

# Glenn Miller Orchestra to play big band favorites

FLORENCE — One of the most popular and sought after bands today, the Glenn Miller Orchestra is considered by many to be one of the greatest bands of all time. The current band began playing together in 1956 and has remained touring ever since.

On March 18, SEAc coast and the Florence Events Center (FEC) will open the dance floor so that audience members can truly enjoy the cabaret-style concert the way big band music was intended.

The legendary Glenn Miller was one of the most successful of all dance bandleaders back in the era of Swing during the 1930s and 1940s. Miller's band was unmatched in its string of hits.

Miller disbanded the orchestra in 1942 at the height of its popularity to volunteer to serve his country.

It was while in the military that he



COURTESY PHOTO

The Glenn Miller Orchestra

organized and led the famous Glenn Miller Air Force Band. It traveled Europe entertaining servicemen and performing numerous live and radio shows.

His most popular orchestrations include "In the Mood," "Moonlight Serenade," "Chattanooga Choo Choo," "A String of Pearls," and "Pennsylvania 6-5000."

On Dec. 15, 1944, Major Glenn Miller disappeared into the English Channel in a single-engine plane and was never seen again.

The release of the movie *The Glenn Miller Story* starring Jimmy Stewart and June Allyson in 1954 renewed interest and demand for the return of the Glenn Miller Orchestra.

In June 6, 1956, under the direction of drummer Ray McKinley, the reformed orchestra performed its first concert and has remained on the road ever since, traveling the globe.

Today, the 18-member ensemble continues to play many of the original Miller arrangements from both the civilian band and Air Force Band archives. It also plays some more modern selections arranged and performed in the Miller style and sound.

The March 18 concert will take place at 7 p.m. Tickets range in price from \$10 to \$30.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call the FEC at 541-997-1994 or visit [www.eventcenter.org](http://www.eventcenter.org).

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