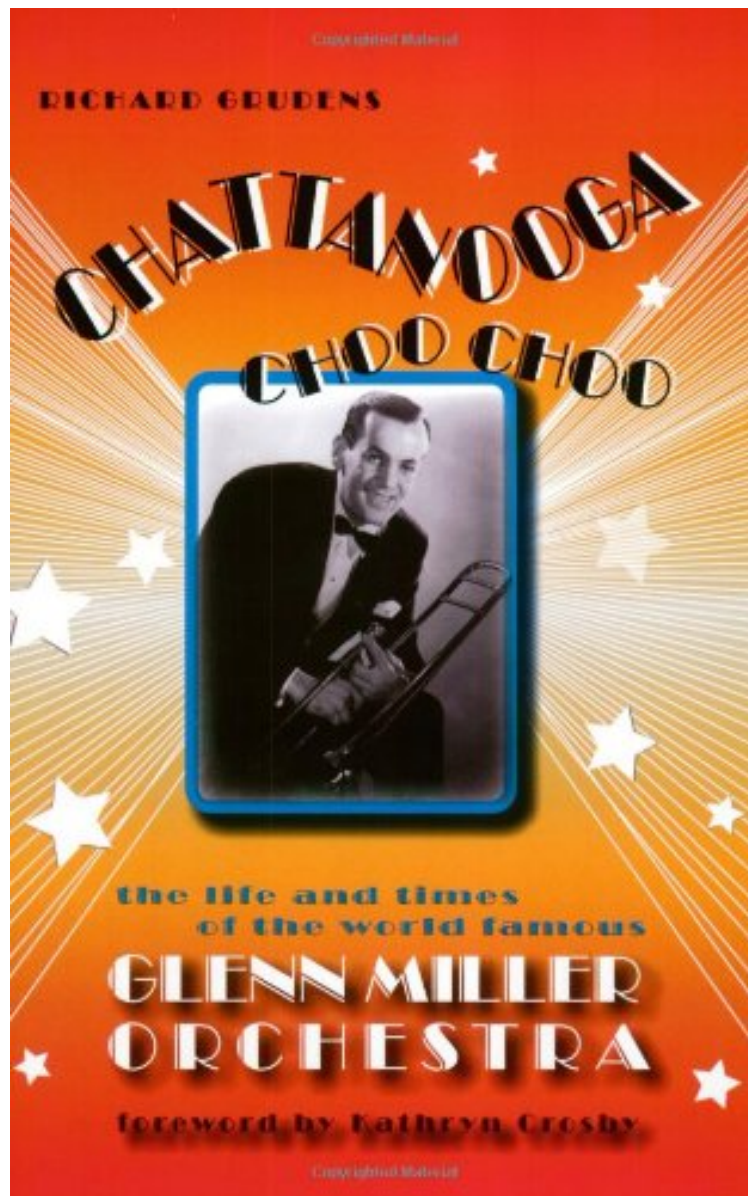


(Download pdf ebook) Chattanooga Choo Choo: The Life and Times of the World Famous Glenn Miller Orchestra

Chattanooga Choo Choo: The Life and Times of the World Famous Glenn Miller Orchestra

