

DAN GABEL AND THE  
**ABLETONES**

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**AMERICAN BIG BAND**  
PRESERVATION SOCIETY INC.

*Preserve — Promote — Perform*

A Massachusetts 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to Big Bands,  
the Great American Songbook, and keeping music in schools.

# Honoring the 75th Anniversary of WWII

DAN GABEL AND THE  
**ABLETONES**  
TRIBUTE TO GLENN MILLER TOUR



IN PERSON

FEATURING  
THE BEANSTONES  
AND  
Emma Sundvik  
AS THE MODERNAIRES

MONDAY, JULY 26TH - MILTON, MA - 7PM

THURSDAY, JULY 29TH - STURBRIDGE, MA - 6PM

WEDNESDAY, JULY 28TH - WEST BROOKFIELD, MA - 7PM

SUNDAY, AUGUST 1ST - MANCHESTER, NH - 2PM

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**Alton Glenn Miller:** Born March 1, 1904 in Clarinda, Iowa, Miller aspired to become a pro-football player. After picking the trombone, however, there was no looking back. He studied at the University of Colorado at Boulder, and moved to NYC playing Broadway shows with Red Nichols, Benny Goodman, and many other future bandleaders. Miller played on one of the first interracial recording sessions in 1929 with the likes of Coleman Hawkins and Pops Foster.

While in NY, Miller studied arranging with **Dr. Joseph Schillinger** along with students George Gershwin and Bill Challis (father of big band arranging). He quickly became a top-call arranger and trombonist, while putting together bands for the Dorsey Brothers and Ray Noble. In 1937, Miller formed the first band of his own — a musical success, but a commercial and financial failure. Re-organizing in 1938 with help from Tommy Dorsey, Miller built his new band around a brand new “sound” using a clarinet lead over four saxophones. Using a Schillinger arranging assignment, 1935’s *Miller’s Tune* was retitled ***Moonlight Serenade***. “A band ought to have a sound of its own...its own personality” he wrote. The song and the sound catapulted Glenn Miller to fame and fortune.

In the shortest period of time, Glenn Miller scored more #1 hits than any other artist in history (including Elvis and The Beatles), and the first Gold Record for one million copies sold. Daily radio broadcasts made Miller a household name, along with national tours and two major Hollywood films.

However, amidst the wave of popularity, the U.S. plunged into WWII. Though too old for the draft, the patriotic Miller tried to sign up for the service unsuccessfully, but was finally enlisted as Captain in the Army. Despite his extreme financial success and popularity, Miller gave it all up to serve his country. He formed the **Army-Air Corps Band** to play the music that the young troops so dearly loved. Gen. Doolittle famously wrote, “next to a letter from home, Glenn Miller’s music was the greatest morale builder...” Tragically, Miller’s plane went down over the English Channel on December 14, 1944, but his music and legacy live on. Immortalized in the 1954 film *The Glenn Miller Story*, starring Jimmy Stewart, the band was once again re-formed. **The Glenn Miller Orchestra** continues as the only full-time touring big band in the world, and the music is as popular as ever.

Miller’s music means so much to so many, including me! I had the honor to tour full-time on the GMO, and witnessed first hand just how special this music was, and still is. I’d particularly like to remember and honor all those that served in WWII, overseas and at home. The selfless sacrifice of Glenn Miller is an example for us all today. As we come out of the pandemic, let’s come together as a nation once again to work for a brighter future. We think a little Miller music will help. So, sit back, relax, and enjoy some of the most iconic sounds in music history.

*The Miller Sound Lives Forever!*



## **PERSONNEL:**

**Dan Gabel:** Musical Director, Trombone, Arranger, Producer

**Vocals:** Emma Sundvik

**The Beantones:** Chris Peters - tenor; James Gillen - lead  
Grant Heineman - baritone; Davin Kingston - bass

## **THE ORCHESTRA:**

Reed 1: Nigel “Hal” Yancey\* (alto, clarinet)

Reed 2/Clarinet: John “Willie” Clark (clarinet lead, alto)

Reed 3: Ed “Tex” Harlow\* (tenor, clarinet)

Reed 4: Joel “Klink” Linscheid\* (tenor, clarinet)

Reed 5: Peter “Caceres” Da Silva (alto, bari, clarinet)

Trumpet 1: Don “Clutch” Clough\*

Trumpet 2: Dave “GOMOTS” Burdett\*

Trumpet 3: Adam “Hot Lips” Mejaour

Trumpet 4: Justin “Ziggy” Esiason

Trombone 1: Dan “Glenn” Gabel\*^

Trombone 2: Pete “Paul Tanner” Fanelli

Trombone 3: James “Jimmy Priddy” Monaghan

Trombone 4: Joe “Frankie D” Burke

Guitar: Bill “Mr. Rhythm” Doyle^^

Piano: Andrew “Chummy” Wilcox

Bass: Justin “Trigger” Meyer

Drums: Domenic “Dom” Porcelli or Mark “Moe” Holovnia\*

Sound: Joe “Nifty” Buckley

\*Denotes a musician who has played with the **Glenn Miller Orchestra**

^Mr. Gabel plays on a 1935 **King Silvertone** Trombone.

He endorses **King** instruments. Mr. Gabel has his suits tailored at **Rice Square Alterations**, 942 Grafton St. Worcester MA.

^^Mr. Doyle plays on a 1938 **Epiphone** Archtop Guitar

We’d also like to acknowledge the brilliant arrangements which make “the sound” so unique, written by Glenn Miller, Bill Finegan, Billy May, and Boston’s own Jerry Gray. These have been painstakingly transcribed for performance by Dan Gabel and Alan Glasscock.

*Program cover design:* Emma Sundvik. *Program by:* Dan Gabel.

*Special thanks to Adam Mejaour and David French Music Company for providing our rehearsal space, and stellar instrument repairs.*