

The Glenn Miller Festival of Swing, Jazz & Jive 2006

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE GLENN MILLER FESTIVAL:

The Glenn Miller Festival of Swing, Jazz and Jive is the 5th annual Glenn Miller Festival, held at the historic RAF Twinwood Airfield and Twinwood Arena, in Clapham, Bedford.

On August 27th, 1944 the famous American bandleader, Glenn Miller performed a concert on Twinwood Airfield, and this was the only outdoor concert he ever performed, at an RAF base. Then only a few months later, on December 15th Glenn boarded a small single engine plane from Twinwood Control Tower, and was never seen again. The Glenn Miller Festival at Twinwood Airfield is a unique event, held at the historic site, which was destined to become part of Glenn Millers life and legacy.

Twinwood Events aim to bring to their audience, the ultimate Big Band, Jazz and Jive experience. The wide range of music at the Glenn Miller Festival spans from the 1930s onwards, and is not by any means restricted to only Glenn Miller, but also includes sets with talented bands and vocalists reproducing the evocative sounds of Sinatra, Bing Crosby, Ella Fitzgerald, Stephane Grappelli, The Andrews Sisters, and there is plenty of faster tempo dance jive and Jazz at the festival, making The Glenn Miller Festival an event that everyone will enjoy, whether you remember Glenn Miller or not.

As well as the top class music which will entertain you over the weekend, make sure you don't miss the many traders selling everything from original records, to reproduction WWII uniform's and 1940s fashions, and with Jiving & Jitterbug lessons in the hangar you will soon be able to dance the night away in style! One of the most memorable parts of Twinwood is the WWII living history element of the show. Take a stroll along the woodland walk and you will feel as though you have stepped back in time. When the RAF Battle of Britain Memorial flight fly over, it will be a truly unforgettable experience.

PRICES AND TICKET BOOKING:

The Glenn Miller Festival of Swing, Jazz and Jive is extremely good value for money. Gates open from 10am each day. The first live music performances commence at around 11.30am each day and once the festival has started the live music carries on, non-stop. On the Saturday and Sunday the live music ends at 9pm, and then the Hangar Dance's to 'Swing Shift' go on until midnight, and on the Monday the festival will end at approximately 8pm.

Tickets are pre-booked through Twinwood Events Ltd, Twinwood Rd, Clapham. Tel: 01234 350413, Email info@twinwoodevents.com

Website : www.twinwoodevents.com

Adult tickets start at £16 and go up to £33 for the full 3 day festival ticket. Child Tickets start at £6 for a 1 day ticket and go up to £11 for a full 3 day ticket. Children under 5 years are free. Camping and Caravanning is available for just £15 per plot for 4 nights stay. There are discounts off the above prices if booked early!! 10% off all tickets booked before May 31st and 5% off tickets booked before June 30th.

THE GLENN MILLER FESTIVAL **MAIN HEADLINE BANDS AND ACTS**

JOHN MILLER & HIS ORCHESTRA

The John Miller Orchestra, formerly The Herb Miller Orchestra, is the only Big Band performing the music of Glenn Miller with direct family links to the great man himself, in the form of John Miller, his nephew.

Herb Miller (John's Father) developed his musical talent very much under the guidance of his elder brother Glenn, and went on to form various bands in America. But it was not until many years after the mysterious disappearance of Glenn that Herb decided he wanted to re-create the Miller Magic and form an orchestra to play the music of his brother. Herb had worked in America for many years with his son John, singer and bass player. When they decided to form the Herb Miller Orchestra in

Great Britain John became his business partner, and the featured singer with the band. John and Herb built an organization which now contains some of the best musicians in the country. Sadly, Herb Miller died in September 1987. John Miller took over the direction of the band and his unique brand of Yankee showmanship, humour and personality gave it a reputation of "a good time for all" (including the band). John has the uncanny ability to reach a crowd whether it is in the small confines of a smoky bar, or the vast expanse of Hyde Park to ten thousand plus.

John is joined on stage by vocalist Fiona Paige who is at the centre of the great Modernaires numbers like "Chattanooga Choo Choo", and "I've Gotta Gal in Kalamazoo". As Fiona is an ex-dancer, she brings years of professionalism, energy and an extra dimension and definition to the term "Big Band Singer". She is a show in herself. To see her is to love her.

The Orchestra has extensively toured in the UK, France, Belgium, The Canary Islands, and the Scandinavian countries, to name a few, recreating the classical Glenn Miller sound for the pleasure of thousands of listeners, so keeping alive the family connection with the music of his uncle, Glenn Miller.

Twinwood Events are pleased to announce that John Miller is also this year's Glenn Miller Festival host and compere for the whole festival.



THE OPUS ONE ORCHESTRA WITH FULL STRINGS SECTION

OPUS ONE first swung its way onto the dance floors of Britain in 1983, and it has been helping the world to party ever since!

