

ON THE ROAD
The World Famous
GLENN MILLER ORCHESTRA
The One and Only
TOMMY DORSEY ORCHESTRA
and
JUKEBOX SATURDAY NIGHT
Big Band Newsletter #242

NEWS FROM THE ROAD...
'Cross the Country in 28 Days
By Jenny Swoish



Bumps in the Road...ON the Road

February was a whirlwind filled with ups and downs. Our bandleader, **Erik**, was called away unexpectedly on a family matter, so we were operating for a portion of the month without him. But we carried on and tried our best to give our audiences our top performance.

Our lead alto saxophonist and favorite “redhead”, **Kevin Sheehan**, filled in as Music Director in Erik's place, while our drummer **Dean** counted off each tune (someone has to keep us honest) and **Jenny** sang a few more vocals than you might normally hear. After all, as they say, "the show must go on"!

Let's walk you through this interesting month of stops, shows, and everything in between.

February in Florida

"You Make Us Feel Joe Young!"

We said “see ya later” (never “goodbye”) to our trumpeter and Moonlight Serenader, **Joe Young IV**, in **Fort Lauderdale** with a fun show at the **Parker Playhouse**. Joe has been on the band for some years now and his unmatched energy will certainly be missed on the bus.



Fear not, Joe will still be playing his horn around the Florida area, but he will also continue to explore other aspects of the music industry. We're sure our paths will cross again and we look forward to when they do!

Florida Snacks?

You never know *what* you'll find out on the road- especially at the various gas stations and rest stops we visit while traveling.

Here we have some... **Gator Toes?**
Don't worry, they're *Ranch* flavored!



Or perhaps you prefer your Toes a "lil spicy"? Yikes!

Okay, so it seems that they're not *really* "toes", but rather, fried garlic. Still, a daring snack for enclosed spaces...

Time for Tallahassee!

We returned to **Tallahassee, FL** for a show in the campus theater of **Tallahassee State College**. It was our pleasure, as always, to recognize the **veterans** in the audience and thank them for their service. Thank you, veterans!



Flagship Gig of the Year

Just like clockwork, we found ourselves back at **Chipley High School** in **Chipley, FL**. If you've been following along with us for a bit, you know that we lovingly refer to this show as the "Flagship Gig of the Year" because it's *always* on the calendar and we've really come to know (and love) the folks that keep bringing us back, year after year.

This, however, was our first show with **Kevin** at the helm and thankfully our audience was very understanding as we ironed out the kinks.





We also hosted a **master class** earlier in the afternoon for some of the **high school band students**, which spilled over into observing our sound check followed by a **Q&A** session. We appreciate the opportunity to inspire young musicians and encourage them on their own musical journey. Thanks again for another great year, Chipley! 'Til next time...

How Time Flies... Then vs. Now

The photos below were taken in the same exact spot (Chipley High School)...
10 years apart!

