

NOVEMBER 2017



BIG BAND NEWS

by Music Librarian **CHRISTOPHER POPA**

A SPECIAL COLLECTION AT ROOSEVELT UNIVERSITY

THE SENGSTOCK FILES



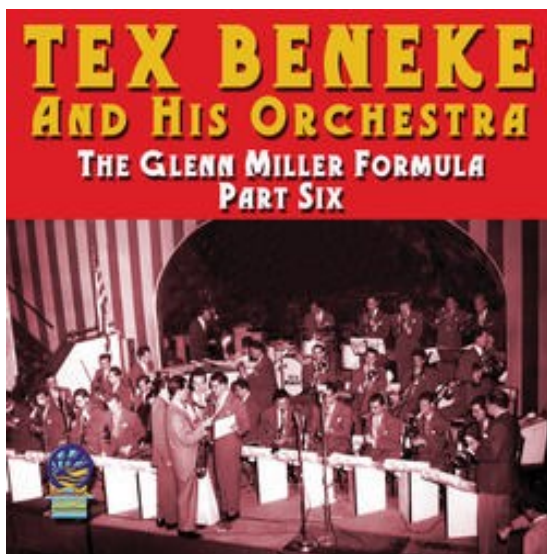
Veteran historian and author Charles A. “Chuck” Sengstock Jr., has, over the years, conducted research and accumulated a lot of music, interviews, notes, newspaper clippings, photos, press kits, and other information about the dance bands, ballrooms, and theaters that were popular around the Chicago area.

Some of Sengstock’s work has appeared in print, including his 296-page [That Toddlin’ Town: Chicago’s White Dance Bands and Orchestras, 1900-1950](#) (Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press, 2004), a 52–page [Jazz Music In Chicago’s Early South-Side Theaters](#) (Northbrook, IL: The Canterbury Press of Northbrook, 2000), and numerous publications such as [Intermezzo](#) (The Chicago Federation of Musicians’ newsletter) and [Armour Research Foundation News](#). His latest article, “Merry Garden and Paradise Ballrooms Run by Dance Professionals Not Businessmen,” was in the September / October 2017 issue of [Intermezzo](#).

Now, The Performing Arts Library at Roosevelt University of Chicago, which has one of the best academic music and theatre collections in Illinois, has scanned over a thousand of Sengstock’s fact-findings and posted them online at http://collections.carli.illinois.edu/cdm/landingpage/collection/rou_seng.

Congratulations and thanks are in order not only to Sengstock himself, but to Richard Schwegel, Director of Roosevelt’s Performing Arts Library, who spearheaded the project.

CD OF THE MONTH

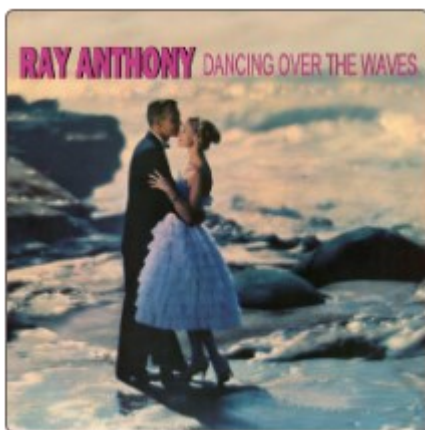


My pick for compact disc of the month goes to Sounds of YesterYear's latest volume of Tex Beneke and His Orchestra on Thesaurus, or "The Glenn Miller Formula: Part Six" (DSOY 2081) as the release is titled.

I am very glad that Michael Highton, a fan of Beneke for a long, long time, was able to gather these two dozen rare performances. The instrumentals include *Hermosa*, *Horses*, and *Hop Scotch* (how's that for three tunes that you've never heard before?), Tex sings *Castle Rock*, *I've Got the World On a String*, and, with Shirley Wilson, *Dimples and Cherry Cheeks*, Bill Raymond does ballads such as *The Day Isn't Long Enough* and *Unforgettable*, and Shirley Wilson solos on *Wonder Why*, *Can't Help Lovin' Dat Man*, *Too Marvelous for Words*, and others.

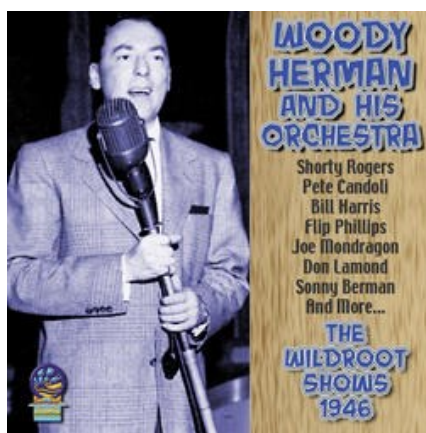
Note to collectors: if you see the first four volumes of "The Glenn Miller Formula" that came out between 2011 and 2013 (catalog numbers DSOY 846, 864, 878, and 943) but don't find one called "Volume Five," that's because that portion of the material was issued in 2008 under the title "Tex Swings - Eydie Sings" (DSOY 758).

