

Morgan Community College Center for Arts and Community Enrichment

GLENN MILLER: THE BIRTHPLACE OF HIS MUSIC

Running Time	58 min
Genre	Documentary
Rating	Not yet rated
Year	2016
Language	English
Country of Origin	United States
Format	Color + B/W
Aspect Ratio	1.78 (16x9 VIDEO)
Shooting Format	HDV
Exhibition Format	DVD, Quicktime, DCP, Sony HDCAM
Screeener Format	Secure Online Screener
Distribution	Eden Lane, eden@infocustv.org, (303) 478-9563
Virtual Press Office	www.GlennMillerDoc.com/press-kit.html
Links	Official website: www.GlennMillerDoc.com Official Facebook: facebook.com/GlennMillerDoc Official Twitter: @GlennMillerDoc Hashtag: #GlennMillerDoc

SYNOPSIS

The numerous biographies (books, articles, and films) about Glenn Miller focus on his years of big band fame or his mysterious disappearance over the English Channel during World War II. In these accounts, Miller's high school years in Fort Morgan, Colorado have either been a passing remark or overlooked completely. "Glenn Miller: The Birthplace of His Music" fills this historical gap and explores in depth the significant cultural and musical influences Miller experienced in Fort Morgan from 1918-1921. Fresh research reveals that this small rural town in northeast Colorado provided Miller with a musical foundation that contributed to his success as one of the greatest band leaders of the swing era.



Miller home, Fort Morgan, CO



Mick-Miller Melody Five, Fort Morgan, CO



Elmer Wells, Miller's high school band teacher



DIRECTOR/PRODUCER'S STATEMENT



When Dr. Kerry Hart and the team at CACE approached me about helping to bring this project to the screen I was excited right away. It felt like a natural fit, not only because of my work covering the arts, but my own small town background. Dr. Hart's research was a fascinating foundation from which to tell the story of a music icon, celebrating the importance of early music education. Glenn Miller's high school years sparked his drive and is a wonderful lesson for today.

Eden Lane



EXECUTIVE PRODUCER/MUSIC SUPERVISOR/TECHNICAL ADVISOR'S STATEMENT



A remark regarding Glenn Miller printed in the Denver Post on November 4, 1999 stated, "Glenn Miller was born in Iowa in 1904, but Fort Morgan is the birthplace of his music." This documentary demonstrates that the musical culture of Fort Morgan, Colorado in the early decades of the 20th century, coupled with the driven and determined personality of a talented young musician, combined to help incubate the genius of one who would become one of the most popular and influential big band leaders of the WWII era. Glenn Miller's impact is still being felt more than a half century after his death.

Dr. Kerry Hart



PRODUCTION NOTES

“Glenn Miller: The Birthplace of His Music” grew out of a research paper by Morgan Community College President Dr. Kerry Hart, titled “Glenn Miller, The Early Influences.” Hart’s paper is scheduled to be published by the University of Colorado’s American Music Research Center Journal, volume 26.

The documentary was filmed primarily on location in Fort Morgan, Colorado. Engaging interviews with local community members, scenes of the charming town where Miller lived, learned, and worked, and superb performances of Glenn Miller’s music by the Morgan Community College Jazz Ensemble provide a down-home perspective of the musical icon’s formative high school years.

Produced in association with Eden Lane and Sleeping Dog Media, the project is Morgan Community College’s first documentary. It was made possible by the generous support of the Dahms-Talton Foundation and many other local businesses and individuals.



INTERVIEW SUBJECTS



C.F. Alan Cass, Glenn Miller Archivist for the Glenn Miller Archives at the University of Colorado

Cass has recently retired as the curator of CU-Boulder's Glenn Miller Archive at the American Music Research Center. He was instrumental in building and maintaining the significant repository of Glenn Miller memorabilia.