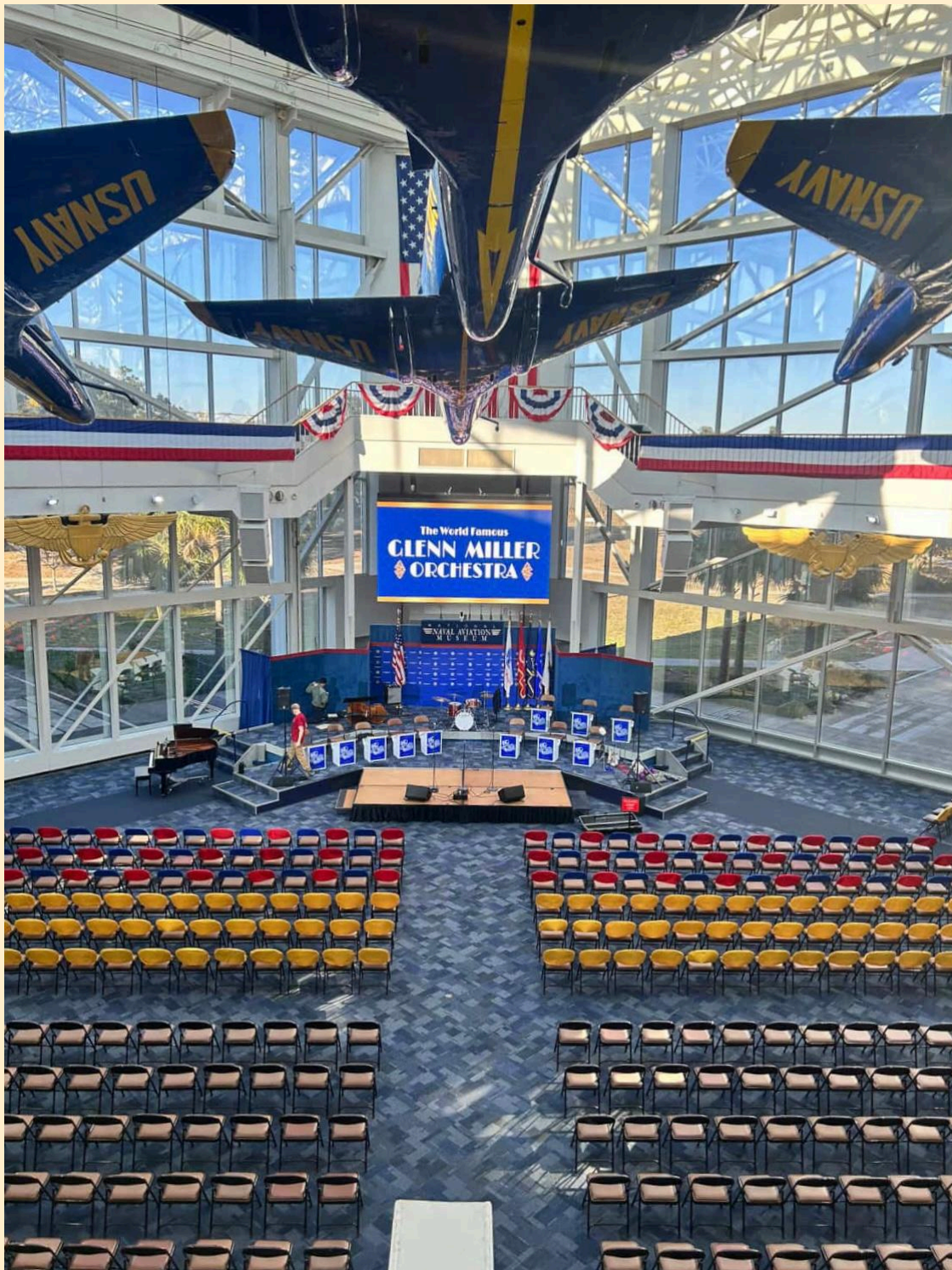


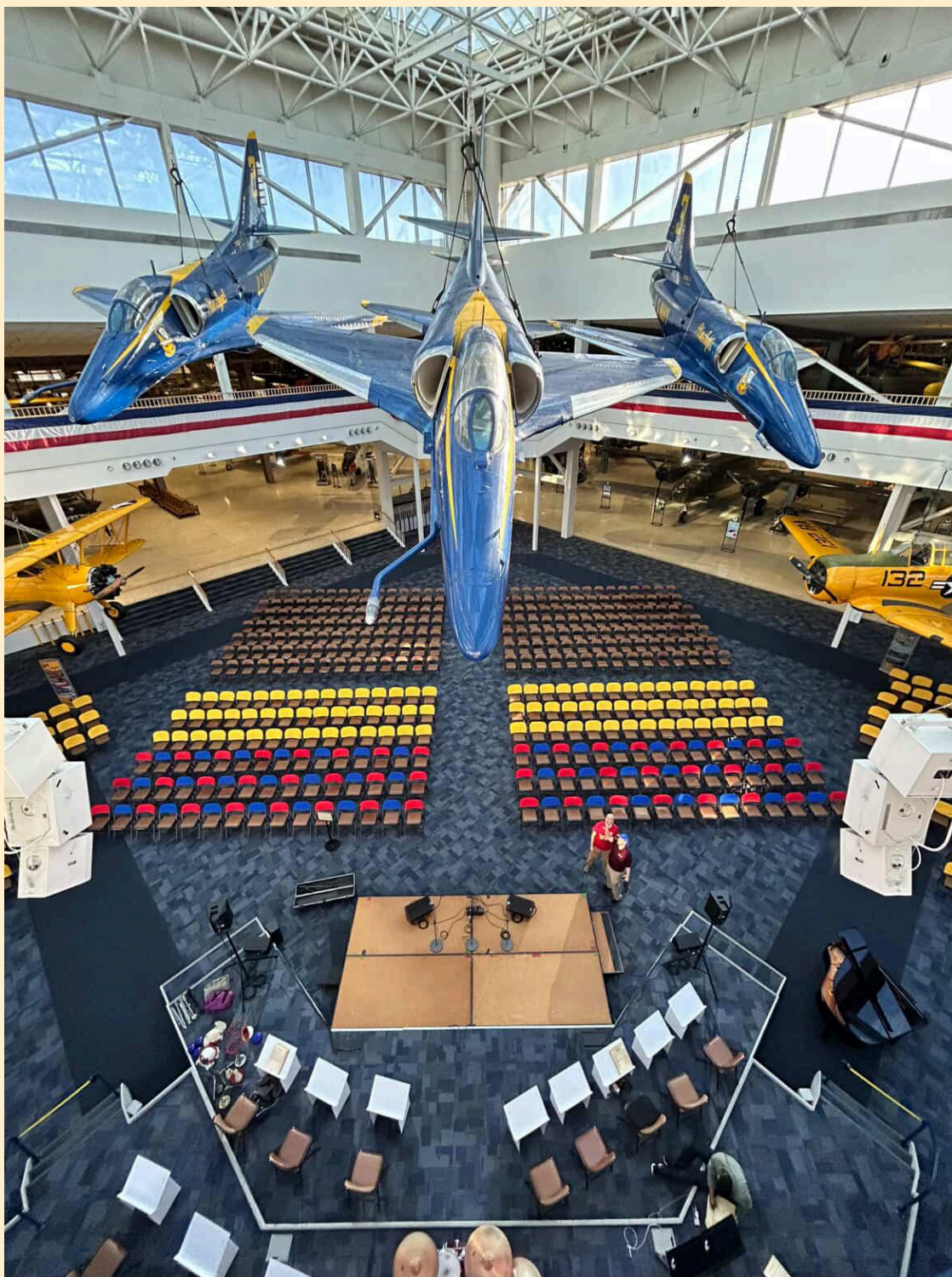
Our road manager, Ashley Hall, snapped the photo on the left (above) after one of Jenny's first shows with the band in **2016**. We couldn't resist the opportunity to recreate the photo *10 years later!* Just goes to show- time might fly out here, but not much really changes, haha!

(No, seriously! Waaaaay in the background of the photo from 2016, you can see our trombonist George wheeling out some of our sound equipment...10 years later and he's still playing trombone with the band and working hard on our setup crew!)

Pensacola 6-5-000!

We always look forward to playing the **Naval Aviation Museum** in **Pensacola, FL**! This venue is truly like nowhere else and the Blue Angels hanging above our heads as we play (and the other countless aircraft displayed around us) creates a very unique feeling.





[Photos by Mitch Danis]

Exploring History...

We had a little extra time this year to explore the museum before it closed, so we made an effort to check out some of the displays that we hadn't seen before.

An exhibit we found particularly interesting was the one dedicated to the **first Navy flight across the Atlantic**. Although they were too late for World War I, the NCs still took up the challenge of traversing the Atlantic by air. Curtiss Airplane and Motor Company teamed up with the Navy to construct new "air boats".

