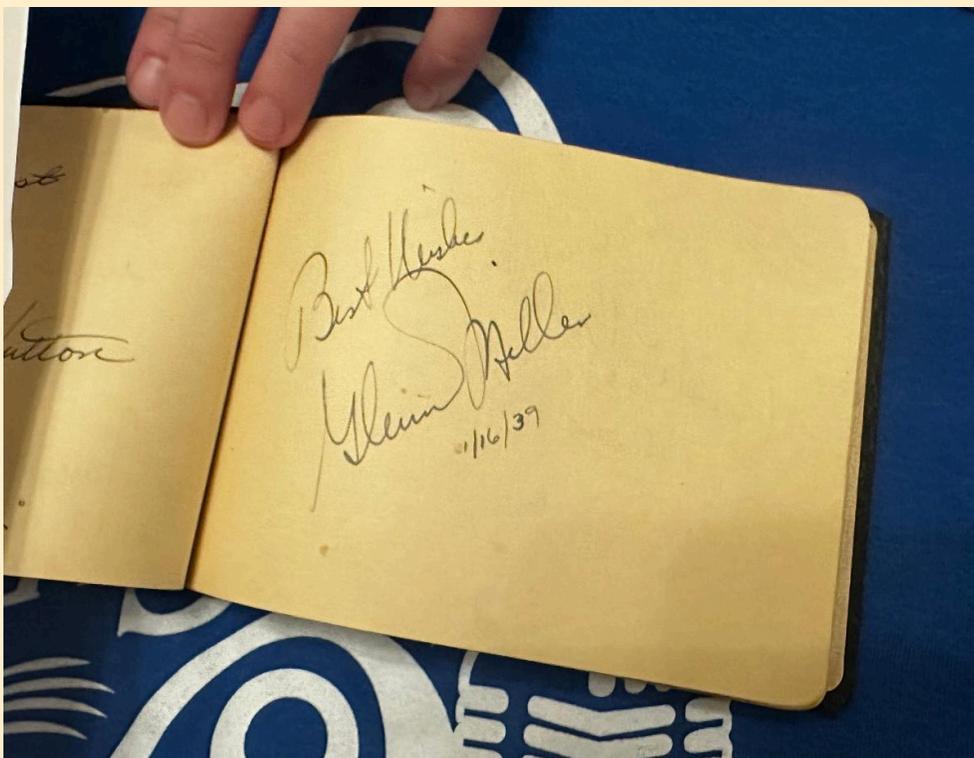
We stopped through **Worcester, MA** again to play the beautiful **Mechanics Hall**.

This year, they put a **dance floor** at the back of the hall and it was so much fun!

