

Spotlight



UNC's Clef Hangers

Clef Hangers hone new techniques for Friday concert

By D'ANN PLETCHER
Staff Writer

The Clef Hangers have discovered the secret: a song-arranging technique that depends on the use of percussion instruments — not drums, xylophones or maracas, but the human voice, a la Louis Armstrong.

In other words, those clever choir boys have figured out how to use their voices to simulate drums, bass guitar and other rhythm-oriented instruments. Even more exciting, the 13-member group is willing to let everyone in on the secret at their concert Friday at 8 p.m. in Memorial Hall.

This new singing and song-arranging technique was influenced by the style of groups at Princeton, Brown and Bryn Mawr universities, with whom the group sang with on their Fall Break tour, said member and song arranger Tristan Bishop.

"The new sound we picked up is more of an orchestral sound — it's more complex and interesting. Whereas before we only had the four basic chords, some of our new arrangements have six different backgrounds going, in addition to the solo," Bishop said.

The new style also has enabled the group to perform more rock and jazz pieces. "Before, when we just had a simple melody going, rock tunes just didn't sound right. You've got to feel the beat to do rock and jazz," Bishop said.

Though Friday's concert will include two acts and a total of 26 songs, Kilty Reidy said the group won't depend on two hours of mere singing to keep the audience's attention. Instead, he said,

skits, costumes and changing sets will help create the atmosphere of a show, rather than a mere choir performance.

The Clef Hangers traditionally keep the theme and specific songs they will perform in an upcoming event a secret, but business manager Matt Bailey said all the categories would be represented: "50s and '60s do-wop, Beach Boys, Broadway, jazz, blues, rock and top 40."

Though member Jon Owen agrees the group has become more musically sophisticated and serious, he said simplicity was the real reason to see the group perform: "The greatest thing about seeing our show is that there's no hidden theme to boggle your mind. It's just pure entertainment, and the music we do relates to everyone."

For those more interested in the traditional aspects of a collegiate men's choir than in innovations in style and technique, Bishop said the old-style ballad and barbershop pieces would remain unchanged.

In addition to the new style, the Clef Hangers also have seven new members: Bishop, Owen and Tim Foskey, who make up the baritone section; Jay Reynolds and Rob Taylor, both in the bass section; and Eric Geil and Rodney Leigh, both first tenors. Bailey (first tenor), Paul Bowman (bass), Reidy (second tenor), Jake Washburn (second tenor) and Brannon Wiles (second tenor) are veterans of the group.

The Clef Hangers' Fall Concert will be held at 8 p.m., Friday, Nov. 17, in Memorial Hall. Tickets will be on sale in the Pit through Friday.

Mystery shrouds preregistration process

By TIM LITTLE
Staff Writer

Red tape entangles thousands of UNC students every semester as they preregister for classes in an attempt to avoid the nightmarish lines in Woollen Gymnasium at drop-add time.

But though many students are baffled about exactly what happens to that blue preregistration sheet after they turn it in, the preregistration process isn't quite so mysterious as it seems.

University Registrar administrators emphasize that the process is clearly systematic. "The Directory of Information states exactly what goes on in registration procedure," said Joan Ward, assistant administrator to the University Registrar. "Everything is systematic, and the only random factor is the random number."

But a common misconception is that the random number is the determining factor for getting classes. Take, for example, the junior psychology major

whose last four digits from his social security number are right after the "established priority number."

He assumed he would receive every class he wanted, at all the right times. But, alas, before the spring semester begins, he finds himself again with six hours of classes and the drop-add line for psychology calling his name.

Actually, the priority order of probably the most complex process at UNC is divided into several parts.

First, priority is based on classification, i.e. seniors should have priority over juniors, juniors over sophomores, etc. Then, the number of course hours passed has priority. Last and least important in determining what classes students get is the random number.

Problems can occur when a student has put wrong information on his or her preregistration sheet and has already turned it in at Hanes Hall. But students should not think nothing can be done if that happens.

"Once all forms have been turned in, a student must inform his or her adviser and go through the whole process again of filling out the class registration sheet," Ward said. "To the surprise of most students, a lot of mistakes can be taken care of. It's just a matter of promptness."

The registrar's office also faces the typical Scantron-sheet mistakes: stray marks, slight erasures, foldings and (the high school teacher's favorite) not darkening the whole circle.

"There are so many complications within the system that it seems students should be required to take a course in proper registration," said Leon Livingston, a junior biology major from Durham. "If you really think about it, these are the most important Scantron sheets in college."

Crystal Mitchell, a junior industrial relations major from Wendell, agreed. "I think that being misinformed is a big problem and can be the most damaging

part of registration," Mitchell said. "It can really cause a lot of chaos in an already confusing situation."

While the University has taken steps to ensure that each student will someday have his or her day in the sun, some students feel they have been cheated by the system.

