

THE WORLD FAMOUS

GLENN MILLER ORCHESTRA®

Suggested leads:

- ...**A Legend Lives On**
- ...**The Glenn Miller Orchestra Plays Here**
- ...**The Miller Sound Lives Forever!**
- ...**Glenn Miller Orchestra Swings Into (location) on (day)**
- ...**(Venue/city) In The Mood for the Glenn Miller Orchestra**

The first **Glenn Miller Orchestra** did not make it at all. It was a total and absolute economic failure. But Glenn knew what he wanted, held to that dedication and relentlessly worked to succeed. He launched his second band – the one that lives on today – in March of 1938. The Glenn Miller Orchestra has been a “hit” ever since.

The legendary Glenn Miller was one of the most successful of all dance bandleaders back in the Swing Era of the 1930’s and 40’s. A matchless string of hit records, the constant impact of radio broadcasts and the drawing power at theatres, hotels and dance pavilions, built and sustained the momentum of popularity.

Glenn disbanded his musical organization in 1942 at the height of its popularity to volunteer for the Army. There, he organized and led the famous **Glenn Miller Army Air Force Band**. It went to Europe to entertain servicemen performing numerous live and radio shows. On December 15, 1944, Major Miller took off in a single engine plane from Europe to precede his band to France, disappearing over the English Channel, never to be seen again. The army declared him officially dead a year later.

With the release of the major motion movie **The Glenn Miller Story** featuring Jimmy Stewart and June Allyson in 1954, interest and popular demand led the Miller Estate to authorize the formation of the present Glenn Miller Orchestra. On June 6, 1956, and under the direction of drummer Ray McKinley who had become the unofficial leader of the Army Air Force Band after Glenn’s disappearance, the reformed Glenn Miller Orchestra performed its first concert and has been on the road ever since. Other leaders have followed Ray including clarinetists Buddy DeFranco and Peanuts Hucko, trombonists Buddy Morrow, Jimmy Henderson, Larry O’Brien and Gary Tole, tenor saxophonist Dick Gerhart, and vocalist Nick Hilscher. Since September 2021, tenor saxophonist / vocalist Erik Stabnau leads the band.

Today, the ensemble continues to play many of the original Miller arrangements from both the civilian band and the AAFB libraries. Additionally, it also plays some more modern selections arranged and performed in the Miller style and sound.

Just as it was in Glenn’s day, the **Glenn Miller Orchestra** today is still the most sought after big band in the world.

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Some Notes of Interest

The **Glenn Miller Orchestra** is owned and operated by Glenn Miller Productions, Inc., under license from the Miller Estate. Glenn Miller Productions, Inc., has the sole and exclusive right to use the **Glenn Miller Orchestra** name.

The **Glenn Miller Orchestra** is a fully self-contained group consisting of the music director, saxophonists, trumpeters, trombonists, and three rhythm musicians (piano, bass and drums). Also, there are two vocalists, one male and one female, who perform individually and as part of ***The Moonlight Serenaders***® vocal group.

The big-band business today requires almost constant travel as a result of an arduous schedule of one-night stands. The **Glenn Miller Orchestra** is “on the road” longer and more continuously than any other in the whole world, celebrating its 70th year anniversary on June 6, 2026. It covers over a hundred thousand miles a year, working most every night for 48 weeks out of every 52-nearly 300 playing dates, performing for an “in person” audience that adds up to more than a half million people annually.

The orchestra has performed in all 50 United States, as well as throughout Europe, Australia, Iceland, New Zealand, Guam, the Philippines, South and Central America. Additionally, the orchestra has toured Japan annually since 1964.

The “Road Book” carried by the **Glenn Miller Orchestra** adds up to over 300 charts-many of them out of the original library. Today, the complete library totals over 1,700 compositions including all of the original charts from both the civilian band and the Army Air Force Band.

