

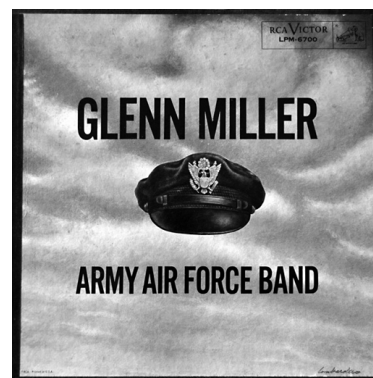
Glenn Miller Army Air Force Band

This double-sided five-vinyl (black analog) RCA*¹ LP record set in a thick album cover contains notes and photos of the great artist Glenn Miller that were first published in 1955. These have been collected and compiled into a new LP format from live performances of the Glenn Miller Army Air Force (AAF) Band broadcast by NBC*² Radio during World War II. This band was expanded into his famous “civilian-time” band known as Glenn Miller and His Orchestra, which included not only brass and rhythm sections but was also accompanied by strings and vocal groups or solo singers.

When I was a little boy, my family had an SP record player with a collection of 10-inch SP records of Japanese pop singers and children's songs as well as famous classical music pieces. Among these records I could easily find several with very lively, energetic music played by Glenn Miller and his Orchestra. All of the records in the collections belonged to my father, who had recently come back from a detention camp in Siberia and returned to his job as a local physician in my town.

This music seemed like a bright light in the dark for me. I did not know at that time that Mr. Glenn Miller had already passed away when many members of the Japanese public were enjoying his musical pieces, including “Moonlight Serenade,” “String of Pearls,” “In the Mood,” and “Little Brown Jug,” pieces that provided vital support for their spirits to survive the hard and confusing times in Japan after the War.

Mr. Miller's music has the well-organized and arranged style of big band jazz with some parts for solo improvisation. It is rather different from other Jazz music styles such as the Dixie style that came before or the cool, individualistic Jazz styles represented by Jazz giants like Charlie Parker and Miles Davis that came afterwards. Still, these Glenn Miller records are really excellent packages of American Jazz music with mellow, sweet, straight, and powerful sounds.



I should like to say that, moreover, Mr. Miller's music was symbolic of the good old America of his time, and so I feel that these old-style SP records encapsulate vital messages from the faraway US packaged before the war as well as vivid sounds that flowed from the records any time that I, a little boy in Japan, played them on our turntable.

The piece “Star Dust” on this AAF band album sounds like a different arrangement, with soft strings playing as elegantly as can be. “Holiday for Strings” provides moments when each player's virtuosity merges in the united refinement and elegance of the whole.

I am therefore enjoying this album tremendously. I do not want to get it in CD format, even if that were possible, because these records are a real time capsule documenting a human genius from the past that shows through his musical band how his vital talent and high spirit were not defeated by the hard times of war.

“America means freedom and there's no expression of freedom quite so sincere as music.”

— Glenn Miller

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*¹ Radio Corporation of America.

*² National Broadcasting Company.