OPUS ONE BIG BAND has rightly been able to boast that over the years it has played at some of the most prestigious Glenn Miller 40's functions, having been featured at all of the major 50th Anniversary of World War II commemorations, including working for the American Air Force, RAF Museum, Duxford Air Museum, North Weald Aerodrome, Bletchley Park Museum, Imperial War Museum, "Stage Door Canteen" Royal Albert Hall, Bedford Corn Exchange - Home of



the original Glenn Miller Orchestra in WWII. OPUS ONE has played at every Jitterbug Ball since the start and was commissioned to perform at the RAF's official 60th Anniversary commemoration of "The Battle of Britain". At these events OPUS ONE feature their very own Artie Shaw, super sax & clarinetist Ronnie Findon plus Alan Boynton, one of the UK's top Big Band drummers ex Joe Loss plus a host of other superb musicians. They have worked with many stars including Dennis Lotis, The Beverley Sisters, Joan Regan, Helen Shapiro, Humphrey Lyttelton, Max Bygraves and the famous American vocalist Maragret Whiting in many of the UK's premier venues.

CHRIS SMITH & HIS STRING OF PEARLS ORCHESTRA

As a young musician, Chris was inspired by the great bandleaders of the past but in creating and leading "The String Of Pearls" he has brought the Big Band sound up to date & fulfilled a long standing ambition. Top British Trombonist, Chris Smith, who has performed in all major TV and recording studios, toured with Frank Sinatra on many occasions including his world Tour "The Ultimate Event". During his outstanding professional career Chris has appeared with; Judy Garland, Peggy Lee, Tony Bennett, Jack Jones, Tom Jones, Lulu, Shirley Bassey, Diana Ross, Sammy Davis Jr., Liza Minelli, Barbara Streisand, plus many other international stars.



Chris Smith, with his eighteen piece String of Pearls Orchestra and Singers feature the exciting music made famous by Glenn Miller, Harry James, Tommy Dorsey Benny Goodman, and many more. Along with the great names of the past, Chris can also include hits of James Last, Whitney Houston, Donna Summer and other popular stars of more recent years, thereby bringing the Big Band Sound up to date. Their strength is to move with the times and yet stay fresh whilst spanning music of the past decades.

BILL BAKERS BIG BAND

Bill Baker's Big Band was founded in 1987 by Wim Zweekhorst, also known as Bill Baker. He is one of the greatest connoisseurs of the Glenn Miller-music in Holland. The band has specialized in that typical big band music from the thirties and forties.

The band plays music of Glenn Miller, Harry James, Tommy Dorsey, Benny Goodman and Count Basie. Led by conductor Egbert Kemner the band produces a new show every year, which is presented in various theatres. The rehearsals for these shows take place with lots of dedication and fun. The



shows, set up by Bill Baker, are well designed and musically integrated. Bill Baker makes his choice from 1500 arrangements.

This is the third year that the Bill Baker Big Band will have performed at the U.K. Glenn Miller Festival, having performed in 2003 and 2004. At the 2004 Glenn Miller Festival they appeared alongside Beryl Davis, who was one of Glenn Miller's original female vocalists. That performance, in the intimate surroundings of the Control Tower stage, on a balmy Saturday evening was an unforgettable show and those who were there

will never forget that evening. Bill Bakers Big Band are refreshingly enthusiastic, everyone loves them and this is why Twinwood Events have invited them back to the 2006 Glenn Miller Festival.

STICKY WICKET & HIS FABULOUS SWING ORCHESTRA Featuring Serena Howard-Douglas

The Nine Piece Band was formed by (ex - Chris Barber) 'Drummer Extraordinaire', Alan 'Sticky' Wicket in the year 2000.

Debating at The 100 Club London in January 2001, they appeared under the name 'The Little Big Band'. Since then, they have performed at major festivals & Swing-Dance events all over the UK, including The Savoy Ball, The Swing-Jam, Marlborough Jazz Festival, Blenheim Palace, The Glitter Ball,

Jitterbugs and regular visits to The 100 Club.

They also appeared on the BBC TV Homeguard documentary 'We'll Meet Again' and met up with The Jiving Lindyhoppers with whom they have collaborated on several stage shows. The re-named Sticky Wicket & his Fabulous Swing band have gone on to many further successes and have already given us here at Twinwood several marvellous performances ; namely our opening club Swing Dance, where they proved themselves as undoubtedly one of the best and most popular bands with the Jive & Lindy hop dancers and our Sinatra night with the `voice `himself Mr. Jim McAllister together with the band`s ever popular regular vocalist the inimitable Serena Howard Douglas! The 2003 Savoy Ball in London saw the inauguration of the fourteen piece `Swing Orchestra` which is the line up appearing at this festival by special request!



