

ON THE ROAD
The World Famous
GLENN MILLER ORCHESTRA
The One and Only
TOMMY DORSEY ORCHESTRA
and
JUKEBOX SATURDAY NIGHT
Big Band Newsletter #243

NEWS FROM THE ROAD...
March: A Swan Song for Some...
By Jenny Swoish



Another busy month for the Glenn Miller Orchestra! We said farewell to some from our ranks...but we know that with this band, it's never really "goodbye".

From the Southwest, to the Coast, up through the Pacific Northwest and all the way back through the Rockies, let's take you through the happenings of March

'Delovely' in the Desert

We kicked off the month celebrating **Glenn's birthday** (March 1, 1904) with a show in **Chandler, AZ**. This leg of the tour is always a band favorite, and we knew the fun was just beginning.



A Desert Dinner Party

We were invited over to the winter home of our friends **Lonny & Denise!** You remember them - they're the farmers from Nebraska (and Lonny used to lead his own big band with Denise as his lead singer). The last time we visited their farm, Kevin serenaded their cows on the clarinet! *Anywho*- they are just the most delightful people you'll ever meet.

We also got to catch up with our former bus driver **Everett & his lovely wife**. It was a fun little GMO reunion!



They hosted us for dinner, which of course included a brief intermission for the perusal of an arrangement Lonny thought the band might enjoy.

& here's Kev absorbing the music...



We ended the night with this beautiful desert sunset.

What a great start to our spring tour!



Plenty of Culture in Palm Springs!

We found ourselves back in **Palm Springs, CA** for our annual engagement at the **Palm Springs Cultural Center**.

We always look forward to the pre-show act upstairs in their lounge area.

This year, it was a **gypsy-style jazz group**, complete with an accordionist!



We felt very "Rat Pack" playing in front of their gold velvet curtain.



And the audience enjoyed the music, especially “Tuxedo Junction” with the trumpets down front!

Vegas Vacation?

Well, Not Quite...

“We’re here for work”, was what we kept saying to those who asked what brought us to town.

But though our three-night residency in **Las Vegas, NV** wasn’t *technically* a “vacation”, it is one of the most anticipated gigs of the year!

Myron’s at the Smith Center is such an incredible venue for the band, and this year they got a “glow-up”, as the kids say.

Just when we thought this place couldn’t get any classier, they added the “Myron’s” lit-up sign as well as the framing around the stage. Not to mention the sound in the room is *always* top notch. Mr. Sinatra himself might have been jealous of this setup!





Fan Feature: Birthday Bill!

We were thrilled to see our friend Bill sitting in the front row! Bill has been known to turn up at our performances all across the country, usually because our dates cross paths with his business travels. But this trip he made special with his wife to celebrate his birthday.

So, happy birthday, Bill! We *know* it was a good one, and here's to many more!

Sphere's No Place Like Home!

We had the chance to do some exploring during the day, and Jenny & Dean got to take an inside-look at the **Sphere**. For those who might not know, the Las Vegas Sphere is a \$2.3 billion, 366-foot-tall spherical entertainment venue.

Located right off the Las Vegas Strip, it is known for its massive **16K-resolution immersive interior screen** and exterior **LED "Exosphere"**, accommodating nearly 20,000 people for concerts, film screenings, and other events. The intense visual effects alone are a huge draw for the space, but the Sphere also boasts an immersive sound system with Spatial Audio capabilities. It's like if IMAX ate its Wheaties!





Jenny & Dean caught a showing of the 1939 classic film “**The Wizard of Oz**”. This was Dean’s *first* time seeing the film all the way through, and although it was an abridged version, he got the gist. Here are a few photos Jenny took during the showing:



This “pre-show” display made it seem like you were sitting in an opulent theater while the (pre-recorded) “pit orchestra” warmed up with various scales and motifs from the score. If you didn’t know any better, you’d swear you were sitting in a real theater about to see the curtain fly up at any moment. But this is the Sphere, so in reality, *NONE* of what you see here is real (including the speakers hung from the imaginary truss!?).



[The opening credits] Did you know they re-recorded the music to specifically fit the abridged version? An **80-piece orchestra** re-recorded the film score on the **original MGM scoring stage**, preserving Herbert Stothart’s compositions while separating original vocals.



Beware the Mammoth Munchkins! They might look reasonably-sized in this photo, but up on that **160,000 square foot screen**, these munchkins look HUGE. (To be fair, you’d look pretty big too if you were projected onto a screen equal in size to two and a half football fields!)



