

## **Glenn Miller Orchestra brings serenade sounds to UCSD's Price Center Ballroom at 8 P.M. March 8**

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GLENN MILLER ORCHESTRA BRINGS SERENADE SOUNDS TO UCSD'S PRICE CENTER BALLROOM AT 8 P.M. MARCH 8

The classic sounds of Moonlight Serenade will fill the Price Center at the University of California, San Diego when the Glenn Miller Orchestra performs March 8 beginning at 8 p.m.

The most sought after Big Band in the world, constantly on the road, the Glenn Miller Orchestra returns to UCSD after two years, and now, as then, invites easy listening, and better yet, dancing in the Price Center Ballroom.

Trombonist Larry O'Brien directs the 19-member band including five saxophone players, four trumpeters, four trombonists, three rhythm musicians (piano, bass and drums) and two vocalists. The results original Glenn Miller arrangements, as well as modern selections, many of them in the big-band style.

"Mostly we play the old songs," says O'Brien. "We manage to insert new ones from time to time, but these are songs that lend themselves to the Miller sound."

In addition to Miller's theme song, Moonlight Serenade, originally written by the musician as an exercise for a course in arranging long before he organized his band in 1938, golden oldies include Stardust, Rhapsody in Blue, A String of Pearls, Tangerine, The Nearness of You, Come Rain or Come Shine, Begin the Beguine and Chattanooga Choo Choo.

Although other songs had sold more than a million records, in 1941 Miller's Chattanooga Choo Choo received the first Gold Record ever to be awarded.

The Glenn Miller story is legendary: One of the most successful dance band leaders in the Swing era of the 1930s and 1940s, Miller had a string of hit records, numerous radio broadcasts, and ongoing live performances. In 1942, at the height of the band's popularity, Miller disbanded the group, volunteered for the Army and organized the Glenn Miller Army Air Force Band to entertain servicemen in Europe during the war.

On Dec. 15, 1944, in foreboding weather, Maj. Miller took off in a single-engine plane from England to precede his band to France, never to be seen again. The army declared him officially dead a year later.

The Glenn Miller Story was made into a hit movie starring James Stewart and June Allyson, and by popular demand following the release of the movie, the Miller Estate authorized the formation of the present Glenn Miller

Orchestra in 1956. Since then, musicians and directors have changed, but each one has been dedicated to present what O'Brien terms "the band's basic foundation the Glenn Miller music" and the Glenn Miller "sound."

This reborn Glenn Miller Orchestra will celebrate its 42nd anniversary in June and it continues to perform for more than 500,000 people annually, traveling over 100,000 miles and playing nearly 300 dates. The orchestra has been on the road longer and more continuously than any other Big Band. Its repertoire exceeds 1,700 compositions.

"What we're trying to do is run this band the way we feel Glenn would have if he were still here," O'Brien says. "We've got staying power. With the renewed interest in swing and the big-band sounds, I think our appeal will keep growing especially with the kids...I think the kids find touch dancing a nice idea."

The Glenn Miller Orchestra's March 8 performance is sponsored by the UCSD University Events Office. Tickets are \$20 general admission, \$18 for faculty, staff and senior citizens, and \$15 for students. Tickets are available at the UCSD Box Office, 534-8497, and at Ticketmaster outlets. For further information, call the UCSD University Events Office at 534-4090.

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