Richard Grudens

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Richard Grudens : Chattanooga Choo Choo: The Life and Times of the World Famous Glenn Miller Orchestra before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Chattanooga Choo Choo: The Life and Times of the World Famous Glenn Miller Orchestra:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Interesting take on Glenn's influence but not an true biography. By Daniel Durham Only 65 of the 275 pages are about Glenn and his civilian orchestra. So if you are looking for valuable information about Glenn's life you should buy George T. Simon's biography of Glenn. This book is about people who were in Glenn's band, people who enjoyed his music, musicians, band leaders, DJ's, and others who were influenced by Glenn Miller. I noticed numerous errors in the book but it didn't distract from the main subject matter. One error is the book credits Bill Finegan as arranging "Little Brown Jug" which is correct. Two pages later he credits Jerry Gray as the arranger. I still enjoyed the book and would recommend it to any Miller fan. I have two other books on my shelf by Richard Grudens and plan on reading those in the near future. This book achieves it's goal of explaining the impact of the Glenn Miller Orchestra more than a biography of the orchestra. 10 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Lovingly done history of the great Glenn Miller Orchestra. By Paul Tognetti His success did not occur overnight. There were major setbacks along the way and at times Glenn Miller wondered if he would ever find "his sound". But in the spring of 1939 it finally happened! Glenn Miller and his Orchestra exploded onto the scene with appearances at the Meadowbrook in New Jersey and at the legendary Glen Island Casino in New Rochelle, NY. Almost overnight they became a cultural phenomenon. In a book that took nearly five years to put together, Richard Grudens has gone to great lengths to recreate the flavor of that Golden Era. Wonderfully written (in nice large print) and generously sprinkled with dozens of fascinating photographs, "Chattanooga Choo Choo" is a must read for anyone who is a fan of or is curious about the Big Band Era. Grudens discusses the history of the Miller outfit from all kinds of different perspectives. In the course of writing this book the author interviewed musicians from the original Glenn Miller Orchestra as well as some of the vocalists and arrangers from those golden days. There are also memories from booking agents, record company executives and disc jockeys. Read transcripts from "live" radio broadcasts and enjoy many recollections of the two movies the band appeared in. And then there is speculation over what really might have happened to Capt. Glenn Miller on December 15, 1944. But fortunately the story did not end on that fateful night. The Glenn Miller Orchestra, using all of Glenn's original charts, was reorganized in 1956. It continues to this day under the direction of Larry O'Brien. Grudens brings us up to date with information on the members of the current orchestra. Quite coincidentally, my wife and I were able to catch a performance of the Glenn Miller Orchestra this past weekend. It was an absolute joy to see them and much to my surprise there were a lot of youngsters in the audience. I was even able to get my copy of this book autographed by featured vocalists Julia Rich and Nick Hilscher. Order your copy of this book through .com or by calling PENNSYLVANIA 6-5000.4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A Worthwhile Compliment to Other Glenn Miller Histories By Jeffrey J. Karpinski Being a life-long Glenn Miller fan, I gave this book to myself as a Christmas present. No one can top George T. Simon's definitive biography, so Richard Grudens doesn't try. After providing an overview of Glenn Miller the man, Grudens spends much of the rest of his book looking at those who worked with Miller and who followed in his musical footsteps. The many interviews and vignettes show just how far Glenn Miller's talent extended during the Swing Era and how his music is being preserved and reinterpreted today. As others noted, many of those interviews are short but they cover a far wider range of personnel than any other work I've read. In addition to profiles of Miller stalwarts Tex Beneke, Paul Tanner, Ray McKinley and others, Grudens talked to many less well-known musicians. There's a page or so each devoted to sidemen like Skip Martin (reeds), Doc Goldberg (bass), Chummy MacGregor (piano), and even the obscure and peculiarly-named trumpeter Legh Knowles who later found greater fame as a vintner. Profiles of vocalists extend to the band's early days as backup for the Andrews Sisters (NBC wasn't sure whether Miller would be a hit [!!] so they wanted to add some "star power") as well as descriptions of what must have been incredible performances in 1944 England with guest singers Bing Crosby and Beryl Davis. Grudens also goes beyond many other biographers by following the band's history up to the present day. He profiles American leaders from Tex to Larry O'Brien, and introduces those of us on this side of the Atlantic to the two European editions of today's Glenn Miller Orchestra that were organized to meet fans' continuing interest. There's also a section on many other groups that have no official connection to Glenn Miller Productions but also keep the music alive around the world. If I have any nitpicks, it's because the ex-teacher in me can't resist "grading papers". For all of its loving presentation the book looks as if it had been rushed into print without a final editing. There are fatfingerings on almost every other page, a number of repeated gradeschool spelling errors (PLEASE, Mr. Grudens, ditch the apostrophes when writing plural nouns!) and a couple of factual gaffes that should have been caught easily - e.g. Bobby Hackett played the *cornet*, not clarinet. My summary? Not a book that I'd recommend for anyone who's just finding out what Glenn Miller's music was - and is - all about, but it's definitely one that I'd recommend for anyone who already knows the basic story and wants to find out much more.

A must read for the countless Glenn Miller Orchestra fans who still cherish his music. Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of Glen Miller's life and the 60th anniversary of his disappearance over the English Channel in late 1944, this is the tribute book which Glenn Miller fans all over the world have been waiting for, a compendium of authentic stories, interviews, over 150 photographs and features illustrating the life and times of the most popular musical organisation in American show business history, spread out under a shower of stars tracing the career of legendary

bandleader, arranger and slide trombonist, Alton Glenn Miller, and placing to rest, once and for all, the truth about his mysterious loss during World War II.

Do I need another book on Glenn Miller? You bet I do, especially when it's written by Richard Grudens. -- Vince Rowe
Treasure this book... refer to it to refresh recollections of a man who served his nation heroically during trying times. -- Kathryn Crosby