

The Glenn Miller Orchestra

Friday, May 15, 2009
7:00 PM

Tickets - \$25 and \$15

At the Box Office, via the phone, and online
Tickets may not be exchanged and are non-refundable.
A \$1 Historic Preservation Fee will be added to each sale.



Plaza Theatre

115 East Main Street Glasgow, KY 270.361.2101

www.plaza.org



Greetings!

It's hard to believe that we are winding up our FOURTH season of operations here at the Plaza. The first three years have been great and things just keep getting better! And the credit goes to the City of Glasgow, Mayor Darrell Pickett, the Glasgow City Council, the Plaza Advisory Board, our wonderful Volunteers, and YOU - our valued patrons.

We have had a great season for you this year, as you can see to the right on the next page. We had seven season events in all, with a variety so wide that you were sure to find something you would enjoy.

This year also marks a big fundraising push for us. There are a couple of things here at the Plaza that weren't included in the initial renovation back in 2004-2005. Now that we've been open a while, we are ready to get to work on finishing the restoration of this great facility. We have several fundraising events planned for this year, from the simple to the grand. The main one is the weekend of August 21-23, 2009. This weekend marks the 75th anniversary of the Plaza's original opening back in 1934. We are planning an entire weekend full of events. So mark your calendar now to join us in this grand birthday celebration.

We are also working hard at planning and finalizing our 2009-2010 Plaza Performance Series. We hope to be able to announce our season in the next month or so. To keep up to date on the status, as well as keep informed of all Plaza events and announcements, be sure to subscribe to our new email based newsletter. The newsletter comes out on the first of each month. You can subscribe by going to the Plaza's website, www.plaza.org, and clicking on the "Join Our Mailing List" button.

I hope you all have a great summer and we look forward to seeing you again when our season starts up in the fall!

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Jones". The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive.

Steve Jones
Executive Director



The

Plaza Theatre

is pleased to announce the

2008-2009

Plaza Performance Series

Season Subscriptions \$107.00 to 175.00

a \$1.00 per order Historic Theatre Preservation Fee will be added to each subscription and each individual non-subscription ticket order.



LORRIE MORGAN

Friday, August 15, 2008

7:00 PM

\$28

BILLY CURRINGTON

Friday, September 26, 2008

7:00 PM

\$38 & \$33



KILLER BEAZ

Friday, November 7, 2008

7:00 PM

\$25 & \$15

RALPHIE MAY

Mature subject matter

Friday, January 30, 2009

7:00 PM

\$25 & \$15



1964 THE TRIBUTE

Saturday, February 14, 2009

7:00 PM

\$25 & \$15

GILLIGAN'S ISLAND - THE MUSICAL

Friday, March 20, 2009

7:00 PM

\$25 & \$15



THE GLENN MILLER ORCHESTRA

Friday, May 15, 2009

7:00 PM

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Tickets & Information

(270) 361-2101

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THE GLENN MILLER ORCHESTRA

“A band ought to have a sound all of its own. It ought to have a personality.”

- Glenn Miller

Alton Glenn Miller was born in Clarinda, Iowa on March 1, 1904. But it was in North Platte, Nebraska, several years later that Glenn actually got his musical start when, one day, his father brought home a mandolin. Glenn promptly traded it for an old battered horn, which he practiced every chance he got. In fact his mother worried, “It got to where Pop and I used to wonder if he’d ever amount to anything.”

In 1923, Miller entered the University of Colorado, although he spent more time traveling to auditions and playing where and whenever he could. After flunking three of his five courses one semester, Glenn dropped out to concentrate on his career as a professional musician.

He toured with several orchestras and ended up in Los Angeles where he landed a spot in Ben Pollack’s group, a band that included a guy named Benny Goodman. Here, Miller also got the chance to write some arrangements. Arriving in New York City, he soon sent for, and married, his college sweetheart, Helen Burger in 1928, and for the next three years, earned his living as a free-lance trombonist and arranger.