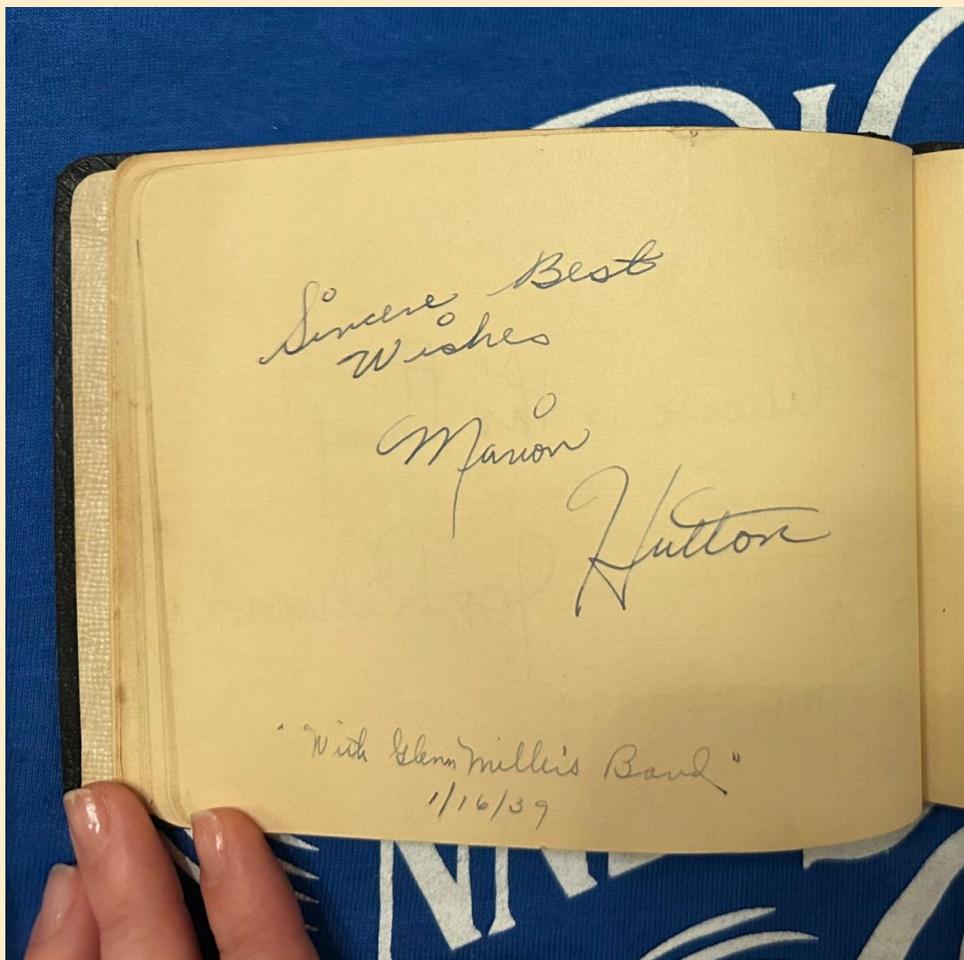




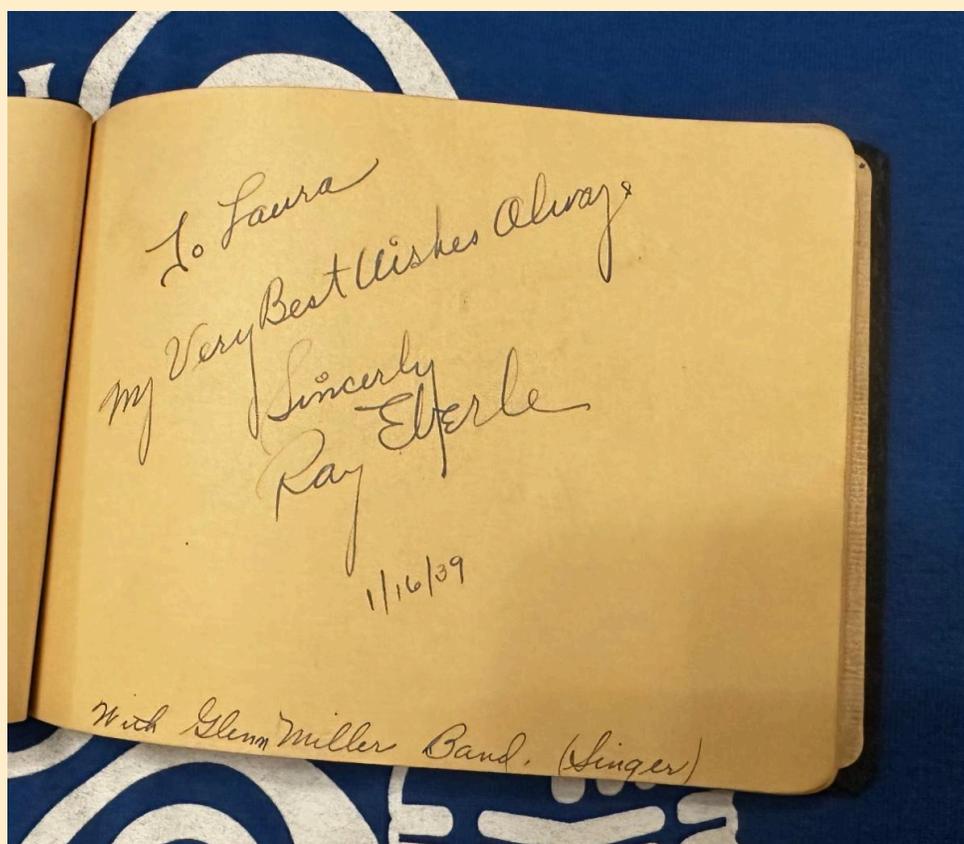
A fan brought her mother's **autograph book** to show us some signatures she thought we might recognize. How neat!



