

# Glenn Miller Orchestra swings into Florence

FLORENCE — Glenn Miller; the name instantly brings to the ear the amazing music of the 1940s, and to mind the sights and sounds of USO shows, jumpin' and jivin' ballrooms, crackling radio broadcasts and the best swing-dancing music ever performed... or recorded.

"It's been a few years, so it's time to bring one of Florence's — and the world's — favorite dance bands back to the Florence Events Center," says Maggie Doud, a SEAc coast Entertainment Association board member and producer for this concert.

SEAc coast Entertainment opens the Florence Event Center's flat floor so you can enjoy big band music the way it was intended — with dancing and cabaret-style seating — on Friday, March 18.

There is limited "open" seating and attendees are urged to get their tickets soon.

"The Glenn Miller Orchestra stays ever-true to its founder's exacting sound, with the original mix of trombones, saxophones, trumpets... rich, powerful, melodious and unforgettable," Doud adds. "Dial Pennsylvania 6-5000 to travel back to that glorious era aboard the Chattanooga Choo Choo to Tuxedo Junction and get In the Mood for an all-American Patrol of Big Band classics. Don't miss a beat!"

Doud explains that Miller's signature sound "is created by the clarinet holding the melodic line, doubled or coupled with the tenor sax playing the same notes; and the harmonies produced by three other saxophones, while growling trombones and wailing trumpets add their oo-ahs."

"The Glenn Miller Orchestra is on the road longer and more continuously than any other in the world. The band covers more than 100,000 miles a year, working most every night for 48 weeks out of every 52.

"They play nearly 300 dates, performing for an estimated half-million people annually. We're fortunate to get them here," adds Doud.

The first Glenn Miller Orchestra was a total and absolute economic failure. But Miller knew what he wanted, held to that dedication and relentlessly worked to succeed.



COURTESY PHOTO

## The Glenn Miller Orchestra

He launched his second band — the one that lives on today — in March of 1938. Miller disbanded his musical organization in 1942 at the height of its popularity to volunteer for the Army.

There, he organized and led the famous Glenn Miller Army Air Force Band. It went to Europe to entertain servicemen performing numerous live and radio shows.

On Dec. 15, 1944, Major Miller took off in a single engine plane to precede his band to Paris, disappearing over the English Channel, never to be seen again.

The release of the 1954 movie *The Glenn Miller Story* featuring Jimmy Stewart and June Allyson, led the Miller Estate to authorize the formation of the present Glenn Miller Orchestra.

On June 6, 1956, under the direction of drummer Ray McKinley, the reformed Glenn Miller Orchestra performed its first concert and has been on the road ever since, playing many of the original Miller arrangements both from the civilian band and the

AAFBI libraries.

The SEAc coast concert season continues with a rare Thursday night concert April 7, with Shuffle, a group so multitalented they let the audience select the pieces they will play from Baroque to classical and romantic; from jazz, to pop and Broadway.

Then, on Friday, May 13, you'll be in luck when The New Hot Club of America comes to "wow" Florence. This dazzling ensemble is comprised of some of today's top gypsy jazz artists in North America.

You'll want to tango in your seat as they recapture the sound, style, and spirit of the 1930s-era Hot Club of France.

Tickets, artist profiles, show times, video clips and more information are available at [SEAc coastEA.org](http://SEAc coastEA.org).

Tickets are \$30, or \$10 for those age 17 and under.

Tickets may also be purchased at the Florence Events Center box office, 715 Quince St., by calling 541-997-1994 or online at [www.eventscenter.org](http://www.eventscenter.org).

## LAST RESORT PLAYERS TO PRESENT ADAPTATION OF 'ANNE FRANK'

FLORENCE — In this powerful, intimate adaptation of "The Diary of Anne Frank," the audience finds itself going back in time to enter an era when human moral is shattered by horrific changes.

But somewhere in a small annex, a little girl finds the courage to survive. During two years of hiding, Anne Frank records daily activities and conversations with wit and astonishing honesty.

We learn through a mature 13-year-old girl that the human heart truly can defeat the fear of death.

In this drama presented by the Last Resort Players, audiences will be invited to witness what life may have been like for the Frank family.

Living a claustrophobic existence together, eight people try to contain their fear of what is to come, grief for what was

lost and hope for a peace where they can go back to their ordinary lives.

History plays out before audience members in this adaptation that is for those who know the story well, and for a new generation that has yet to understand the gift that Anne Frank gave to the world through her diary.

"When I write I can shake off all my cares. My sorrow disappears, my spirits

are revived! But, and that's a big question, will I ever be able to write something great, will I ever become a journalist or a writer?" — Anne Frank

"The Diary of Anne Frank" will be performed April 22 through 30 at the Florence Events Center, 715 Quince St.

Reserve tickets by calling the FEC box office at 541-997-1994 or visiting [www.eventcenter.org](http://www.eventcenter.org).