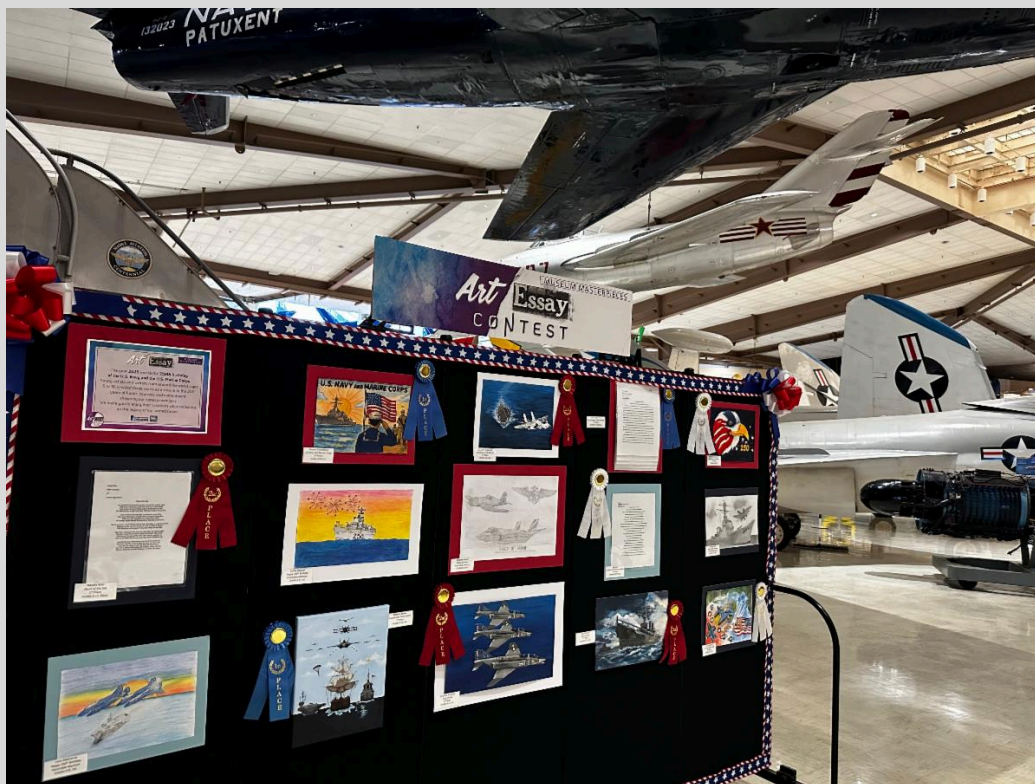
In May 1919, the **NC-4** made the first successful transatlantic flight, marking a milestone in aviation history that brought great acclaim to Naval Aviation. (The NC stands for Navy-Curtiss and inspired the nickname "Nancy" boats.)



[Above: one of the "air boats". Can you imagine flying across the Atlantic in one of these?]

History Through Art...

We also enjoyed perusing the winners of this Art / Essay Contest.



To celebrate the **250th birthday of the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps**, a contest was held amongst young artists and writers from around the world (ages 5-18). Here are some of our favorite pieces.





Milam Schopmeyer
250 Years of Freedom
3rd Place
Grades 6-8, Art



Jonathan Shepherd
Gray Ghosts
2nd Place
Grades 9-12, Art



The show itself was great fun with a lively crowd and a steady group of dancers who twirled under the wings of a B-25 Mitchell all evening.



Fan Feature: Cash Barber

Some of you may remember this handsome fellow, retired **Navy Lieutenant Commander Cash Barber**. He is now **101 years old** and sat front row for our



show at the museum (for the -nth year in a row!).

Cash is one of the few surviving veterans of **both World War II** and the **Vietnam War**.

He gives weekly presentations about his service at the museum where, in front of a cutaway **PBY-5** (the same plane he, himself, flew in the war). He recounts stories from his time in the service, answers questions from visitors, and points out features of his former aircraft.

Thank you for your 30 years of active Naval service, Cash, and for continuing to share your story!

Rolling Right Along...



We rolled on into **Tuscaloosa, AL** to play the **Bama Theater**.

We were greeted by **Alabama University's** signature slogan "Roll Tide" on the marquee as we loaded in, which made sense since we were just steps away from campus.

We enjoyed the catering provided by the venue, but were left a bit lacking in the "where to eat it" department. These older theaters don't always have the space for big green rooms that newer PACs boast, so we had to think outside the box...