Lyn Deal, local (Morgan County) historian

Deal has devoted her energy to local history and preservation for over thirty-five years. She has written numerous nominations to the national registry of historical places and applied for historical grants from the Colorado Historical Foundation. Deal also served on Fort Morgan's City Council and initiated local historical preservations initiatives and landmark designations.



Dr. Kerry Hart, Morgan Community College President

Dr. Hart is president of Morgan Community College. He has a distinguished career in higher education administration as well as music education. Dr. Hart holds a bachelor of arts degree in music education from Metropolitan State College, as well as a master of music degree in conducting/music literature and a doctorate in music education/higher education administration from the University of Northern Colorado. His research paper, "Glenn Miller, The Early Influences," served as the inspiration for this film.



Brian Mack, Fort Morgan Museum Curator

Mack earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from the University of New Mexico and has been with the Fort Morgan Library and Museum for over four years. Mack recently helped redesign the permanent exhibits at the museum, which include a section devoted to Glenn Miller and a theatre component to play films featuring Miller.



Lynda Wells Kreutzer, granddaughter of Elmer Wells

Lynda Kreutzer was raised by her grandfather, Elmer Wells, who was Glenn Miller's band director at Fort Morgan High School. Lynda's wealth of anecdotes provided invaluable insights into Glenn Miller and his life-long teacher and mentor, Elmer Wells.



Dr. Jarrold Schaefer, retired dentist, CACE Steering Committee Chairman, and life-long resident of Fort Morgan.

"When my mother Mildred (Sweet Schaefer) Richards was a little girl, she lived down the street from Glenn Miller. She would recall how in the summer months when folks had their windows and doors open, she could hear Glenn Miller practicing his horn." ~ Dr. Jarrold Schaefer



Dr. Donald Ostwald, retired veterinarian, Fort Morgan Heritage Foundation Board member and life-long resident of Fort Morgan.

As a member of the Fort Morgan Heritage Foundation, Ostwald is active in preserving local history through the operations and programs at Fort Morgan Museum.

CREW



DIRECTOR/PRODUCER/EDITOR

Eden Lane

Eden Lane is an award winning Host/Producer/Reporter. Her weekly arts program "In focus with Eden Lane" on Colorado Public Television (PBS-KBDI) is entering the ninth season. She has appeared on CNN Tonight and Entertainment Tonight, and has been seen in People Magazine and The Huffington Post. Eden is a trailblazer and a proud mommy.



EXECUTIVE PRODUCER/MUSIC SUPERVISOR/TECHNICAL ADVISOR

Kerry Hart

Dr. Hart has served as president of Morgan Community College since 2008. As President of MCC, he was instrumental in spearheading the College's Center for Arts and Community Enrichment (CACE), which enriches cultural opportunities in Northeast Colorado and is the sponsoring organization behind this documentary. Hart's research paper, "Glenn Miller, The Early Influences," provided the foundation for the film.

Dr. Hart holds a bachelor of arts degree in music education from Metropolitan State College, as well as a master of music degree in conducting/music literature and a doctorate in music education/higher education administration from the University of Northern Colorado.



PRODUCTION MANAGER / RIGHTS CLEARANCE

Jane Fries

Jane Fries has served as Assistant to the President at Morgan Community College since 2010. She also serves on the CACE Performing Arts Committee, where she has been deeply involved in coordinating guest performing events in Fort Morgan. Jane holds bachelor's degrees in education and recreation management from Oregon State University.