Actual “snow” flurried down upon the audience during the 'poppy' scene- just one example of the **4D elements** added to enhance the experience. Foam apples also fell from the “sky” during the trees/forest scene and **16-foot drone “flying monkeys”** bobbed through the air outside the Witch's Castle.

It'll be hard to go back to watching movies in lil' old IMAX after that...but it was a ton of fun. Experiencing the tornado from what felt like “inside” of it was worth the price of admission!

When Glenn Miller Comes Back to Capistrano?

Alright, that might not be *quite* how the song goes...but it seems to be true nonetheless.

After Vegas, we shot straight over to **Lancaster, CA** to play a swinging show.



And then we went all the way down the coast to **San Jan Capistrano, CA**...The Coach House was calling our name!

It must be something in the dinner they serve over there, because the crowds at the **Coach House** *always* have high energy.

Maybe it's the way the stage is surrounded by spectator boxes and the tables eye-level with the bells of our horns...but it was a blast, SJC! Thanks for showing up for us again and again!





A Bit of Clarinda on the Coast...

It was fun to see some family and friends at the show. Here's Jenny with our friend **Olivia Marie & her mom** who drove down from Los Angeles to hear us!



Oliviana was the winner of the **2022 Ray Eberle vocal scholarship contest** at the **Glenn Miller Birthplace Festival** in Clarinda, IA. We have seen the two of them at the GM Festival ever since, and though they live in Los Angeles, this was the first time we've seen them outside of Iowa.



Oliviana even picked up one of our new T-shirts!



Up Shirts' Creek

Our merch team, **Jenny & Dean**, ordered their replenishment of shirts for these spring dates. But it looks like Jenny might have gone a *bit* overboard with the quantity...

Instead of the usual seven boxes, she ordered enough to fill **FOURTEEN!**?

As they wondered if they'd ever be able to roll/sort them all before the bus left the state, Jenny's parents came to the rescue to help with the mammoth task.

Jenny's mom and dad might have a future as T-shirt rollers- they were naturals!

From Singing Hills to the Hollywood Hills...

We returned to the "Singing Hills" of **San Diego, CA** to play at the **Sycuan Resort and Casino** to play a sold out show!





This part of the tour is a favorite for many reasons...but views like this are hard to beat!



Matzah Papparazza!

Nestled in the heart of Los Angeles, you'll find the legendary **Canter's Deli**.

This Jewish-style deli stays **open 24/7** and is known to be a popular hangout spot for show-biz personalities...like members of the Glenn Miller Orchestra!

Here are **Kev & Erik** with a bowl of Canter's massive matzah ball soup. Yum!





From the South Bay to the Bay Area

We'd been looking forward to this date, our first time playing the **Hermosa Beach Playhouse!**







A group of **students from the local middle school** played an opening set and were even joined by **Erik and Jason Bennett** for a few songs. They did a great job!

Oh yeah, and the kids did well too. Haha!



We had a lot of fun and hope to be back in the South Bay again very soon!



Speaking of the Beach...

There's always the possibility of sharp-toothed predators lurking off the shore...

but Kev encountered a fair-finned friend a little further inland.

Landshark, is that you?



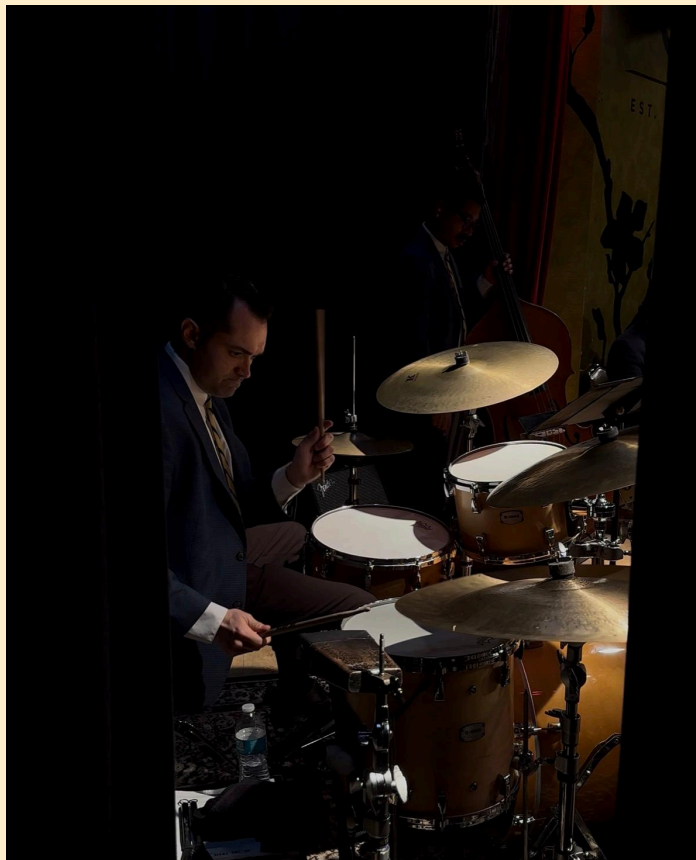
We zoomed up the 5 freeway to make our date at **Yoshi's jazz club** in **Oakland, CA**.



