

Meet ^{the} Band

our history



Blue Moon Big Band 2002

The year started off with bandleader Rob Leonard adding nearly 100 new arrangements to the Blue Moon Big Band repertoire, many courtesy of arranger Myles Collins, in response to audiences' requests for more up-tempo vocal charts for singer Teresa Leonard.

May was a particularly big month for the band, as the group was featured on a one-hour broadcast of National Public Radio's "Swingin' Down the Lane" program, which aired across the country on over 40 radio stations throughout the week of May 13. By the end of June, more than 50 U.S. radio stations had aired music from Blue Moon Big Band.

As a result of the radio airings and the popularity of the *"Nice Work if You Can Get It"* CD, orders for the new recording continued to come in throughout the first half of the year. By July 1, Blue Moon Big Band had customers in 49 of the 50 U.S. states (only Colorado was without a Blue Moon recording), and in 9 international territories, including Australia, Canada, England, Germany, Japan, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Russia, and Spain.

In early August, trombonist Gretchen Hopper moved to Cincinnati, OH to pursue a doctorate degree in music. The newly vacated chair was quickly filled by territory music veteran Bob Jordan.

On November 2, the band made its New York City debut as the headline performer at the Swing 46 Jazz & Supper Club. As reported by the club's manager, Blue Moon's performance drew the largest audience in club history, with dancers and dining guests packed wall to wall. Responding to roars for encore numbers at the conclusion of the performance, the band enjoyed several minutes of standing ovations and a roar of approval that carried out to the streets of Manhattan. The performance marked trumpet player Tom Jackson's final appearance with the band, as he had made the decision to start up his own jazz quartet. Josh Hillard, a Pennsylvania native, stepped in to fill the newly vacated spot in the trumpet section.

Sales of CDs and cassettes in New York City helped to put Blue Moon Big Band over the mark of 2,000 total recordings sold.

In 2002, the band continued using Glenn Miller's *"Adios"* as its closing song at performances.

