

compiled by Music Librarian Christopher Popa

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CHUCK CECIL, 94, HANGS UP HIS HEADPHONES

I don't think that I could ever hear Harry James' Capitol recording of *The Mole* without thinking of Chuck Cecil. After all, that was Chuck's radio theme song for his wonderful, weekly program, "The Swingin' Years," which began on KFI in Hollywood on a Saturday morning in 1956 and lasted, somewhere (whether on the air or online), for more than 20,000 hours, all the way until last month.

At one point, it was syndicated to more than 300 radio stations nationwide, and broadcast internationally to 240 ships and 170 military bases by the Armed Forces Radio Network.

The very last outlet to carry the program was a public broadcasting station in Long Island, NY. Their announcement was disappointing but not unexpected. "WPPB regrets to inform you that the Swingin' Years with Chuck Cecil will end its broadcasts on Sunday, July 3rd at midnight. Chuck is 94 and has decided to retire. We will greatly miss Chuck who we consider to be a one of a kind American treasure."

I thought he had a cheery, attractive voice and he always presented his show in a creative way, with so much good music, interesting facts, and various segments like "Turning Time Around" (where he'd play the original recording of a song and then a different, newer recording of the same song) and his "Curtain Call" interviews with big band celebrities like Artie Shaw, Bob Grabeau, Harry James, and Jerry Gray.

Chuck's wife, Edna (shown with him below in a photo courtesy of [The Los Angeles Times](#)), helped with the production of the show.

"It was an emotional time, and a hardship time, but it was a survival time," Chuck explained to [Los Angeles Times](#) writer [Charles Fleming](#) in 2013. "That's why the music was so treasured. It did lift people's spirits during the Depression and the war."





COMPACT DISC REVIEW: “GLENN MILLER’S ARMY AIR FORCES BAND: SOMETHING BLUE”

Tony Eaton, big band historian, lecturer, and longtime member of the bygone international Glenn Miller Society, has done a great job with a fresh set of liner notes, this time for the CD “Something Blue” (Sounds of YesterYear DSOY 2034), produced by the indefatigable Michael Highton, another Miller and Tex Beneke devotee.

I especially appreciate that while Tony includes a lot of facts about Miller’s AAF ensemble, his writing is always accurate and easy to understand. He wrote a very good summary about the band, plus identified the songs and soloists on the disc, and also managed to provide fine details (like how *In the Blue of Evening* was a favorite of the late BBC2 presenter and Miller fan Alan Dell).

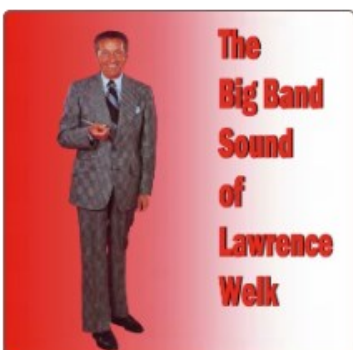
All of the selections either have the word “blue” in the title, such as *My Blue Heaven*, *Blue Champagne*, and *Blue Rain*, or offer a relaxed, bluesy setting like *Mood Indigo* and *Deep Purple*. Even though they all fit within the theme, they are a quite varied lot and enjoyable to hear.

Well done, Tony and Michael!

Incidentally, this release follows the 2012 CD “The Old Songs” (Sounds of YesterYear DSOY 899). So, gentlemen, can we look forward to Miller compilations of something new and something borrowed?

BUBBLES IN YOUR WINE, AS PROMISED

I had mentioned recently that some Lawrence Welk music not previously on CD would soon be available, and among the latest batch are:



“The Big Band Sound of Lawrence Welk” Music Boutique CD-R

A dozen all-time standards by the Champagne Music Makers. For example, there’s *Star Dust*, *Georgia On My Mind*, *I’ll Never Smile Again*, *September Song*, *In a Sentimental Mood*, *The Good Life*, *Misty*, and *Laura*. A Ranwood recording.



“A-one a-two—! this is Lawrence Welk” Music Boutique CD-R

Seven instrumentals by Welk, like *Cecilia* and *Champagne Time*, as well as many songs featuring his 1950s cast with Alice Lon, Big Tiny Little, Dick Kesner, Larry Dean, Larry Hooper, and The Lennon Sisters. Originally a 2-LP Coral set.



**“Waltz Time: Lawrence Welk”
Music Boutique CD-R**

A dozen waltzes, in stereo, originally recorded for the Dot label. They include *Tales From the Vienna Woods* and *The Merry Widow Waltz*.



**“Duke Ellington: Be Cool:
Live In Paris, 1969”
Squatty Roo Records**

Ellington and his famous orchestra performing at the Salle Pleyel in Paris during November 1969. Tunes include *Be Cool* and *La Plus Belle Africaine*.

ALSO SOME DOWNLOADS



**“Something New:
The Glenn Miller Orchestra
Under the Direction of Buddy DeFranco
translates The Tijuana Brass Hits”
Epic / Legacy**

The 1966 Epic LP that featured 10 Tijuana Brass goodies in the Miller manner, including a swinging version of *A Taste of Honey*.



