

Marketing Copy For Benny Goodman and Glenn Miller at Carnegie Hall 1939

50 Words Version:

The Battle Of The Big Bands: Benny Goodman and Glenn Miller at Carnegie Hall 1939

The Jazz Repertory Company presents a tribute to the two greatest swing bands and the night they battled it out on stage at New York's Carnegie Hall.

Who won the match? Come and decide for yourself!

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The Jazz Repertory Company presents a tribute to the two greatest swing bands and the night they battled it out on stage at New York's Carnegie Hall playing such hits as *In The Mood*, *Little Brown Jug*, *Sing Sing Sing*, *T'aint What You Do*, *It's The Way that You Do It* and *Bugle Call Rag*.

Pete Long performs on clarinet, directs the 14 piece band and wittily tells the story behind this great event in jazz history.

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A year after Benny's triumphant Carnegie Hall 1938 debut he returned and this time The King of Swing challenged the new kid on the block, Glenn Miller. Both bands were out to impress, and the result was one of the hardest hitting nights in swing music's history.

Clarinetist and musical director Pete Long is renowned for his witty and entertaining presentation as well as his superb musicianship. He leads his 14 piece Goodman-Miller Tribute Orchestra in performances of many of the battling bands' biggest hits including *In The Mood*, *Little Brown Jug*, *Sing Sing Sing*, *T'aint What You Do*, *It's The Way That You Do It*, *Bugle Call Rag*, *Bach Goes To Town* and *One O'Clock Jump*.

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In October 1939 ASCAP (the American Society of Composers Authors and Publishers) celebrated its 25th anniversary with a week of free concerts at New York's Carnegie Hall. On the 6th of October the bill featured the two hottest swing bands of the day – those of Benny Goodman and Glenn Miller.

Benny Goodman's Orchestra had made its famous debut at Carnegie Hall in January 1938 and that evening has become one of the most celebrated in jazz thanks to the double album of the music being released in 1951 and becoming a million-seller.

A couple of weeks before Benny's 1938 Carnegie debut Glenn Miller was down on his luck and disbanded his orchestra due to lack of work but in 1939 he bounced back with a new sound and his records began selling in the millions.

At Goodman's Carnegie Hall debut in 1938 the band was nervous playing in such a grand venue and one can hear the tension in the famous recording of the concert. Eighteen months later and Goodman's Orchestra was back with all guns blazing as Benny wanted to show Miller who was the King of Swing.

For this concert Goodman's band was brash, fast and full of confidence and set the tone for the rest of the evening. Benny's version of T'ain't What You Do (a massive hit for Jimmie Lunceford in '39) and One O'Clock Jump brought the house down and he also stole Miller's current hit Sunrise Serenade and played that before Miller got a chance to do his own version later in the evening – Benny was playing dirty!

1939 was the year Miller's orchestra broke through and became a million selling band and they were on cracking form on this evening with the hits keeping on coming. They weren't scared off by Goodman and retaliated with a grand finale that was swing at its craziest – the manic Bugle Call Rag.

Pete Long takes the role of Benny Goodman whilst Chris Dean, leader of the Syd Lawrence Orchestra, will appear as both Glenn Miller and Miller's featured singer of the time Ray Eberle. Dave Chamberlain will be on electric guitar as the legendary Charlie Christian and drummer Richard Pite will be recreating the crazy showmanship of Lionel Hampton at the drums.

Pete has been directing and fronting a recreation of the 1938 Carnegie Hall concert for quite a few years now and there had been talk about a possible follow up show. The answer was to go forward a year and add the most successful name in the history of swing music to the bill - voilà, a hit show!