We had to take a photo with the marquee, because it was our drummer **Dean's last show** with us.



For those of you who know Dean and his playing, you can almost *hear* his final drum solo on **"Sing, Sing, Sing"** through this photo.





Can you tell we were excited to play?



This train kept passing back and forth right outside the venue during both of our sets...but unfortunately, it never seemed to line up with when we played "Chattanooga Choo Choo"!?



SLO to PNW

We ducked back down the state a bit to **Arroyo Grande, CA** for great concert (near San Luis Obispo).



In the photo below, you can see the **veterans** in attendance standing for a round of applause during our military tribute in the show. It's always a highlight to be able to recognize and show gratitude for our veterans and their service!



And our newest trumpeter, **Kazu**, brought down the house with a screamin' solo.





We enjoyed views of cattle grazing on rolling green hills as we made our way to **Grass Valley, CA**.



Their **performing arts center** also features a beautiful gallery in the lobby with art that rotates seasonally.

This painting on fabric was one of our favorites.



The venue swapped out a section of seating for a **dance floor** and we were thrilled to see folks swinging and swaying to Glenn's music.

We were particularly surprised when an **8-year-old fan** specifically requested "Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree".

He shared a dance with his mom out on the floor when we played his favorite song!



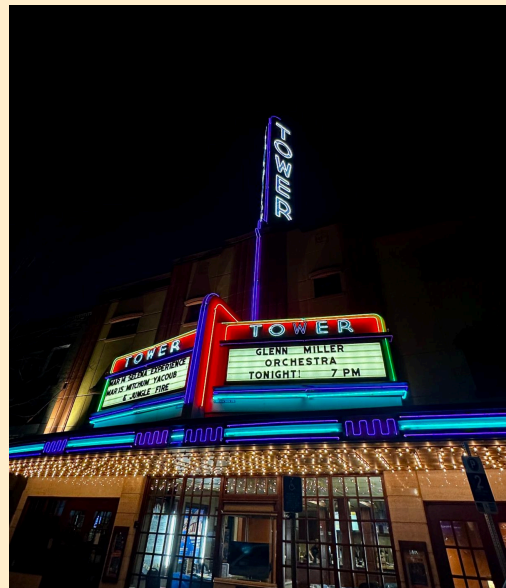
Peaking Our Interest

Beautiful views again on the way to **Bend, OR**, this time of the **Three Sisters & Mt. Bachelor** peaks (with surprise horses!).



We've played the **Tower Theater** in Bend before, but it's always a treat to come back to this area.

With a marquee like this and so many veterans in the audience, we don't think this show could have gone much better.





Luck O' the Lunch Stop

St. Patrick's Day sent us to **Beaverton, OR.**

But for lunch, we *had* to pick up a **Shamrock Shake** from McDonald's on the way!

Here's **Erik** with the dynamic duo of a Shamrock Shake in one hand and a coffee from **In-N-Out** in the other...

Now *THAT* is a lunch of champions!

Here's That Rainy Day...

...in **Tacoma, WA.**

But that didn't stop us from loading in to this beautiful hall, the **Rialto Theatre**!





Where's Kev?

When it came time for soundcheck we said "where's Kev?".

We almost didn't see him sitting there- he blended right in with our stand fronts!

Caboose-gating?

Is that what you call it when you tailgate a train?

We followed behind this freighter on our drive in to **Salem, OR**.

It was another great night at the **Elsinore** in downtown Salem.

This venue is so architecturally interesting/unique and the acoustics were great!



Gettin' Wild at the Wildhorse

This was our first time playing at the **Wildhorse Casino** in **Pendleton, OR**.

They had a dance floor set up in the middle of the room with seats surrounding, and it was neat to see folks show off their moves, in pairs or solo.



Girl Dinner?

