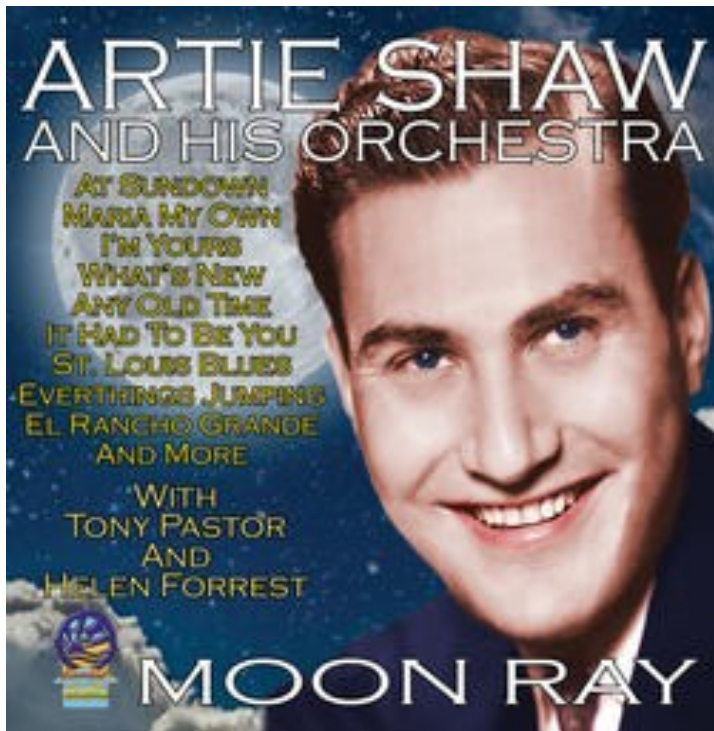


JULY 2018



BIG BAND NEWS

by Music Librarian **CHRISTOPHER POPA**

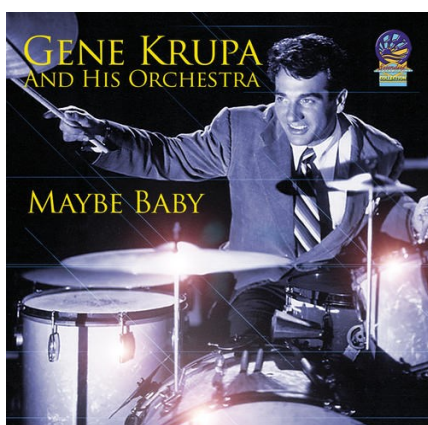


**SOUNDS OF
YESTER YEAR
BEATS THE
SUMMER HEAT
WITH
SIX COOL
GOODIES**

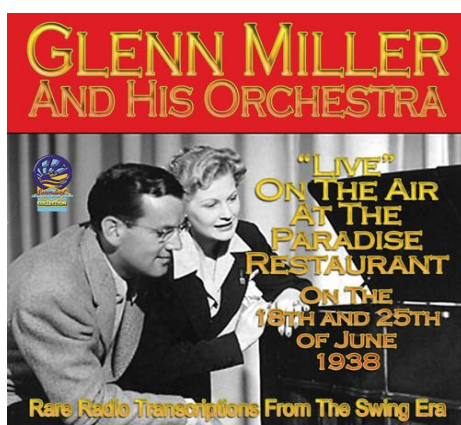


First up is Sounds of Yester Year DSOY2110, with 20 tracks of what they say is “rare and previously unissued recordings of the Kenton orchestra at various times during the 1950s when it was at its peak.” There’s *Opus in Chartreuse Cha Cha*, *The Night We Called It a Day*, vocals by June Christy and Ann Richards, *Cherokee* featuring Charlie Parker, *On the Alamo* with Dizzy Gillespie, and more. Are you convinced? Good!

Then comes Sounds of Yester Year DSOY2111, with Artie Shaw on two radio broadcasts from the Café Rouge of the Hotel Pennsylvania. To be precise, October 25, 1939 and November 2, 1939, which include such tunes as *At Sundown*, *Maria My Own*, *Any Old Time*, *What’s New*, and *It Had to Be You*. One of the truly great bands at its top!



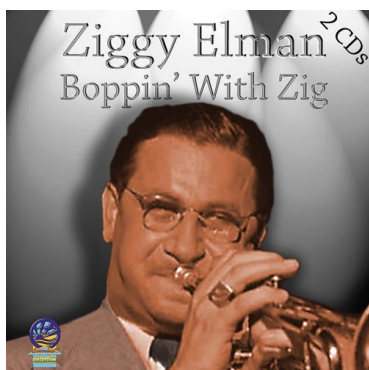
Gene Krupa has a turn on Sounds of Yester Year DSOY 2112, which contains two January 1945 airchecks, one from the Hotel Astor in New York City, the other at the Palladium in Hollywood. Among the songs and instrumentals are *The Big Do*, *Summertime*, *The Old Refrain*, and *Poinciana*. Like the label’s other releases this month, no maybe baby about it!