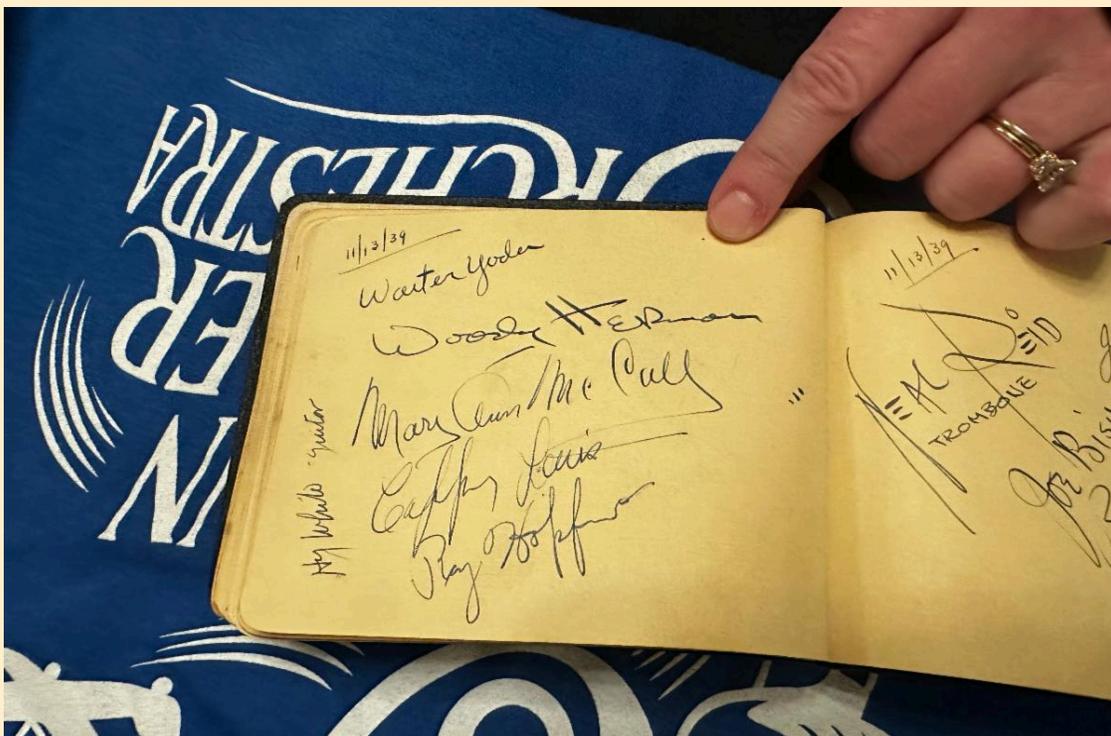
Glenn Miller - 1/16/39



Marion Hutton (Glenn Miller's female vocalist) - 1/16/39



Ray Eberle (Glenn Miller's male vocalist) - 1/16/39



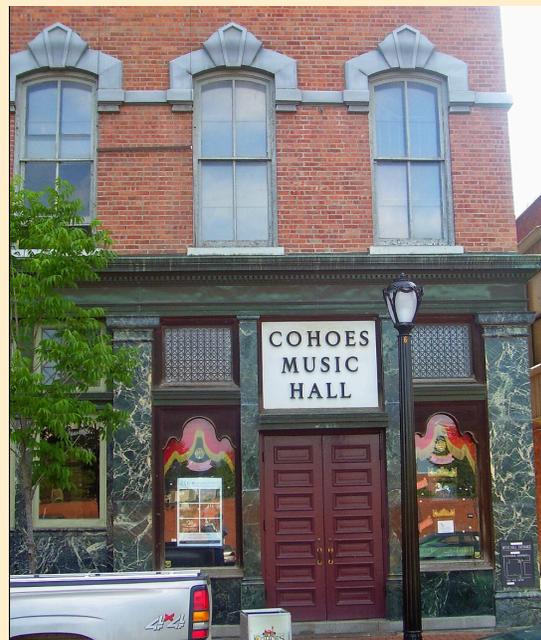
Woody Herman & members of his band - 11/13/39

## Just Be-Cohoes

### Venue Feature: Cohoes Music Hall

Back up to **Albany**, or rather **Cohoes, NY** for a show in their historic **Cohoes Music Hall**.