After the show, **Jenny** and our **sub-bari-saxophonist Natalie** grabbed a bite at the steakhouse restaurant. After all, don't they say: "Treat yo'self"?

These two gals grew up only a town apart in Southern California, but just met out here on the road.

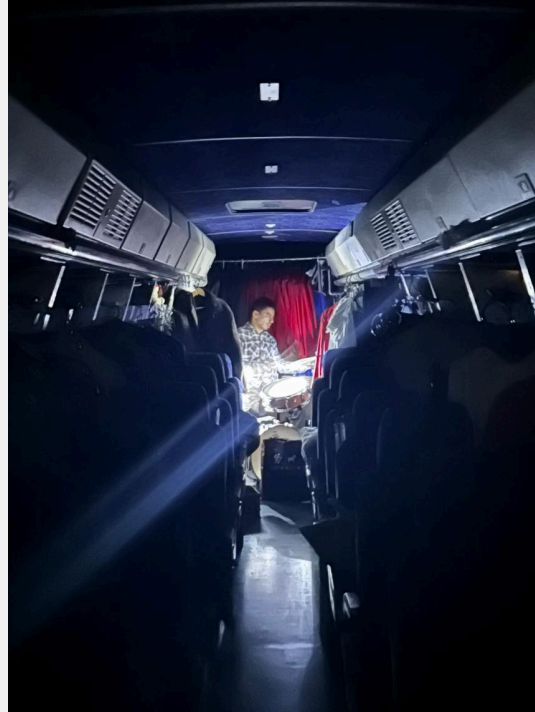
It certainly is a small world in the world of big bands!

Bus Beat

We welcomed a new drummer, **Nick Diaz**, after Dean's departure.

He got straight to work and squeezed (literally) in a practice session or two in the back of the bus!

Now *THAT's* a new one!



New Heights (& Plains)

Canyon Swing

We cut through cliffs and canyons to make it back to **Colorado**. The **Ute Theater** in **Rifle** was our next destination.

We were definitely feeling the elevation-over 5,000 feet up there!



& Higher Still!

We kept climbing to get to **Alamosa, CO** (7,500 feet). But we stopped for lunch in Leadville on the way.



Leadville, CO is the **highest elevation incorporated city in all of North America**, perched at 10,000 feet!

These mountain towns are some of the coolest places to stop, and the Rockies in the distance added to the charm.



Laundry Day

Music Director, **Erik**, spent a morning folding laundry on the bus after our morning departure. He hung certain pieces to dry and folded the rest (stowing in his overhead shelf).

"[Doing] laundry is the most inconvenient thing on the road", Erik remarks.

And it's true!

It may not be a picnic...but it's necessary!



The Victory Ball

Party Like it's 1945!

The **Victory Ball** is a glamorous fundraiser for the Aviation Education Fund held at the **Henry B. Tippie Aviation Education Center** in **Dallas, TX**.