**“Put Your Head on My Shoulder:
Si Zentner and His Orchestra”
RCA / Legacy**

Long out-of-print RCA Victor LP of 12 dreamy songs by Zentner, his trombone and orchestra. Among them: *Because of You*, *Be My Love*, and *My Devotion*.

Other titles available again—but as downloads only—include “Buddy Morrow On RCA” (originally a Collector’s Choice CD), “The Essential Lionel Hampton” (at one time a 2-CD set), and two “Jazz Moods” compilations by Artie Shaw and Glenn Miller.

BIG BANDS ON TOUR

* indicates a dance rather than a concert

Jan Garber Orchestra directed by Howard Schneider. Aug 28*, Surf Ballroom, Clear Lake, IA.

Glenn Miller Orchestra directed by Nick Hilscher. Aug 5, Ridgefield Playhouse, Ridgefield, CT; Aug 6, Infinity Hall, Norfolk, CT; Aug 7, Stadium Theatre Performing Arts Center, Woonsocket, RI; Aug 11*, Cumberland Valley National Bank, London, KY; Aug 13*, Lake Robbins Ballroom, Woodward, IA; Aug 14, Clarkson Community Opera House, Clarkson, NE; Aug 15*, Grand Island Liederkranz, Grand Island, NE; Aug 20, HAPO Community Stage, Richland, WA; Aug 21, Columbia Gorge Hotel, Hood River, OR; Aug 24, State Theatre, Red Bluff, CA; Aug 25, Gualala Arts Center, Gualala, CA; Aug 26, Orchard Creek Amphitheater, Lincoln, CA; Aug 27-28 Yoshi’s Oakland, Oakland, CA; Aug 30, Marjorie Luke Theatre, Santa Barbara, CA; Aug 31, Sycuan Casino, El Cajon, CA.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

John Miller, b. Aug 3, 1941. Nephew of Glenn Miller; leader of The Herb Miller Orchestra and now called The John Miller Orchestra.

Urbie Green, b. Aug 8, 1926. Trombonist with Savitt '45; Carle '45; Krupa '47 / '50; leader of T Dorsey Orch '66-'67.

Frank Capp, b. Aug 20, 1931. Drummer with Kenton '51; Hefti '52.

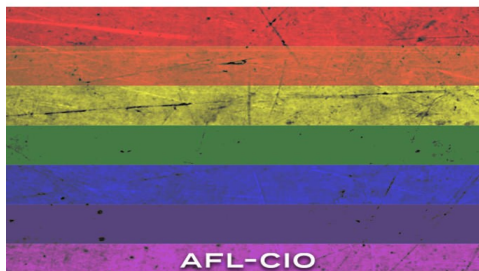
Jerry Dodgion, b. Aug 19, 1932. Alto saxophonist with Carter '55; Goodman '59-'60 / '61 / '62.

SUMMERTIME BITS AND PIECES

The famous Glenn Miller arrangement (though not the original recording) of *In the Mood* was heard July 5th on the NBC-TV show "America's Got Talent," backing a 14-year-old twirler. Two of the show's judges had differing opinions on the song choice—British personality and singer Mel B clearly enjoyed the tune but comedian Howie Mandel called it "dated." Then, the following night on the same show, a group of senior dancers used *In the Mood* . . . On July 17th, the 100th anniversary of big band trombonist-arranger Ray Conniff's birth was celebrated with an outdoor concert in Capron Park near Attleboro, MA. Music was by young Dan Gabel and the Abletones Dectet . . . The Glenn Miller Archive at the University of Colorado-Boulder offered a respectful remembrance of Pat Friday, a singer and voice double in the Glenn Miller movies "Sun Valley Serenade" and "Orchestra Wives." Friday, born Helen Patricia Freiday, died June 21 at the age of 94 . . .

#WEAREORLANDO
#1UPRIDE

**WORKING PEOPLE
UNITED AGAINST HATE.**



In the Summer 2016 issue of American Federation of Musicians Local 47 Overture, it was stated that working people were both victims and heroes in Orlando, FL on June 12th when 49 people were murdered at Pulse, an LGBTQ nightclub.

"Labor is one big family, made up of people of all races, religions, genders, sexual orientations and gender identities," the AFL-CIO explained. "As a family, we will work to provide comfort to our brothers and sisters in Orlando and across the United States. And we will make it our daily mission to ensure America's workplaces and union halls are safe and free from bigotry."

"There will be some who will try to use this tragedy to further divide us, to pit communities against each other and scapegoat entire faith traditions. Let us be perfectly clear: giving in to division and fear will only add insult to injury. This is a moment for us to come together, embrace our common humanity and take the necessary steps to make our country safer, stronger and more united."

"While we have made undeniable progress toward equality, too many in our country still face derision, discrimination and violence. These flames of hatred have been fanned by those in public life who want to marginalize an entire group of people for political gain. It's despicable and it must stop."