Situated in a four-story brick building (and built in **1874!**) this venue is considered the best example of **Second Empire architecture** in the city. This architectural style was popular from 1855-1885 and was inspired by the rebuilding of Paris under Napoleon III. Second Empire buildings are often large (at least two or three stories) and symmetrical, with a monumental and ornate feel.



There are many beautiful elements of this theater, but our favorites were this elaborately painted **ceiling** and the **green marble facade** of the street level entrance. Much of the original interior furnishings and decor remain as well.



It is the fourth-oldest music hall currently in use in the country and was added to the **National Register of Historic Places** in 1971.

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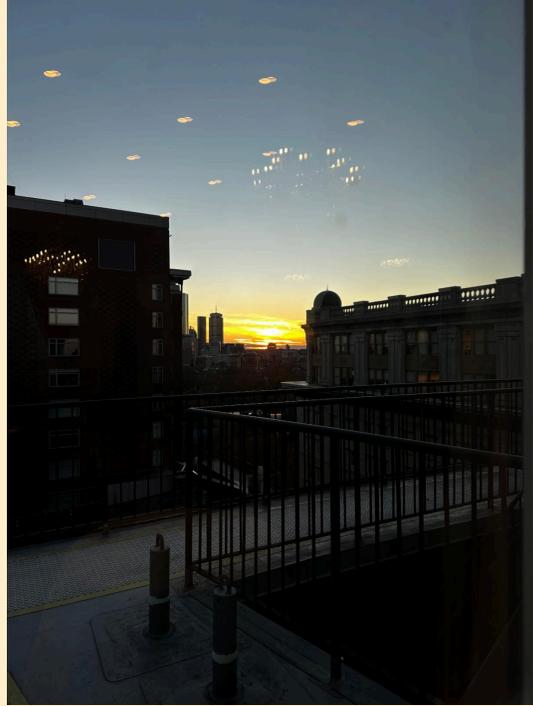
## Boston Bound

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We were just about bouncing in the aisle to get to **Boston** for another dance at the **OMNI Parker House**.



Beautiful and historic, the Parker House has hosted us nearly every year in their rooftop ballroom to play the holiday hits while folks dance the night away.



## Take the Cake!

In many ways, this gig takes the cake for us. But this year we took it- *literally*. Now, this is not just any cake, but rather a **Boston Cream Pie**. The *ORIGINAL* Boston cream pie!

French chef Augustine Francois Anezin created the dessert for the Parker House Hotel's opening in **1856**.

At that time "pie" and "cake" were often used interchangeably, as cakes were frequently baked in pie tins. It later became the official state dessert of Massachusetts in 1996.



Usually, they serve us smaller, individual "pies" during the band dinner. But this year they pulled out the big guns and put out a couple of full-size, Mama-Cass whoppers!

We cut into the first one during dinner...and we absconded with the second one for later enjoyment!

But we had the *most* fun capturing this "oversized" version in all its confectionary glory.

We later whacked into it, as you can see below.





## Run to the Barn

You know how they say a horse walks quicker as it gets closer to the barn? Well, that was us with the last few shows heading into our **Thanksgiving break**. Not that we didn't enjoy them- we did. But as the break got closer and closer, we found we were more and more ready for a little time off.

### Hot Time in Harwich

We played a double-header in **Harwich, MA**. We enjoyed the display of **military memorabilia**, but we really loved connecting with the fans. Thanks again for having us!



## Bob's River?

We mean Tom's River! **Tom's River, NJ**, that is.

But we did meet former GMO band member **Bob Mignella**. He played alto saxophone with the band from **1955-1957**.



## Green Light in Greenwich!

Back in **Greenwich, RI** at the **Odeum**.

Here's the backside of our bus right in front of marquee.

We played a matinee, but naturally it was dark by 4pm...

Jenny made best friends with the space heater backstage (it was chilly!).

But we like to think we brought a little warmth to the Northeast through the music...



## Newport, NH! (Last show before break, woohoo!)

This one really got us in the holiday spirit. The theater was decorated with garland, wreaths and lights, and folks danced all night down in front of the stage to Glenn's hits and holiday classics. What a great vibe and a perfect way to wrap up this leg of the tour!