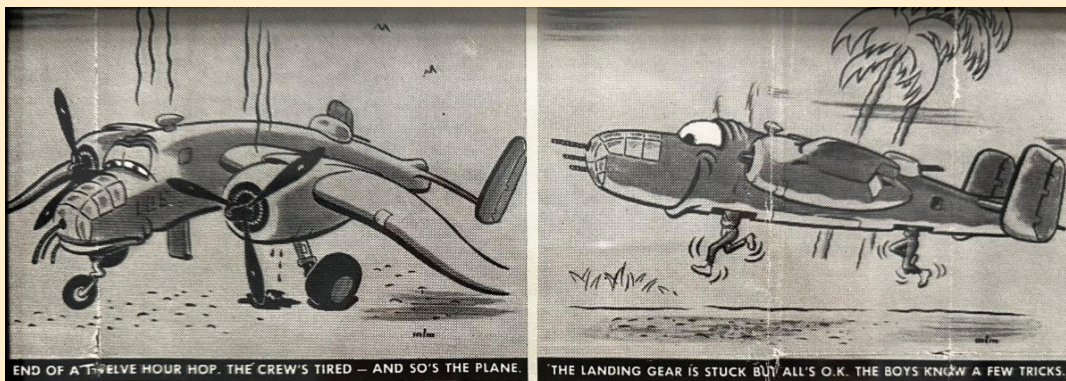


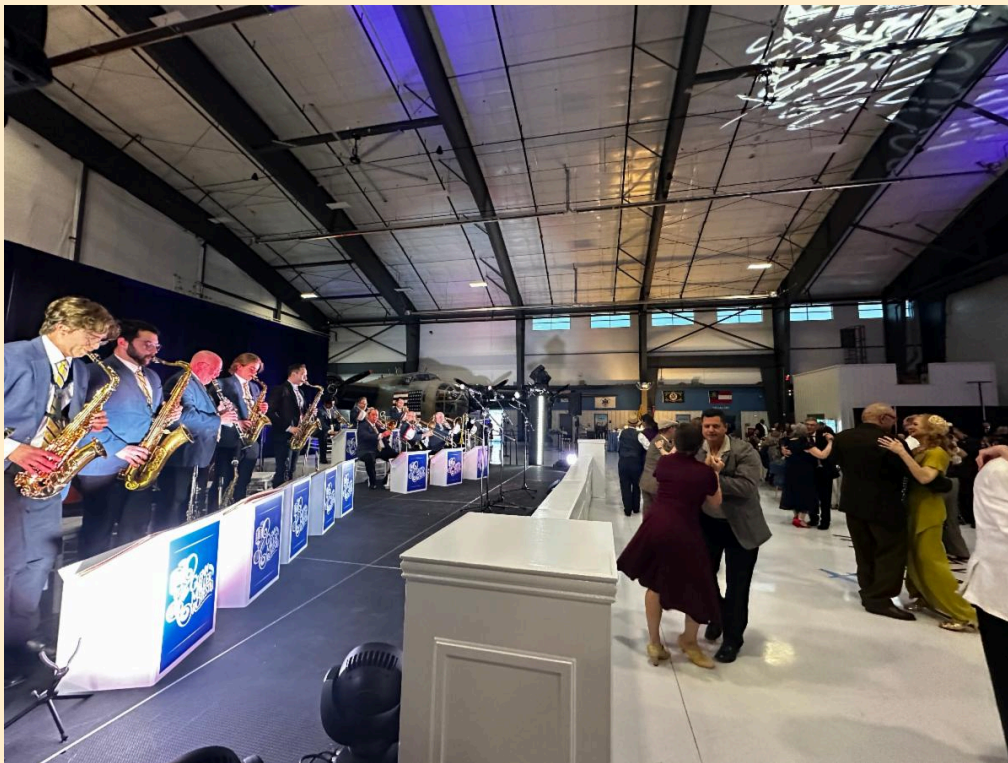
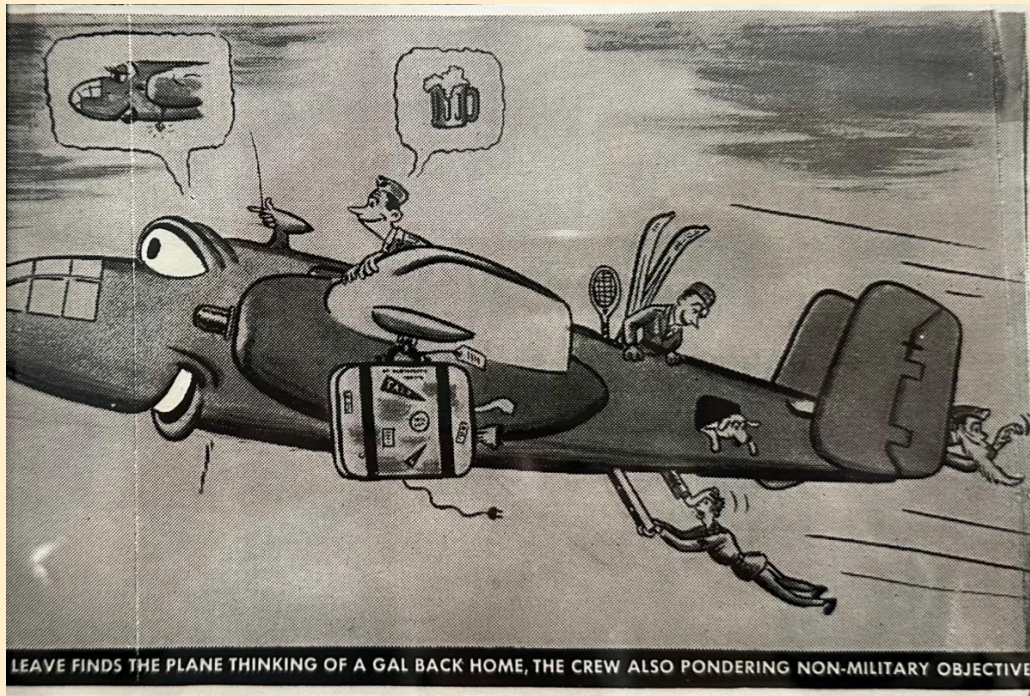
"Plane with a Personality"

There was a collection of WWII planes and nose-art on the premises, but this time we were interested in these cartoons [below].



