

Gilmore was the first American band leader to feature the saxophone. The French *Garde Republicaine* military band performed at the World Peace Jubilee and Gilmore was sufficiently impressed that in the following year he reorganized his band to include the instruments that the French band introduced to American ears. The new band included a soprano-alto-tenor-baritone saxophone section featuring Edward A. Lefebre (1834-1911) as soloist, which also performed as a quartet that became the archetype of the standard classical saxophone quartet. The promotion by Gilmore and Lefebre resulted in the first production of American saxophones and a shift of the center of the saxophone world from France to the United States around the turn of the century.

In 1891, he played for some of Thomas Edison's first commercial recordings. Musically, he was the first arranger to set brass instruments against the reeds, which remains the basis for big band orchestration. His arrangements of contemporary classics did a great deal to familiarize the American people with the work of the great European musical masters.