

THE GLENN MILLER STORY



Legendary bandleader Glenn Miller (March 1, 1904-December 15, 1944) composed some of the most memorable compositions of the big band era, including “Tuxedo Junction,” “String of Pearls,” “Moonlight Serenade,” and “In the Mood.” Miller began his career as a trombonist, and formed his first band in 1937. Although the band didn’t last, it inspired Miller to press onward and form his second band, the Glenn Miller Orchestra, in 1938. The group incorporated the distinctive sound of his first, with an emphasis on clarinet and saxophone melodies. Their recordings topped the popular music charts from 1939 to 1941, with “Chattanooga Choo Choo” earning their first gold record.

In 1942, Glenn Miller joined the US Army Air Corps as a Captain and was given command of the Army Air Force Band. He brought a number of his civilian bandmembers into the service with him. Their concerts entertained thousands of troops stationed overseas until late 1944, when Miller’s plane crashed during a flight from England to Paris. His remains were never recovered, but his legacy lives on in several bands formed by members of the original.

Questions for discussion:

1. Why would a successful civilian musician set aside his recording career to join an Army band?
2. When listening to “In the Mood,” what other songs are you reminded of? Does anything sound familiar? Why or why not?
3. Listen to a recording of “Rock Around the Clock” by Bill Haley and the Comets. How does it compare to “In the Mood”?

THE BIOGRAPHY OF PAUL WHITE



Paul White (b. 1973) is a baritone saxophonist with the Jazz Ambassadors of The U.S. Army Field Band. His musical career truly began as a student at Appalachian State University, where he became exposed to the music of John Coltrane and other jazz greats. Inspired by what he learned, he moved on to study composition at The University of Texas at Austin, where he earned the degrees Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts.

White founded The Paul White Quintet (originally a Coltrane tribute band) and The Acoustic Mayhem (a 9-piece big band), both based in Austin. Between the completion of his doctorate in 2003, and his joining the Jazz Ambassadors, White traveled to Mantova, Italy, where he recorded with the Mantuz Jazz Trio.

As a performer, he has worked with and written for musicians such as Phil Woods, Butch Miles, Frank Mantooth, and Wayne Newton. As a composer, his works have been performed by a variety of groups, including jazz ensembles at Riverside Community College, New England Conservatory, and Temple University. You can hear more of his original pieces at www.paulwhitequintet.com.

Questions for discussion:

1. How does Paul White's career compare to that of Glenn Miller? What are some similarities and differences?
2. What should be most important to a musician: financial success, artistic integrity, or diversity of experience? Can the three concepts co-exist? Why or why not?
3. Listen to "Resolution." What does it remind you of? Are there any jazz, classical, or rock pieces that have something in common with it?

COMPARE AND CONTRAST

*The following lists highlight some of the differences between Glenn Miller's
IN THE MOOD and Paul White's RESOLUTION.*

IN THE MOOD

- *Repetitive structure
- *Standard phrase lengths
- *Primarily intended for dancing
- *Driven by rhythm section
- *Uses standard harmonies

RESOLUTION

- *Through-composed structure
- *Variety of phrase lengths
- *Primarily intended for concerts
- *Showcases instrumental colors
- *Uses complex array of harmonies

*When listening to the pieces yourself, what are some differences you notice?
Please match each musical concept to the correct piece after you listen.*

Mixed meter (uses 3/4 and 4/4 measures)

Steady meter (stays in 4/4)