Miller played and recorded with the likes of Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey (who on several of their records, featured an up-and-coming singer by the name of Bing Crosby), Gene Krupa, Eddie Condon and Coleman Hawkins. In addition, during that time, Glenn cut 18 sides for Goodman, and also worked for radio studio conductors like Victor Young, Carl Fenton and Jacques Renard. In 1934, Miller became the musical director of the Dorsey Band, and later went on to organize The Ray Noble Orchestra, which included such players as Charlie Spivak, Pee-wee Erwin, Bud Freeman, Johnny Mince, George Van Eps and Delmar Kaplan, among others.

In April 1935, Glenn Miller recorded, for the first time, under his own name. Using six horns, a rhythm section and a string quartet, he recorded “Moonlight on the Ganges” and “A Blues Serenade” for Columbia. But selling only a few hundred records, he continued his position with the Noble Orchestra.

In 1937, Glenn Miller stepped out to form his own band. There were a few recordings -- one for Decca and one for Brunswick -- a couple of week-long stints in New Orleans and Dallas, and many one-nighters, but it was not to be. Though the group would play one more date several days later in Bridgeport, Connecticut, Glenn gave his men their final notice on New Year's Eve at the Valencia Ballroom in York, Pennsylvania. Broke, depressed and having no idea what he was going to do, he returned to New York City.

It is said that Miller could never remember precisely the moment he decided to emphasize his new reed section sound. But it was during this disheartening interim, that he realized the unique sound -- produced by the clarinet holding the melodic line while the tenor sax plays the same note, and supported harmonically by three other saxophones -- just might be the individual and easily recognizable style that would set his band apart from all the rest.

Formed in March 1938, the second Glenn Miller Orchestra -- which would later include the likes of Tex Beneke, Marion Hutton, Ray Eberle, Paul Tanner, Johnny Best, Hal McIntyre, and Al Klinck -- soon began breaking attendance records all up and down the East Coast. At the New York State Fair in Syracuse it attracted the largest dancing crowd in the city's history. The next night it topped Guy Lombardo's all-time record at the Hershey Park Ballroom in Pennsylvania. The Orchestra was invited by ASCAP to perform at Carnegie Hall with three of the greatest bands ever -- Paul Whiteman, Fred Waring and Benny Goodman -- and created more of a stir than any of them.

There were record-breaking recordings, as well, such as "Tuxedo Junction", which sold 115,000 copies in the first week. "In the Mood", and "Pennsylvania 6-5000", all appearing on the RCA Victor Bluebird label. In early 1940, Down Beat Magazine announced that Miller had topped all other bands in its Sweet Band Poll, and capping off this seemingly sudden rise to the top, there was, of course, Glenn Miller's "Moonlight Serenade" radio series for Chesterfield cigarettes which aired three times a week over CBS. In 1941, it was off to Hollywood where the band worked on its first movie, "Sun Valley Serenade", which introduced the song -- and soon-to-be million selling record -- "Chattanooga Choo Choo", and featured the Modernaires and the Nicholas Brothers. Then came "Orchestra Wives". But the war was starting to take its toll on many of the big bands, as musicians and the rest of country's young men, began receiving draft notices.

On October 7, 1942, Alton Glenn Miller reported for induction into the Army and was immediately assigned to the Army Specialist Corps. His appointment as a Captain came after many months of convincing the military higher-ups that he could modernize the army band and ultimately improve the morale of the men. His training complete, he was transferred into the Army Air Corps, where he ultimately organized the Glenn Miller Army Air Force Band. Miller's goal of entertaining the fighting troops took another year to be realized, but in late 1943 he and the band were shipped out to England.