Here's our tenor/bass trombonist **Jason Bennett** getting ready to dig in on his make-shift "table". There's nothing like a good 'ol GMO picnic!



The show was one for the books! And we left wishing that we could pack up that giant LED backdrop to take with us on the road...



Can't Hold a Candle to Colorado...

We had all been looking forward to our **three-night residency** at the **Candlelight Dinner Theater** in **Johnstown, CO**. They always treat us *extremely* well (not to mention the food is delicious!).

We found ourselves playing in front of a very different kind of backdrop- in fact, it was the set of their production of **“Hello Dolly”**. The dates of our performances fell right in the middle of their show run (hence the scene of 'Yonkers, NY' in the background).



We'd polished up our “sans-Erik” show a bit more and even worked up a version of “Chattanooga Choo Choo” with Jenny and the Moonlight Serenaders. Although, instead of Erik singing the lead vocal part of “Tex Beneke” , Jenny became **“Texina”** for the number... a truly original sound, even for the GMO! But hey, no Glenn Miller Orchestra show would be complete without “Chattanooga Choo Choo”, right?

PS- if anyone has a video of this rendition, we would *very* interested too see it, haha!

Land of Enchantment...

GMO in ABQ

We swung west even further to play an engagement at the **Popejoy Hall** in **Albuquerque, NM**.



We love coming down to New Mexico to experience all the things you can't really find anywhere else. For example, where else can you get a great **green chili** burrito, enjoy the desert air *and* learn about aliens?

(Pro tip: If you can't make up your mind between green and red chili, good news! You don't have to choose! You can order your meal smothered in both: just ask for it with "Christmas" chili. Yum!)



GMO & UFO?

Speaking of aliens, Jenny almost got beamed up walking around our lunch stop in **Roswell**.

And here are some of the guys kicking back, soaking up some of the local color: alien green!



The "Lone Star State"

On the Gulf

Back to one of our favorite annual stops: **Corpus Christi, TX!** We love to play in this gorgeous theater on the campus of **Texas A&M University**.



We were thrilled, once again, to have the **school's jazz band** as our opener.

They sounded great, and even joined us for **"In the Mood"** as our encore song.





[Photo by Linda Landreth]

Grand in Galveston

We crept up the coast of Texas to the **Grand 1894 Opera House in Galveston, TX**. And grand it was, indeed! The audience was just as excited to see us as they were the last time, which made for a really fun, lighthearted show (despite the heavy "pea soup" fog outside).



A Bit of Baton Rouge

Back in **Baton Rouge, LA**! And this time we got to play not one, but *two* nights at the **Manship Theater** downtown.



As always, we paid tribute to our **veterans** with a roaring round of applause before playing Glenn's "American Patrol". Veterans, you folks are so important to us and we appreciate you!



Marshmallow, TX

This was our first time playing the **Memorial City Hall Performance Center** in **Marshall, TX**. The Hall was dedicated in 1927 to honor the memory of the men and women who lost their lives in World War I. In the 1940s, the names of the local citizens who died in World War II were memorialized there as well.

The center underwent renovations seven years ago, but elements of the original building can be found throughout. The lower level of the building now historical exhibits pertaining to the war era as well as a memorial to those from Harrison County who served in the military, and the upper level serves as an art gallery space.



This was truly a lovely venue for us to play and we hope to be back very soon.



All for Buc-ee's Say "I"

When on the road in the Texas region, you're likely to run across that beloved travel stop, **Buc-ee's**.

When road manager, Ashely, asked "who wants to stop at Buc-ee's before we check in tonight," hands went up faster than a prairie dog!

If you've never been to a Buc-ee's, it's not so easy to capture in words the vast expanse of snacks, souvenirs and fresh confections that await inside...

Some say it's a "religious experience" (though we might not go *that* far).

It seems the "spirit" struck this quirky quartet and swayed them to purchase these beaver onesies...and wear them the next day...**TO SOUNDCHECK!** No one could ever say this band is lacking in the personality department!





No Problem in Pueblo

Speaking of soundcheck, we played at the satellite campus of **Colorado State University in Pueblo, CO.**



This was our first time playing this venue and we really enjoyed ourselves.