Focuses on saxophones, trumpets, and trombones

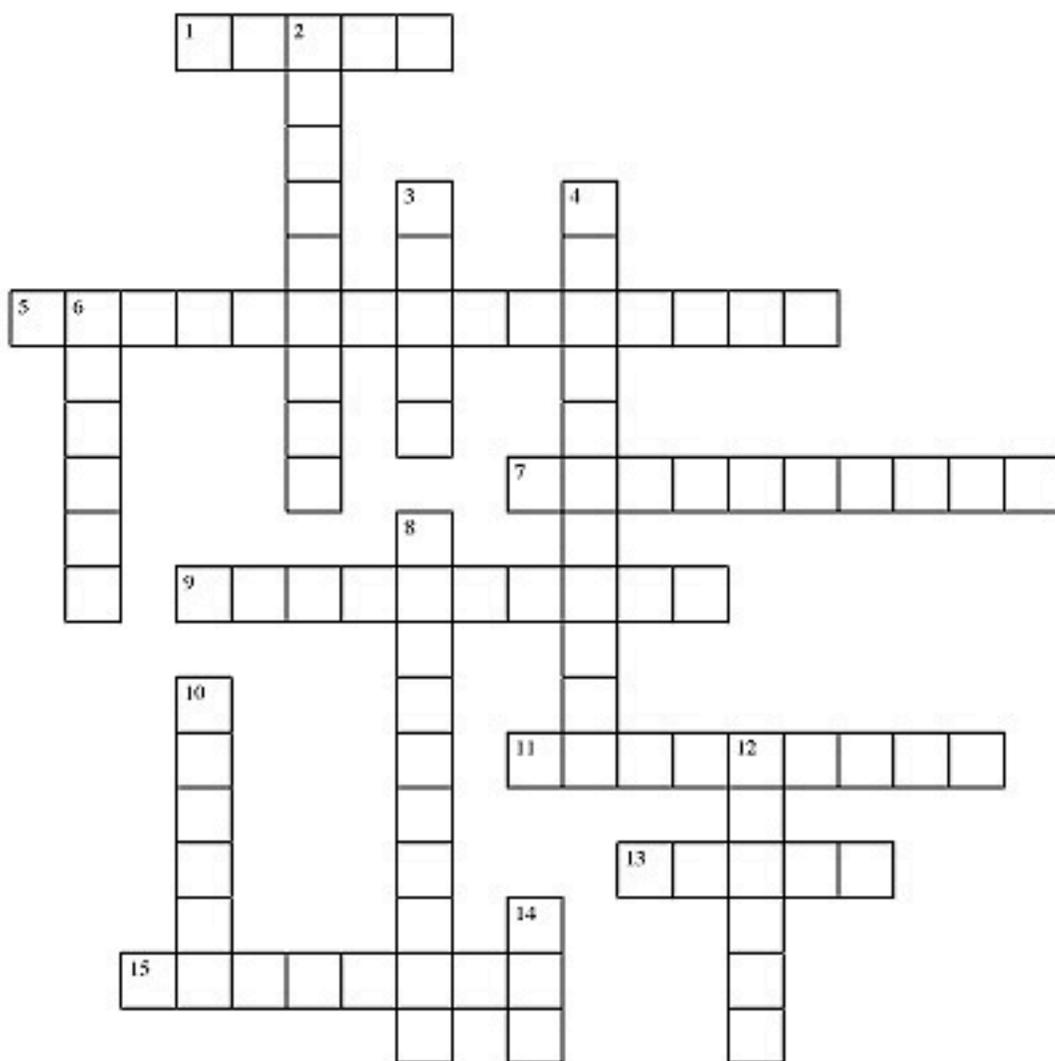
Includes bass clarinet, flute, and flugelhorn

Stays in a major key

IN THE MOOD

RESOLUTION

Mood and Resolution Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Army saxophonist
- 5 Army's touring big band
- 7 Nation's capitol
- 9 Similar to a trumpet
- 11 Soprano, alto, tenor, or bari wind
- 13 Miller's final destination
- 15 Brass instrument with a slide

DOWN

- 2 Miller's most famous
- 3 Has 88 keys
- 4 Choo Choo city
- 6 Home to White's quintet
- 8 Resolved by White
- 10 WWII bandleader
- 12 Part of a melody
- 14 Sounds major or minor