There’s also Sounds of Yester Year DSOY2113. They state that the two June 1938 broadcasts “to our knowledge have never been commercially issued before.” I guess they mean not as complete broadcasts, with all of the music together, even *Cathedral in the Pines* and *At Your Beck and Call*.



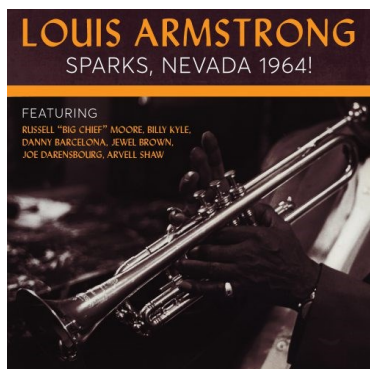
I can't leave out the new Will Bradley from Sounds of Yester Year, DSOY2107. The 27 tunes on this CD, such as *A-Jumping We Will Go*, *Gimme Time to Dream*, and *Quick As a Wink*, plus the 53 that came out on two similar volumes actually completes his transcriptions recorded for SESAC in 1959. Good job!



And last, but not least for Sounds of Yester Year, is a 2-CD set of Ziggy Elman, catalog number DSOD2098. It's all of his issued MGM recordings made between 1947 and 1952. Who doesn't like Ziggy?



Dot Time Records' "Legends" series has a live performance of Gene Krupa, taped at the Evansville, Indiana Jazz Festival on November 6, 1966. The lively tunes include *Drumboogie*, *Big Noise From Winnetka*, *Caravan*, and *Take the 'A' Train*. Eddie Shu is on tenor sax with Gene.



Another new release from Dot Time is Louis Armstrong live from the Circus Room of the Nugget Casino in Sparks, Nevada in June 1964. That's right when he was doing *Hello, Dolly!* and *A Lot of Livin' to Do*, along with *Indiana*, *Blueberry Hill*, and so forth.



Retrieval 79083 is named for Bunny Berigan but is in large part a feature for the singers Chick Bullock, Art Gentry, and Johnny Hauser, who Berigan accompanies. But, just like I said earlier about Ziggy Elman, who doesn't like Bunny?



Baseball fans can be happy with a single, happier with a double, even happier with a triple, but ecstatic with a home run. For jazz fans, Squatty Roo continues their Illinois Jacquet “Jacquet Files” series with not one, not two, but three volumes this summer! “Volume 6” (no.297) presents his big band live at the Village Vanguard in 1986, with 13 tunes including *Cotton Tail*, *Old Man River*, and *April in Paris*. “Volume 7” (no.298) is Jacquet live at the Blue Note in New York City in 1987, with *Smooth Sailing*, *More Than You Know*, *Perdido*, and others. And “Volume 8” (no.299), also live at the Blue Note, contains *Black Velvet*, *Night in Tunisia*, *Harvard Blues*, and nine more. Squatty Roo has hit a home run with these, though, admittedly, the song line-up is much the same on each volume.



If your tastes lean toward the big bands as they are today, you should consider the new one by the Stan Kenton Legacy Orchestra directed by Mike Vax. Titled “Flyin’ Through Florida,” they perform Kenton’s original arrangement of *Artistry Jumps*; *In the Wee Small Hours of the Morning* and *Through the Eyes of Love*, two songs charted in the 1970s by Dave Barduhn; as well as even more modern sounds featuring the talented players.



Another CD by the bands as they are in 2018 would be The Glenn Miller Orchestra, the one which is directed in Europe by pianist Wil Salden. Besides some expected original Miller band arrangements—in this case, *Juke Box Saturday Night*, *Everybody Loves My Baby*, *A Cabana in Havana*, etc.—there are also *You're the Top*, *When You're Smiling*, *What a Wonderful World*, and others.



It is a new LP (not a CD), on 180-gram vinyl, from a label called New Continent. But its contents will be overly familiar to Glenn Miller fans. There are a total of 16 selections recorded by the “authentic” Miller band in the ‘30s and ‘40s, including the very biggest hits, such as *In the Mood*, *Chattanooga Choo Choo*, *A String of Pearls*, *Serenade in Blue*, and *Moonlight Serenade*, but also *Moon Love* and, by Miller’s Army Air Forces Band, *Over There* and *Mission to Moscow*, which, in fact, was Benny Goodman’s “hit,” not Miller’s. It’s odd how New Continent lists certain members of the band, with the wording “Featuring —.” I don’t think, for instance, that you can really say that Dick Fisher or Rolly Bundock were “featured” - certainly, not on these particular songs. The cover artwork sort of looks like a design from the late ‘60s or early ‘70s—similar to, say, the album “Helen” by Helen O’Connell (Evolution 2020). I wish people could recognize the difference between a release that’s had a lot of care and thought given to it, versus one like this.

SNEAK PEEK

Wait ‘til you see what’s coming out in August and in the course of the next year!

One of the splendid new recommended CD releases is by a legendary bandleader, but the material is some of the most atypical recordings that he ever made!