We were not surprised to see a good amount of folks stand in recognition during our tribute to the veterans.

Pueblo is known for having a large population of veterans and we were glad to see so many could make it to our show.



SPOTTED IN THE WILD: the **Buc-ee's Brigade** browsing some breakfast options for a post-show snack at the local IHOP.

Along the Santa Fe Trail...

Making our way towards Arizona, we stopped for lunch in Las Vegas...New Mexico. But we discovered that we were actually *on* the historic Santa Fe Trail!

And baritone saxophonist, **Aidan Sears**, *hop-scotched* along the Santa Fe Trail!



"Prescott" Like "Biscuit"

We ended the month on a high note with a show in **Prescott, AZ**, where we learned to say it like "Press-kit" and NOT "Press-cot". Well, however you say it, it had been eight years since we'd played there and we hope to be back sooner next time!



Jenny posed for a photo with these young men in uniform after the show.

We love when folks dress up for the show, but these gentlemen are in the local ROTC program. Looking good, fellas!



**We covered a lot of ground this month, but we are *not* done!
We're making our way even further west, all the way to the coast.**

**So, if you're on the West Coast or in the Pacific Northwest area,
check our schedule to see if we're playing a show near you!**

Thanks for reading & we'll see you on the road...



The Ultimate Big Band Weekend in Clarinda, IA

Get ready for an unforgettable weekend at the **Glenn Miller Birthplace Society's 51st Annual Festival, June 11–13, 2026**, in Clarinda, Iowa! Experience great music with performances by the legendary [Glenn Miller Orchestra](#), the [Tommy Dorsey Orchestra](#), and more. For the first time ever in Clarinda, witness The Battle of the Big Bands—two iconic orchestras sharing one stage in a thrilling, one-of-a-kind event. Plus, don't miss a special Glenn Miller Orchestra presentation featuring rare music from 1937 that hasn't been performed since. Add in fantastic local restaurants and the charm of a beautiful Midwestern town, and you've got the recipe for an absolutely awesome weekend. For more info visit <https://www.glennmiller.org/2026-festival>



June 11-13, 2026
Clarinda, Iowa

Celebrating

"The Glenn Miller Story"

Featuring

The Glenn Miller Orchestra
Tommy Dorsey Orchestra
Gooch & The Guys Big Band
Adam Swanson

Moonlight Serenade Orchestra
GMBS Band, *directed by Jarrod Harrah*
Music Scholarship Competition

For tickets or more information:
Glenn Miller Birthplace Museum
122 W. Clark Street, Clarinda, IA 51632
712-542-2461
shari@glenmmiller.org
glenmmiller.org

Follow the **Glenn Miller Orchestra** on **Instagram** to receive fun, short, entertaining, bits of information directly on your phone instantly. Download the Instagram app today and follow us at: <https://www.instagram.com/theglenmmillerorchestra>



THE MILLER SOUND LIVES FOREVER!

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Upcoming Glenn Miller Orchestra Shows

03/01/26 Chandler Center - Chandler, AZ
03/02/26 Historic Camelot Theatre - Palm Springs, CA
03/03-05/26 Myron's at The Smith Center - Las Vegas, NV
03/06/26 Lancaster PAC - Lancaster, CA
03/07/26 The Coach House - San Juan Capistrano, CA
03/08/26 Sycuan Casino Resort - El Cajon, CA
03/10/26 Hermosa Beach Community Theatre - Hermosa Beach, CA
03/12/26 Yoshi's - Oakland, CA
03/13/26 Clark Center - Arroyo Grande, CA
03/15/26 The Center for the Arts - Grass Valley, CA
03/16/26 The Tower Theater - Bend, OR
03/17/26 Patricia Reser Center for the Arts - Beaverton, OR
03/18/26 The Rialto Theater - Tacoma, WA
03/20/26 The Elsinore Theatre - Salem, OR
03/21/26 Wildhorse Resort & Casino - Pendleton, OR
03/24/26 Ute Theater - Rifle, CO
03/25/26 Richardson Hall - Adam State University - Alamosa, CO
03/27/26 McSwain Theatre - Ada, OK
03/28/26 Henry B Tippie National Aviation Education Center - Dallas, TX