There, in less than one year, the Glenn Miller Army Air Force Band engaged in over 800 performances. Of these, 500 were broadcasts heard by millions. There were more than 300 personal appearances, including concerts and dances, with a gross attendance of over 600,000. But Glenn was not to participate in the final six months of these activities. In the Fall of 1944, the band was scheduled to be sent on a six-week tour of Europe and

would be stationed in Paris during that time. Miller decided to go ahead, in order to make the proper arrangements for the group's arrival. And so, on December 15th, Glenn Miller boarded a transport plane to Paris, never to be seen again.

In his book "Glenn Miller & His Orchestra", George Simon wrote this about the man. "His favorite author was Damon Runyon. His favorite book was the Bible. Spencer Tracy and Olivia de Havilland were his favorite movie actor and actress. His big loves were trout fishing, playing baseball, listening to good music, sleep and money. His pet hates were bad swing, early-morning telephone calls (he liked to sleep from 4 a.m. to noon), and the phrase 'goodbye now'. His favorite quotation, one he stated, was not from the Bible, nor from Runyon, but from Duke Ellington: 'It Don't Mean a Thing If it Ain't Got that Swing!'"

HISTORY TIMELINE

1935

Glenn began recording under his own name for Columbia. His instrumental 'Solo Hop' reached the Top 10.

1937

Glenn organized his own touring band and signed to Brunswick records.

1938

The group was unsuccessful, and was disbanded.

1939

The Orchestra played at the Glen Island Casino, NY, a major swing venue, and was heard on radio.

17 Top 10 hits including 'Sunrise Serenade'; 'Moonlight Serenade'; 'Wishing (Will Make It So)'.

Chart-toppers: 'Stairway to the Stars', 'Moon Love', 'Over the Rainbow', 'Blue Orchids', 'The Man With the Mandolin'

His 'Moonlight Serenade' radio series for Chesterfield aired on CBS three times a week.

1940

'Tuxedo Junction' sold 115,000 copies the first week. 'Pennsylvania 6-5000' was released.

31 Top 10 hits: 'Careless', 'When You Wish Upon a Star', 'Imagination', 'Fools Rush In (Where Angels Fear to Tread)', and 'Blueberry Hill'; 'The Woodpecker Son'. 'In the Mood' and 'Tuxedo Junction' were inducted in the Grammy Hall of Fame.

1941

Another 11 Top 10 hits: The band made the movie, *Sun Valley Serenade*, introducing 'Chattanooga Choo Choo', soon a million seller.

#1 hits: 'Song of the Volga Boatmen', 'You and I', 'Elmer's Tune'.

1942

11 Top 10 hits and 3rd year as the top recording artist with 'American Patrol', 'A String of Pearls', 'Moonlight Cocktail', 'Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree (With Anyone Else but Me)' and (I've Got a Gal) In Kalamazoo' which came from Miller's second film, *Orchestra Wives*.

The end of Miller's dominance of popular music when he received an officer's commission in the Army/Air Force.

Glenn organized a service band, performed at military camps, and hosted a weekly radio series.

1943

Two more Top 10 hits including #1 'That Old Black Magic'.

1944

Took his band to Great Britain, performed for the troops and did radio broadcasts.

On December 15th, Glenn Miller boarded a transport plane to Paris, never to be seen again.

1945

'Glenn Miller', an album of 78 rpm records, topped the newly instituted album charts and became the most successful album of the year.

1947

'Glenn Miller Masterpieces, Vol. 2' topped the album charts.

1954

Miller was the subject of a partly fictionalized film biography, *The Glenn Miller Story*, starring James Stewart.

2003

Miller posthumously received the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award.

Media Sponsors

The Plaza Theatre would like to thank the following media sponsors for helping make this event successful!



Commonwealth Broadcasting, Inc.

Upcoming Rental Events at the Plaza

Murder by the Book

June 19, 20, & 21

presented by the Far Off Broadway Players

The Wizard of Oz

July 31 & August 1 & 2

presented by Glasgow Summer Theatre & GHSSPA, Inc.

Coming up next...



AUGUST 20 - 23, 2009

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!