

In The Mood

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If you walk past the Garde Arts Center in New London Saturday night, and it appears to be shaking or undergoing some sort of seismic event, no worries. It's only the Glenn Miller Orchestra rockin' the joint with a set of broiling big-band swing.

To say the group is a tribute outfit — as opposed to a band with an actual direct link to the famous jazz artist who died in 1944 in a World War II flight off the coast of England — is to a certain extent accurate.

At the same time, while many of the orchestra's musicians weren't born when Miller passed, it's also true that current GMO leader, trombonist Larry O'Brien, joined the band while it was under the direction of Ray McKinley — the drummer who played with Miller in his Army-Air Force Band.

O'Brien also played for a while in the Ray Eberle Orchestra. Eberle sang a while in Miller's civilian band.

So in fact there *is* a sort of sonic bloodline/connection to go along with the fervent and sincere spirit that infuses this most excellent group, one dedicated to preserving the tradition and sounds of Miller's iconic style of big-band swing.

With a reported repertoire of over a thousand tunes, including Miller classics as well as those of his contemporaries Duke Ellington, Artie Shaw, the Dorsey Brothers and Benny Goodman, the Glenn Miller Orchestra does more than reflect an era. They revitalize and redefine the music for contemporary ears as well as nostalgic ones.

The Glenn Miller Orchestra, 8 p.m. Sat., Garde Arts Center, 325 State St., New London; \$25-\$38; 444-7373, gardearts.org.

Regional

Total 1 images.



Photo courtesy of the Glenn Miller Productions, Inc.