Of course, all of the biggest hits are included in a regular program. But so are arrangements of less well-known tunes like ***The White Cliffs of Dover, Rainbow Rhapsody, Everybody Loves My Baby, and That’s Sabotage***. The Miller library features contributions from many fine arrangers including Bill Finegan, Jerry Gray, Billy May, Mort Lindsay, Deane Kinkaide, Joe Cribari, and Dave Wolpe. They have added such numbers as ***Over the Rainbow, September Morn, The Body Electric*** from the T.V. series *Fame*, ***Up Where We Belong***, from the hit movie *An Officer and a Gentleman*, and ***Star Wars/War of The Stars***.

The **Glenn Miller Orchestra** has always been very musical, disciplined, and visually entertaining. And it has its own distinctive “sound.”

That sound is created by the clarinet holding the melodic line, doubled or coupled with the tenor sax playing the same notes; and the harmonies produced by three other saxophones, while growling trombones and wailing trumpets add their oo-ahs.

Glenn Miller and His Orchestra made a big impact right before and during the war. And it had more hit records in one year than anybody in the history of the recording industry. In fact, its recording of *Chattanooga Choo-Choo* earned the first Gold Record ever awarded to a performing artist. Additional Gold Record recordings include “In the Digital Mood” and “In The Christmas Mood,” Volume I & II.

Back in the days of the big band era of the forties, any dance band “worth its salt” had a distinctive theme song. It was the musical signature with which they signed on and signed off at their engagements and radio broadcasts. The theme of **Glenn Miller and His Orchestra** was the beautiful *Moonlight Serenade*, and it is still the signature tune of the **Glenn Miller Orchestra** today. Interestingly enough, Glenn Miller originally wrote the music of the song himself as an exercise for a course in arranging. He composed it long before he organized his band, when he was a trombonist and arranger with Ray Noble’s famous band.

Today, it is considered a standard in the field of popular music with its popularity as an instrumental continuing undiminished through the years.

It is now more than eighty-eight years since Glenn Miller first succeeded with the Orchestra, which still bears his name to this day. Except for a few years following his disappearance, Glenn’s orchestra and music have been heard around the world continuously since 1938.

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ERIK STABNAU

Music Director / Saxophonist

Tenor saxophonist Erik Stabnau brings his lifelong enthusiasm for big band music to each performance of the Glenn Miller Orchestra. Having grown up with a love for the music of the swing era, Erik naturally gravitated toward Glenn Miller, drawn to his recognizable melodies and the distinctive sound of his reed section.

A Western New York native, Erik learned to play the saxophone, flute, and clarinet in a variety of disciplines before developing an interest in the large ensembles of Ellington, Basie, Dorsey, Miller and others. Excited to pursue a future in music, he attended college at the Eastman School of Music in his hometown of Rochester, earning a bachelor's of music in Jazz and Contemporary Media. Intent on broadening his education, Erik went on to study music business and recording with a masters degree in Audio Arts from Syracuse University.

Prior to his time with the Glenn Miller Orchestra, Erik performed and recorded as a bandleader and sideman throughout the Northeast, adding to his credentials experience as an educator, clinician, writer, and arranger. He was thrilled with the opportunity to join the orchestra in June 2017 on tenor saxophone, playing the music and solos that Tex Beneke first made famous in the 1930's and 40's. As a member of the band, Erik has performed across the US in 48 states and abroad in Canada and Japan and now is honored to step in front of the orchestra as its music director.

The MILLER SOUND Lives Forever!

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Program

Directed by Erik Stabnau

Today's performance will include some of the following selections from the
Glenn Miller Orchestra library:

Moonlight Serenade	Sunrise Serenade	St. Louis Blues March
Little Brown Jug	At Last	Danny Boy
Serenade in Blue	Tuxedo Junction	Stardust
A String of Pearls	The American Patrol	Elmer's Tune
Anvil Chorus	In The Mood	Bugle Call Rag
Chattanooga Choo-Choo	Runnin' Wild	I've Got a Gal in Kalamazoo
Handful of Stars	Rhapsody in Blue	Perfidia
I Dreamt I Dwelt in Harlem	Jeep Jockey Jump	Someone To Watch Over Me
I Know Why	The Nearness of You	Tail End Charlie
Caribbean Clipper	Sun Valley Jump	Here We Go Again
Jukebox Saturday Night	Everybody Loves My Baby	Swing Low Sweet Chariot
Moonlight Cocktail	Song of the Volga Boatmen	Pennsylvania 6-5000
That's Sabotage	Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree	
A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square		

www.glennmillerorchestra.com



GLENN MILLER ORCHESTRA®

Highlights

Glenn Miller was born on March 1, 1904, in Clarinda, Iowa.