These cartoons depict WWII planes anthropomorphized. Pretty neat!

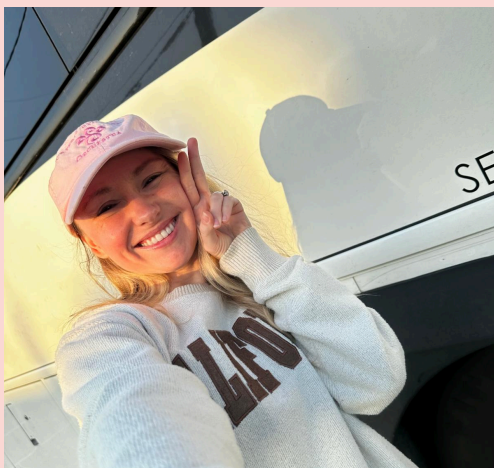






The attendees of the gala danced the night away to Glenn's biggest hits and enjoyed a surprise appearance from a running WWII plane!

This was vocalist **Jenny** & trombonist/Serenader **Derek's last show** with the band, so we really made sure to have an extra good time on the stand!



Letter From the Editor:

Hello my friends and readers! I hate to say it, but this will be my final newsletter as your editor.

After four and a half years (and a wedding later), Dean and I have decided to leave the road to settle down in Southern California.

It's a bittersweet time for us- we're sad to leave the band, but are looking forward to the start of this new chapter in our lives together.

We hope to see each and every one of you in the future. & if you'd like to follow along with us on this new journey, please follow me on my personal social accounts:

Jenny Swoish / @jennyswoish

Thank you *so much* for all of your kind words and support over the years. It truly means the world.

Love to you all and we'll see you (somewhere) down the road...

With love & gratitude,
Jenny

Get ready to welcome some new faces to the band stand this month! We've got a busy April coming up, so be sure to check out where you can catch us.

As always, 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

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THE MILLER SOUND LIVES FOREVER!

Visit our Website

Upcoming Glenn Miller Orchestra Shows

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
 5/28/26 Sellersville Theater - Sellersville, PA
 5/29/26 Avalon Theatre - Easton, MD
 5/30/26 Spanish Ballroom, Glen Echo, MD

 6/01/26 Owens Auditorium - Pinehurst, NC
 6/02/26 Charleston Music Hall - Charleston, SC
 6/05/26 Robinson Hall - Little Rock, AR
 06/06/26 Dixie Carter PAC - Huntingdon, TN
 6/07/26 The Sheldon Concert Hall - St Louis, MO
 6/08/26 Derby Dinner Playhouse - Clarksville, IN
 06/09/26 Southern Theatre - Columbus, OH
 06/11/26 Muriel Kauffman Theatre - Kansas City, MO
 06/12-13/26 Clarinda High School, Clarinda, OH
 6/14/26 Wilder Park Main Pavilion - Allison, IA
 6/15/26 Coralville Center for the Arts - Coralville, IA
 6/18/26 Lied Center - Lincoln, NE
 6/20/26 1940's WWII Era Ball at the Boulder Airport - Boulder, CO
 6/22/23/26 John H. Williams Theatre - Tulsa, OK
 6/26/26 Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts - Manistee, MI
 6/30/26 The Fisher Center - Nashville, TN

[Visit our Tour Schedule](#)

Trivia Contest

Be the first person to answer our trivia question correctly and win the CD "Live! In Las Vegas" by the Glenn Miller Orchestra.

Question: What was the name of the vocal group that sang with the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra in the late 30's through the early 40's?

Our last newsletter trivia question and answer:

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?

Answer: The Tommy Dorsey Orchestra

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

Congratulations to Brinley from Ada, MI who won the CD "Live! In as Vegas" by the Glenn Miller Orchestra.

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

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
 10/15/26 Numerica Performing Arts Center - Wenatchee, WA
 11/10/26 Blue Gate PAC - Battle of the Big Bands w/GMO - Shipshewana, IN
 11/11/26 Michigan Theater - Ann Arbor, MI
 12/04/26 Paramount Theater - Burlington, NC
 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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UPCOMING JUKEBOX SATURDAY NIGHT PERFORMANCES

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
10/16/26 The Historic Bama Theatre - Tuscaloosa, AL

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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