**Phew! That was a lot for the Fall Tour.  
Thanks for following along!**

**We hope you have a blessed & Happy Thanksgiving!**

Stay tuned for our holiday concert dates (see schedule below).  
It's just about time to get in the "Christmas Mood"!

See you on the road...



[ Photo credit: Sava Kha Photo ]

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Visit our Website

## Upcoming Glenn Miller Orchestra Shows

12/03/25 Devos Performance Hall - Grand Rapids, MI  
12/05/25 Victoria Theatre - Dayton, OH  
12/06/25 State Theatre - Logansport, IN  
12/09/25 Artcraft Theatre - Franklin, IN  
12/10/25 The Franklin Theatre - Franklin, TN  
12/11/25 The Franklin Theatre - Franklin, TN  
12/13/25 Luhrs Center - Shippensburg, PA  
12/14/25 Landmark on Main Street - Port Washington, NY  
12/16/25 Stambaugh Auditorium - Youngstown, OH  
12/17/25 The Ware Center - Lancaster, PA  
12/18/25 Tarrytown Music Hall - Tarrytown, NY  
12/19/25 Omni Mount Washington Resort - Bretton Woods, NH  
12/20/25 Waterville Opera House - Waterville, ME  
12/21/25 Place des Arts - Montreal, QC  
12/22/25 Grand Theatre de Quebec - Quebec, QC  
12/23/25 National Arts Centre - Ottawa, ON  
12/31/25 Steinmetz Hall - Orlando, FL

01/01/26 Mahaffey Theatre - St. Petersburg, FL  
01/02/26 Kravis Center - West Palm Beach, FL  
01/22/26 The Moss Center - Cutler Bay, FL  
01/23/26 The Sharon, The Villages  
01/24/26 Ormond Beach PAC - Ormond Beach, FL  
01/25/26 Studio Theatre - Melbourne, FL  
01/26/26 Terry Theater - Jacksonville, FL  
01/28/26 Drendel Auditorium - Hickory, NC  
01/29/26 Meymandi Concert hall - Raleigh, NC  
01/30/26 The Carolina Theatre - Greensboro, NC

02/01/26 Wells Hall at The Parker - Fort Lauderdale, FL

02/03/26 Turner Auditorium at TSC - Tallahassee, FL  
02/04/26 Chipley High School - Chipley, FL  
02/05/26 Naval Air Museum - Pensacola, FL  
02/06/26 Bama Theatre - Tuscaloosa, AL  
02/10-12/26 Candlelight Dinner Playhouse - Johnstown, CO  
02/15/26 Popejoy Hall - Albuquerque, NM  
02/18/26 Texas A&M-Corpus Christi - Corpus Christi, TX  
02/20/26 The Grand 1894 Opera House - Galveston, TX  
02/22-23/26 Manship Theatre - Baton Rouge, LA  
02/24/26 Memorial City Hall Performance Center - Marshall, TX  
02/28/26 Jim & Linda Lee PAC - Prescott, AZ

Visit our Tour Schedule

## Trivia Contest

Be the first person to answer our trivia question correctly and win the CD "Glenn Miller Orchestra - 80th Anniversary of the Army Air Force Band."

**Question:** Which female vocalist and future talk show host sang and recorded with Glenn Miller & His Army Air Force Band?

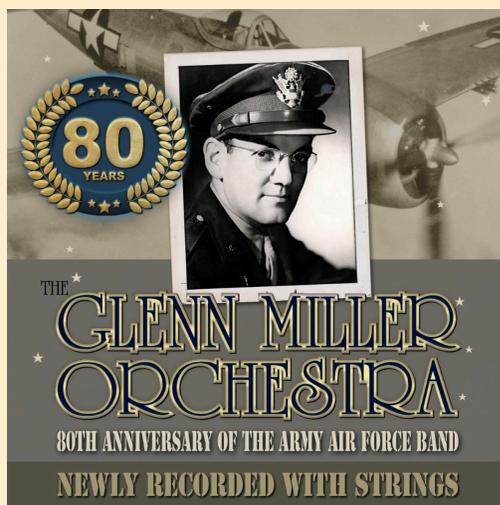
**Our last newsletter trivia question and answer:**

**Question:** What female vocalist sang on Tommy Dorsey's recording of "The Music Goes 'Round and 'Round?"

**Answer:** Edythe Wright

**GOOD LUCK! Click here to answer: [maureen@glennmillerorchestra.com](mailto:maureen@glennmillerorchestra.com)**

Congratulations to Terry from Orlando, FL who won the CD "Glenn Miller Orchestra - 80th Anniversary of the Army Air Force Band."