THE JIVE ACES

The Jive Aces are known as the UKs No.1 Jive and swing band, and once you have seen them perform you will know why they have earned their reputation! A group of lads from London were drawn together by their love for a style and music that outclasses anything else around. The music was hot jive that had the beat, energy and enthusiasm of rock 'n' roll and the fun and rhythm of big band swing all rolled into one.

The Jive Aces are one of the hardest working bands in show business today, performing over 300 shows per year, in so far over 25 different countries. They have performed in literally hundreds of TV and radio shows all over the world. You may have recently seen them on 'Test the nation' and in 2005 they released their charity single "White Cliffs of Dover" in aid of the British



Legion appeal. They are currently revelling in chart success, reaching No 27 in the indy chart!!



KINGS CROSS HOT CLUB

The ultra-English reference to Django Reinhardt and Stephane Grappelli's legendary gypsy-swing band Hot Club De Paris is more than justified in the substance of this exuberant debut set by a septet who positively bubble with diversity in their refreshing choice of styles and repertoire. Twinwood Events are very pleased to say that The Hot Club of Kings Cross have been invited back to perform at the Glenn Miller Festival. The music of Hot Club is an essential part of the eclectic mix of the festival. Last year this band received a standing ovation, and after their stunning performance, Twinwood received many calls from people who were thrilled that this style of music had been introduced into the Glenn Miller Festival, and having it performed by the Kings Cross Hot Club made a truly sublime afternoon, into one of the unforgettable moments of last years festival.

BLUE HARLEM

Blue Harlem hit the bandstand running. The members kept meeting in other groups (the Big Town Playboys, King Pleasure and Ray Gelato's Giants, for example), so it seemed natural to get together for good.

By the year 2000, they had established themselves as one of the premier swing/jive bands on the London circuit. Their love of the music of the golden swing era, and the jump blues of the 40s/50s means that stylistically they are all hip to the same muse. With the likes of Buddy and Ella Johnson, Louis Jordan and Count Basie as their heroes, you can be sure the band will get you up on your feet. The last couple of years has seen a move towards the urban blues, and blues and rhythm of such artists as Ruth Brown, Dinah Washington and particularly early Ray Charles. As a result their live shows are now an exciting mix of original takes on swing standards, alongside hard driving, emotionally charged, sophisticated blues (both covers and original compositions). Festivals played by Blue Harlem include: Molde (Norway) International Jazz Festival, Soho (London) Jazz Festival, West Wales International Jazz Festival in Aberystwyth, the Bath Fringe Festival, Ghentbrugge (Belgium) International Jazz Festival, and the European Film Festival in Dresden; As well as festivals at Bures, Chichester, Coventry, Colne, Gloucester, Guisborough and Salisbury. The Band are now regulars at the world-famous 100 Club, as well as playing many other London venues including the South Bank Centre and Jitterbugs. They have an enviable reputation as a party band, having played at 100s of venues across the UK from the Grand Hotel, Brighton to Meikleour Castle, Perthshire. They have been invited on 3 separate occasions to perform at Highgrove House charity balls for the 'Prince's Trust'. "Solid swing and great arrangements from this stylish up-town band - they kept the dance floor packed and we will definitely want them back" Twinwood Events welcome Blue Harlem to the Glenn Miller Festival for the first time and are very much looking forward to their spectacular performance!!



THE EXTRAORDINAIRES

Starting off as dancers, the Hall brothers quickly became noticed in the clubs, as London's most notable movers and shakers. With their passion for Doo-Wop, Rock 'n' Roll, Gospel, Ska, Reggae, early Motown, Rhythm & Blues and Jazz, it didn't take long to add a new dimension to their act. The Extraordinaires' stunning A Cappella harmonies and breathtaking dance moves have wowed audiences all over the world and earned them an international reputation as one of the most exciting live bands around. The Extraordinaires have appeared at many prestigious Rhythm & Blues, Jazz Roots and Rock n Roll Festivals, including Las Vegas USA, Rhythm Riot UK, Cognac Blues, Pori Jazz Finland, Peer R&B Belgium and Hemsby UK. They have made numerous



appearances on National TV in the UK and abroad, in programmes such as Jools Hollands Hottenanny BBC2, childrens' programme with Floella Benjamin and currently they feature in a new BBC1 Digital Ad. They have made commercials for Cadbury's Creme Eggs and appeared in many Hip Hop/Dance promos. The group have recently collaborated with great friends in music such as Mike Sanchez & his Rhythm & Blues Revue and also a pumping Dub, Ska Band called The Internationals, in and around Belgium and Holland. The Extraordinaires debut at the Glenn Miller Festival 2006, and we know that you will be absolutely captivated and love their fabulous performance, which will also incorporate a very special Nicholas Brothers dance routine, and this will be performed alongside Sticky Wicket and his Orchestra and is being put together especially for the Glenn Miller Festival.