Glenn Miller originally wrote the music for *Moonlight Serenade* (later to become his theme song) as an exercise when he was studying with noted arranger, Joseph Schilinger.

The first **Glenn Miller Orchestra**, formed in 1937, was a financial failure.

In March 1938, Glenn Miller launched his second band, and unlike the first band, it became an enormous success with multiple hit records and huge box office sales.

At the height of the orchestra's popularity, Glenn Miller disbanded his musical organization in 1942 to volunteer for the army. He then organized the famous **Glenn Miller Army Air Force Band**.

On December 15, 1944, Major Glenn Miller took off in a single engine plane from England – against his better judgment – to precede his band to France, never to be seen again. The army officially declared him dead one year later.

Due to popular demand, the Miller Estate authorized the formation of the present **Glenn Miller Orchestra** in 1956.

In 1941, Glenn Miller and His Orchestra had more hit records in one year, including *A String of Pearls*, than anybody in the history of the recording industry.

Although other songs had sold over a million record copies, in 1941 Glenn Miller's recording of *Chattanooga Choo Choo* received the first Gold Record ever to be awarded.

The **Glenn Miller Orchestra** has been “on the road” longer and more continuously than any other Big Band ever.

The **Glenn Miller Orchestra** travels over 100,000 miles each year, playing nearly 300 dates.

More than 500,000 people annually attend performances of the **Glenn Miller Orchestra**.

A Guinness Book Record for the “Largest Dance” was established on July 20, 1984, in Buffalo, New York, when a crowd, estimated at 25,000 danced to the music of the **Glenn Miller Orchestra** on a specially designed 450 foot long dance floor.

The entire **Glenn Miller Orchestra** repertoire now exceeds 1,700 compositions, which keeps the band popular with both young and old.

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GLENN MILLER SOUND STILL TOPS!

Glenn Miller disappeared on December 15, 1944. The bandleader went down over the English Channel on a flight from London to Paris at the height of his popularity. In September 1942, just prior to going into the army, he had disbanded his famous orchestra and eventually formed the **Glenn Miller Army Air Force Band** to entertain the servicemen.

Not long before he enlisted, he nosed-out Tommy Dorsey, the “Best Sweet Band” in the Downbeat poll. His recordings of *In The Mood*, *Chattanooga Choo Choo*, *A String of Pearls*, *Moonlight Serenade* and *Tuxedo Junction* were all major hit records. Miller played to sell out crowds, and his music constantly dominated the airwaves.

On December 15, Major Miller took off in an ancient, single engine plane to precede his band to Paris. The weather was foreboding. Not very confident, he said to the pilot, “Maybe we ought to call this off?” The flight officer ribbed him about his fear of flying, “Do you want to live forever?”

Now, over eightyeight years since the public first embraced the successful Miller Sound, both the legend and the music live on. The **Glenn Miller Orchestra** is the most sought after big band in the world today for both concert and dance engagements. Still considered the greatest band of all time, its unique sound is loved by almost anybody that cares for dance music.

The Miller Estate formed the present **Glenn Miller Orchestra** in 1956 following strong popular demand aroused as a result of the successful motion picture, an immense box office smash - *The Glenn Miller Story*, starring James Stewart and June Allyson. The band has been touring consistently since, playing an average of 300 live dates a year around the globe to millions of fans.

www.glennmillerorchestra.com



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Billing Information

This is the correct billing. NO CHANGES SHOULD BE MADE.

The World Famous

35%

GLENN **M**ILLER **O**RCHESTRA 100%

Owner and Operator: Glenn Miller Productions, Inc.
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