VIDEOGRAPHERS

Eden Lane

Don Gassaway

Tom Biddle

Brad Stabio

CREDITS

INTERVIEWS

C.F. Alan Cass

Lynda Kreutzer

Dr. Jarrold Schaefer

Lyn Deal

Brian Mack

Dr. Kerry Hart

Dr. Donald Ostwald

CREW

Director/Producer/Editor Eden Lane

Executive Producer/

Music Supervisor/

Technical Advisor

Dr. Kerry Hart

Production Manager

Jane Fries

Recording Engineer

Butch Hause

Videographers

Eden Lane, Don Gassaway, Tom Biddle, Brad Stabio

Unit Publicist

Katie Barron

Webmaster

Terri Eades

Faculty Supervisor

Jessica Edington

Interns

Casey Sticklely, Leonard Villarreal, Devin Brunk, Amy Bernabe, Rosa Munoz, Jaque Jeronimo

Musicians

MCC Jazz Ensemble:

Directors: Ron Pflug (November 2014 filming)

Kerry Hart, DME (January 2016 filming)

Alto Saxophone, Clarinet

Cynthia Christensen, Matt Floyd, Tait Solberg

Tenor Saxophone, Clarinet

Kerry Hart, Richard Maul

Baritone Saxophone

Barbara Christopher, Stephen Harget

Trumpet

Tim Allums, Mark Israel, Dave Lauck, Chris Lawson, John Mills, Ron Pflug, Joyce Shambaugh

Trombone

Sondra Bell, David Bute, F.W. (Rick) Crafts, Lenny Kellogg, Larry Kleiber, David McCormick, Sarah Vogel

Piano

Shawn Hanlon, Kim Pflug

Bass

Max Heepke, Ben Hornacek

Drums

Ted Snow

Vocalist

Nathan Howe

Classical Ensemble:

Violin

Sierra Farrar, Lisa Kriss, Kate Smith, Julie Vannoy

Viola

Gerhard Wolter, Joann Wolter

Cello

Rodney Farrar, Marcia Whitcomb

Bass

Ben Hornacek

Flute

Carol Maul

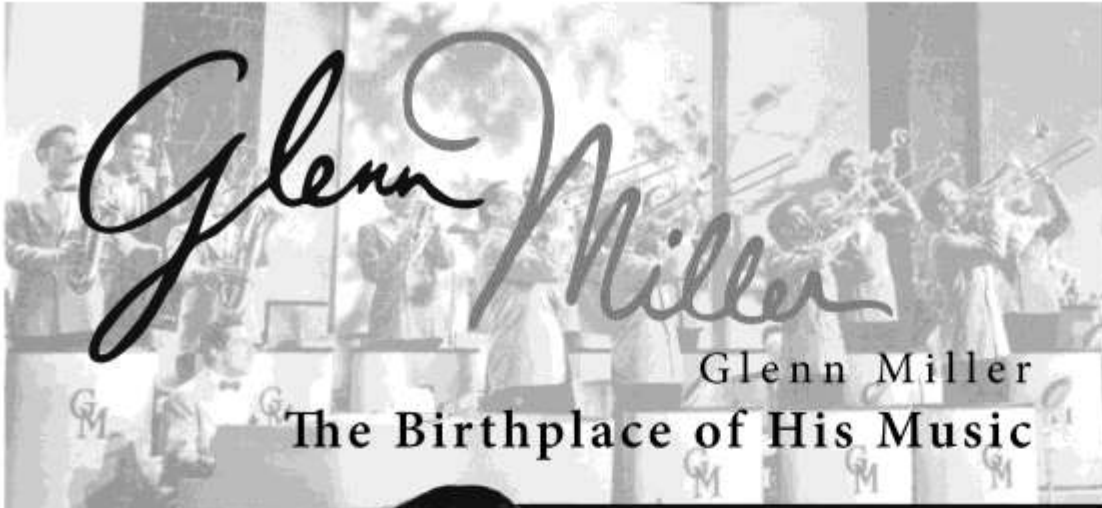
Piano

Kim Pflug

Vocalists

Kelsey Fritz, soprano; Anthony Varner, tenor; Nathan Howe, bass





Glenn Miller
The Birthplace of His Music

Debating in 2016



“Glenn Miller was born in Iowa in 1904, but Fort Morgan is the birthplace of his music.”

