

Glenn Miller Orchestra to Perform February 28 at UCSD's Price Center Ballroom

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GLENN MILLER ORCHESTRA TO PERFORM FEB. 28 AT UCSD

The Glenn Miller Orchestra -- the most sought after Big Band in the world -- will perform at 8 p.m. Feb. 28 in the Price Center Ballroom at the University of California, San Diego.

The 19-member band, under the direction of trombonist Larry O'Brien, plays original Glenn Miller arrangements, as well as modern selections, many of them in the big-band style.

Golden oldies include String of Pearls, Moonlight Serenade, Tuxedo Junction, In the Mood, Chattanooga Choo Choo, Begin the Beguine, Stardust, A Sentimental Journey, and Juke Box Saturday Night. The band's entire repertoire now exceeds 1,700 compositions and is geared to appeal to young and old alike.

"What we're trying to do is run this band the way we feel Glenn would have if he were still here," said O'Brien. "Some of the more modern part of our repertoire we play in the big-band style. Some we don't."

Whatever the Miller music or mood, the musician's invitation is clear: savor the listening, but even better, join in by dancing!

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, Major 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."

Today, the Glenn Miller Orchestra performs for more than 500,000 people annually, traveling over 100,000 miles and playing nearly 300 dates. The Glenn Miller Orchestra has been on the road longer and more continuously than any other Big Band.

"If anything," O'Brien said, "I honestly think the authentic Glenn Miller music today is more popular and with more people than ever before."

The orchestra's Feb. 28 performance is sponsored by UCSD's University Events Office. Tickets are \$20, general admission; \$17 for seniors, and \$15 for students. Tickets are available at the UCSD Box Office, 534-6467, and at Ticketmaster outlets.

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