## Newly Released Authentic Arrangements from the Glenn Miller Orchestra Library

A new publication of "On The Trail," arranged by the legendary clarinetist Buddy DeFranco for the Glenn Miller Orchestra in 1972, is now being released to the public for the first time. This lively arrangement showcases DeFranco's unique mix of swing and modern jazz, adding new energy to Ferde Grofé's classic Grand Canyon Suite movement. Fans of big band music and jazz history alike can now experience the intricate harmonies and dynamic orchestrations that defined the Glenn Miller Orchestra's post-war sound under DeFranco's artistic direction. This long-awaited release offers a rare glimpse into a remarkable era of American jazz innovation.

- "On The Trail" - arranged by Buddy DeFranco - [Hard Copy Link](#) / [Download Link](#)

Also available for purchase on [eJazzLines.com](http://eJazzLines.com), these are not transcriptions—they're the original, authentic arrangements straight from the Glenn Miller Orchestra library. Carefully preserved and newly published, these charts capture the unmistakable sound of America's most iconic big band. Featured titles include:

- "Strike Up the Band" – arranged by Bill Finegan - [Hard Copy Link](#) / [Download Link](#)
- "I Know That You Know" – arranged by Bill Finegan - [Hard Copy Link](#) / [Download Link](#)
- "Peg O' My Heart" – arranged by Deane Kincaide - [Hard Copy Link](#) / [Download Link](#)
- "'S Wonderful" – arranged by Deane Kincaide - [Hard Copy Link](#) / [Download Link](#)

Perfect for advanced ensembles and Miller enthusiasts, these classic swing-era gems are now available for the first time in officially licensed editions.

## • *The One and Only* Tommy Dorsey Orchestra



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<https://www.tommydorseyorchestra.net/>

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### UPCOMING TOMMY DORSEY ORCHESTRA PERFORMANCES

12/02/25 Memorial Auditorium - Dawson, MN

12/05/25 Goddard Center - Ardmore, OK

02/28/26 Corning Museum of Glass - Corning, NY

03/01/26 The Theater at Innovation Square - Rochester, NY

03/19/26 Carolina Hotel - Pinehurst, NC

03/20/26 Williams High School - Burlington, NC

03/21/26 Hazleton Area High School - Hazleton, PA

03/22/26 Zoellner Arts Center - Bethlehem, PA

03/26/26 Lincoln Community Theatre - New Martinsville, WV

04/11/26 South Orange PAC - South Orange, NJ

04/12/26 Greenwich Odeum - East Greenwich, RI

04/13/26 Harwich Cultural Center - Harwich, MA

04/26/26 Glazer hall - Palm Beach, FL

07/02/26 Clayton Opera House - Clayton, NY

07/16/26 Lawrenceburg Crockett Theatre - Lawrenceburg, TN

View full tour schedule: [SCHEDULE](#)

## Jukebox Saturday Night

(managed by Glenn Miller Productions, Inc.)



Follow **JUKEBOX SATURDAY NIGHT** on its website: <https://www.jbsaturdaynight.com/>

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/jbsaturdaynight> and

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/jbsaturdaynight/>

### UPCOMING JUKEBOX SATURDAY NIGHT PERFORMANCES

02/06/26 Heritage Center - Dubuque, IA  
02/20/26 Englewood Methodist Church - Englewood, FL  
03/07/26 Sturges-Young Center - Sturgis, MI  
03/21-22/26 Kalif Shrine Center - Sheridan, WY  
04/04/26 Firehouse Center for the Arts - Newburyport, MA  
04/10/26 Hettenhausen Center - Lebanon, IL  
04/12/26 PAC of Wisconsin Rapids - Wisconsin Rapids, WI

View full tour schedule: [SCHEDULE](#)

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