The Denver Post



MORGAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE CENTER FOR ARTS AND COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT

IN ASSOCIATION WITH SLEEPING DOG MEDIA

PRESENTS “GLENN MILLER: THE BIRTH PLACE OF HIS MUSIC”

DIRECTOR/PRODUCER EDEN LANE EXECUTIVE PRODUCER KERRY HART RECORDING ENGINEER BUTCH HAUSE MUSIC BY THE MCC JAZZ ENSEMBLE

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Katie Barron, Director of College Communications and Marketing
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(970) 542-3108
Katie.Barron@MorganCC.edu

FORT MORGAN, CO. 06/1/16. Morgan Community College (MCC) Center for Arts and Community Enrichment (CACE) announces the release of "Glenn Miller: The Birthplace of His Music." The College anticipates the film to premier at a film festival in 2016.

"What distinguishes this project from other Miller biopics, is that it focuses exclusively on his life before he became famous," shares Dr. Kerry Hart, President of Morgan Community College and the film's Executive Producer. Based on scholarly research conducted by Hart, the documentary examines the cultural and musical influences Miller experienced during his high school years living in the small rural community of Fort Morgan, Colorado. "We wanted to answer the questions of how and why Glenn Miller's time in Fort Morgan contributed to his famous musical sound," said Hart.

The documentary features interviews with University of Colorado Glenn Miller Archives Curator, C.F. Alan Cass, local historians, and area residents. Audiences will also hear from Lynda Kreutzer, granddaughter of Glenn Miller's High School band director Elmer Wells. The Morgan Community College Jazz Ensemble is featured throughout the film, playing some of Miller's iconic tunes and demonstrating key musical concepts.

The film, produced in partnership with Eden Lane, co-owner of Sleeping Dog Media, fills a historical gap in the recorded history about Glenn Miller's life, and documents Fort Morgan's contribution to a culturally-significant and important era in music history.

Glenn Miller was most notable for a new sound combination during the jazz era; he found a way to differentiate his band's style from the many bands that existed in the late thirties and early forties. "[The Miller sound] was nevertheless very special and able to penetrate our collective awareness that few other sounds have..." writes jazz critic Gunther Schuller. The documentary establishes that Miller's unique sound has its roots in the musical influences he experienced in Fort Morgan.

The film was created with the consent of Jonnie Miller Hoffman, Glenn Miller's daughter. The project was made possible through local private sponsors, including the Dahms-Talton Foundation, the Morgan County Tourism Panel, the Bloedorn Foundation, The City of Fort Morgan, and Dr. Jarrold and Sue Schaefer.

More information about the documentary is available at www.GlennMillerDoc.com.

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ABOUT MORGAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Morgan Community College is a comprehensive community college located in Fort Morgan with Centers in Bennett, Limon, Burlington and Wray, Colorado. Established in 1970, the college serves over 1,800 students annually, offering over fifty programs and certificates to students across its 11,500 square mile service area. MCC is part of the Colorado Community College System.

For more information, please visit www.morgancc.edu or call (970) 542-3100.

ABOUT MCC CENTER FOR ARTS AND COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT

The MCC Center for Arts and Community Enrichment was founded in 2011 with the purpose of enhancing the quality of lives in northeast Colorado through offering artistic, cultural, social and intellectual activities. CACE sponsors over twenty events annually, featuring local and guest performing artists, speakers, poets and visual artists. "Glenn Miller: The Birthplace of His Music," is MCC and CACE's first documentary.

For more information about CACE, please visit www.morgancc.edu/CACE or call (970) 542-3106.

ABOUT SLEEPING DOG MEDIA

Sleeping Dog Media is an award winning Colorado production company geared toward filming live performance events, small business videos, and producing a weekly arts news program (In Focus with Eden Lane) broadcast on Colorado Public Television (PBS-KBDI) for eight seasons. Working with a small freelance team or as a one-man band keeps the company nimble.

"Glenn Miller: The Birthplace of His Music" is Sleeping Dog Media's first feature length documentary.