04/09/26 The Genesee Theater - Waukegan, IL
04/10/26 Historic Chateau Theater - Rochester, MN
04/11/26 The Arts Center at Iowa Western - Council Bluffs, IA
04/14/26 Morris PAC - South Bend, IN
04/15/26 Valentine Theatre - Toledo, OH
04/16/26 Goodyear Theater - Akron, OH
04/17/26 F.M. Kirby Center - Wilkes-Barre, PA
04/18/26 Northumberland HS Theatre - Heathsville, VA
04/19/26 The Weinberg Center - Frederick, MD
4/21-22/26 Aronoff Center - Jarson-Kaplan Theater - Cincinnati, OH
4/25/26 Hattiesburg Saenger Theater - Hattiesburg, MS
4/27/26 The Capitol - Bowling Green, KY
4/28/26 Hoogland Center for the Arts - Springfield, IL
4/29/26 Meyer Theater - Green Bay, WI
4/30/26 Ruth A Knoll Theatre - Hartford, WI

5/03/26 The Music Hall - Portsmouth, NH
5/04-05/26 Katharine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center - Old Saybrook, CT
5/06/26 The Cabot Theatre - Beverly, MA
5/09/26 Riviera Theatre - North Tonawanda, NY
5/15/26 Mayo Performing Arts Center - Morristown, NJ
5/29/26 Avalon Theatre - Easton, MD
5/30/26 Spanish Ballroom, Glen Echo, MD

[Visit our Tour Schedule](#)

Trivia Contest

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

Question: June 11-13, 2026 will be the 51st Annual Glenn Miller Festival in Clarinda, IA. The Glenn Miller Orchestra, for the first time at this festival, will be performing with which orchestra for a Battle of the Big Bands concert?



Our last newsletter trivia question and answer:

Question: The Glenn Miller Orchestra was saddened to hear about the loss of David Fisher, a funny, loving and generous person, this past month. What was the title of the book he wrote about the Glenn Miller Orchestra?

Answer: The World Famous Glenn Miller Orchestra: What Goes On Behind The Scenes

GOOD LUCK! Click here to answer: maureen@glennmillerorchestra.com

Congratulations to Mike from Green Bay, WI who won the book "The World Famous Glenn Miller Orchestra: What Goes On Behind The Scenes."

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, 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**



Follow the **TOMMY DORSEY ORCHESTRA** on its website:

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

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/people/The-Tommy-Dorsey-Orchestra/100051215442353/>

UPCOMING TOMMY DORSEY ORCHESTRA PERFORMANCES

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

03/19/26 Carolina Hotel - Pinehurst, NC

03/20/26 Hugh M Cummings 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

05/04-27/26 - **Silversea cruise**

06/13/26 Clarinda High School - Glenn Miller Festival - Clarinda, IA

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

07/14/26 Maguire Center for Lifelong Learning - Tallahassee, FL

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

11/10/26 Blue Gate PAC - Battle of the Big Bands w/GMO - Shipshewana, IN

11/11/26 Michigan Theater - Ann Arbor, MI

12/10/26 Stambaugh Auditorium - Youngstown, OH

12/11/26 Peoples Bank Theatre - Marietta, OH

12/13/26 Lexington Village Theatre - Lexington, MI

12/18/26 The Ware Center - Millersville University - Lancaster, PA

12/19/26 First Congregational Church of Madison - Madison, CT

12/20/26 Waterville Opera House - Waterville, ME

04/02/27 Gold Canyon United Methodist Church - Gold Canyon, AZ

View full tour schedule: **SCHEDULE**

Jukebox Saturday Night

(managed by Glenn Miller Productions, Inc.)



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

UPCOMING JUKEBOX SATURDAY NIGHT PERFORMANCES

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
06/07/26 Reilly Arts Center - Ocala, FL
09/26/26 Goddard Center - Ardmore, OK

02/04/27 Armstrong Auditorium - Edmond, OK
03/13/27 Banyon Bowl at Pinecrest Gardens - Pinecrest, FL

View full tour schedule: [SCHEDULE](#)



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