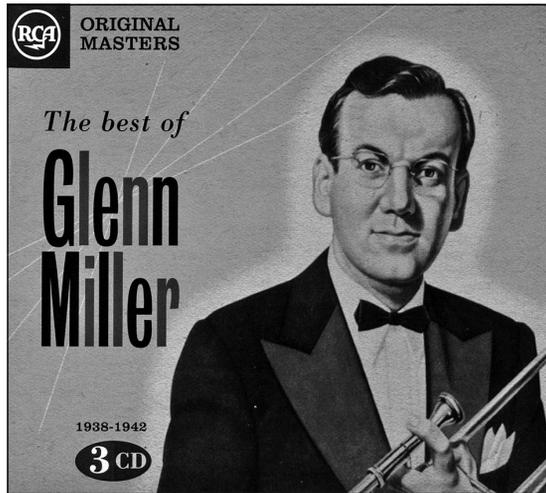




# JUST FOR THE RECORD

by Dennis Barker



## Glenn Miller Orchestra: *Moonlight Serenade*

This month, *Just for the record*, is dedicated to my father and my wife Lyn. My conscience, and my muse. Two exceptional people who shared two things, the persistent struggle of trying to keep me in line, and a cross generational love of big band music.

Often, when I'm putting some music on, I'll ask Lyn what she wants to listen to, and have long become accustomed to hearing her call out "put on some big bands", which is my cue to drop one of her favorite Glenn Miller records on our trusty old turntable. As we listen, the world spins in reverse, and I can imagine my father, sitting out on the patio, lost to the world, immersed in the big band music that he loved. What the Beatles were to my generation, Glenn Miller was to my dad.

It seems these days that we're constantly being told how different things are between past and present generations, but I think a more likely truth lay in the adage that "the more things change, the more they remain the same". Trombones for guitars, Jitterbug for the twist, you say tomato, I say....., well, you get the idea. In 1939, when RCA released *Moonlight Serenade* on the Bluebird label, Billboard magazine was charting hit records just as they do today, kids were ravenous for the latest thing, Saltaire and the Terrace Ballroom were the place to go, and shaking their booty to the hottest new sounds was youths favorite pastime.

Recorded in the classic Glenn Miller style (a clarinet led sax section), and released as an instrumental arrangement, *Moonlight Serenade* fit the bill. It was a top ten hit, spending 15 weeks on Billboard, landing at number three on the pop charts. The record was such an immediate phenomenon, that it was soon adopted as Miller's signature tune. Later, lyrics would be added to the music by Mitchell Parish, and the hit would be covered by Count Basie, The Modernaires, Gene Krupa, Sinatra, and numerous others.

The cutting edge of music has always excited listeners, and from 1939 until 1944, it was Glenn Miller who pushed the envelope. Miller is a true icon of American music, whose genius transcends generational differences. As is life, my father has been gone for a few years now. But, never forgotten, in part because of a girl who likes to listen to the big bands. Thanks for the memories.

Glenn Miller died in the service of his country during WWII.

## Glenn Miller Orchestra: *Moonlight Serenade*

*10 inch 78 rpm record*

RCA Bluebird #BB-102114-B(RELEASED MAY of 1939)

No sales data available; estimate mint - \$10 to \$15.00

**If you want to listen to this record, visit our website at:**

<http://newcenturycollector.com/records>