A most welcome issue, Michael!



Music Boutique has transferred to a CD-R a 1958 Ray Anthony Capitol album, "Dancing Over the Waves" (ST 1028). Anthony is one of the very last name bandleaders still living, though his close friend Hugh Hefner, businessman and former Editor-in-Chief of Playboy, died on September 27, 2017.

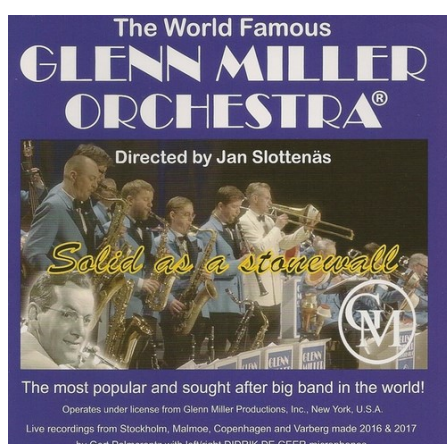
MORE REVIEWS AND PREVIEWS



Woody Herman and one of his great bands are heard on "The Wildroot Shows 1946," Sounds of YesterYear 2083. There are two programs on this CD, and the tunes include Woody's signature, *Blue Flame*, the show's *Wildroot Theme* and *You Better Get Wildroot*, and vintage pops like *Mabel, Mabel* and *All Through the Day* (in fact, two versions of the latter).



Sounds of YesterYear is now up to "Part 21" of Stan Kenton and the "Concerts In Miniature," as heard on NBC radio. The catalog number is 2080 and the broadcasts come from Ohio, Connecticut, and Massachusetts in July of 1953.



Jan Slottenas and The Glenn Miller Orchestra-Scandinavia have released "Solid as a stonewall," a CD of music from live concerts in 2016 and 2017. The songs and instrumentals include *My Reverie*, *Chicken Reel*, *Rhapsody in Blue*, *Measure for Measure*, *One Dozen Roses*, *Oh So Good*, and *It Was Wonderful Then*. To quote Miller himself from a radio broadcast, "And it's wonderful now." Very enjoyable!



What to me is an attractive cover launches a series of performances by Illinois Jacquet and His 15-piece Big Band from Squatty Roo Records. “The Jacquet Files, Volume 1” contains live music from the Village Vanguard in New York City in 1986. According to publicity, “As listeners will easily hear, this band rocked the house , and swung hard! Illinois himself is in rare form, playing soulfully and strong, ripping through all his classics with fervor and fire.” Eddie Barefield and Jimmy Mundy were among the arrangers for the band. Go for it!



Acrobat’s subsidiary label Fabulous has issued a 2-CD, 46-track set of Boyd Raeburn’s music, “The Boyd Raeburn Collection: 1944-48,” no.FADCD 2062. Much good jazz and many interesting titles are included, and quite a few were named for Raeburn: *Boyd Meets Girl*, *Boyd Meets the Duke*, *The Early Boyd*, *The Hep Boyds*, *Barefoot Boyd with Cheek*, *March of the Boys*, *Boyd’s Nest*, *Boyd Meets Stravinsky*, *Little Boyd Blue*, and *The Boogie Boyd*. Whew!



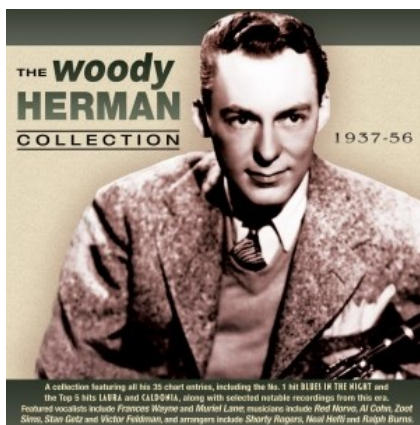
Bandleader John Kirby gets the Retrospective treatment with a collection of “His 28 finest” from 1937-1945 (RTR 4312). The label is a partnership between parent company Nimbus Records and nostalgia specialist Ray Crick, who chooses the material, sources the transfers, and supplies the notes.



Music Boutique is now up to 85 Lawrence Welk CD-Rs, transferred from his Dot and Ranwood albums. (And there are lots more to go!) Pictured above are the four latest.



There are 44 vocals by Peggy Lee on Acrobat ADDCD 3216, a 2-CD set. Many are the expected studio recordings but some are alternate takes and there are also some songs from broadcasts.



Acrobat also has a new 2-CD set of Woody Herman, a collection dating from 1937 to 1956, with 44 selections. 34 of them are said to be Woody's chart hits. The earliest performance is *I Double Dare You*, which was sung by Woody on Decca in 1937; the last one included is *I Don't Want Nobody (To Have My Love But You)*, another vocal of his, arranged by Nat Pierce, for Capitol in 1956.