"I've been here three years, and I have never come close to receiving all the classes I preregistered for," Mitchell said. "It's so bad (that) I'm beginning to think that it's something personal."

Still, students said preregistration is better than its alternative: the drop-add lines. "I hate registration, especially when all of my high hopes are totally shot," said Terry Gilmore, a sophomore business major from China Grove. "I think the first thing they ought to show on those introductory tapes of UNC to high school students is a long drop-add line."

Orchestra merges brilliantly with choir

There is more musical talent at UNC than most people realize, and Tuesday night's standing-room-only concert by the UNC Symphony Orchestra and the Carolina Choir was proof.

The concert in Hill Hall Auditorium opened with the symphony playing six of Sir William Walton's arrangements of J.S. Bach's music from "The Wise Virgins, Ballet Suite" (1940). Conducted by Tonu Kalam, these were excellently done.

"Ah! how ephemeral" was especially

Gretchen Davis Concert

exciting, because of the quick, rhythmic tempo and the passion in the music. "Sheep may safely graze" featured a beautiful first violin solo by Andrea Bath, whose talent and skill made it clear why she holds the position of concertmaster.

This group is so far from the stereotype of the half-hearted, semi-musical collegiate orchestra that it's difficult to believe the musicians are — for the most part — college students.

Next on the program was Heinrich Isaac's "Regina caeli laetare," performed by the Carolina Choir conducted by Susan Klebanow. The separate sections in this a cappella work were held together wonderfully by the choir's concentration and crisp precision. And the clarity of the music was both a strong opening for the singers and a good introduction for the Haydn Mass.

To hear Franz Joseph Haydn's "Missa in Tempore Belli" (Mass In Time of War), also known as the "Paukenmesse" (tympni Mass), is an exhilarating musical experience. That is even more true when the performance of this majestic music is as phenomenal as it was Tuesday night.

This is no simple work; the musical complexities alone are demanding. The greatest challenge for a choir in a work such as this is maintaining such a high level of intensity throughout the performance. This means singing the quietest sections with just as much — or more — energy than the loudest ones; concentrating on diction but singing with expression; or soloists projecting their voices over the orchestra and communicating either prayers or praise to

God, depending on the text.

The choir deftly managed all this and, in addition, lent the performance an indescribably musical interpretation.

Individual soloists were Kathryn Bennett, soprano; Henry Bleattler, tenor; Joel Fox, bass; and Jennifer Gaydosh, alto. These four singers were outstanding. Each had solo lines either introducing a movement or highlighting a section in it, which provided a taste of their sound, but it wasn't until the "Benedictus" that the audience was treated to the full quartet.

The matched voices were chosen well. The combination of the clear, directed sound of the soprano, the solid support from the lyrical alto and the powerful tenor, and the resonating bass made each solo phrase a treat to hear.

The orchestra deserves credit also; in this piece, they provide more than mere accompaniment. Soloists, full choir and orchestra take turns celebrating the melodic lines, and the musicians shared this responsibility expertly Tuesday night. Again, this was true most notably in the "Benedictus," where the blend of voice and instrument was beautifully balanced.

Glorious and triumphant are adjectives that appropriately describe the performance as well as the music. The choir and symphony deserve congratulations.

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North Dakota seeks end to most stringent blue laws in nation

From Associated Press reports
FARGO, N.D. — Christmas music fills the air and ornaments decorate the halls of North Dakota's largest mall, but shoppers are talking more about a court challenge to the nation's strictest Sunday closing laws.

The Greater North Dakota Association, the state's chamber of commerce, announced this week it will go to court to have those laws declared unconstitutional.

The so-called "blue laws," rooted in religious tradition, have been on the books since North Dakota became a state 100 years ago. In 1889, Sunday sales were restricted to meats and fish if sold before 10 a.m., and to grocery items such as medicine, milk and cigars.

The laws have been relaxed over the years, including a provision exempting tourist attractions. In 1985, the state allowed grocery stores to open under the operation of a manager and no more than six workers.

Bismarck lawyer Orell Schmitz said it's time for another change. "The constitution is not ... a document that's cast in stone. It changes, and has to change, to reflect the times as they change," Schmitz said Tuesday.

Mark Sinner, owner of one of the 114 stores and restaurants in the West Acres Mall, North Dakota's largest, said he was encouraged by the association's announcement.

"I've always thought that it's very discriminatory for them to tell me that I can't open on Sunday but other (stores) can," he said.

"There's no doubt we'd fill the mall on Sunday," added Sinner, the nephew of Gov. George Sinner.

Some mall employees would rather have Sunday off than make more money.

"I'm a student and I like to have my

Sundays off to study and do research," said Linda Perry, a part-time employee. She acknowledged, however, that she shops on Sundays in supermarkets and convenience stores that remain open.

Eight states have some form of Sunday sales laws, according to the National Retail Merchants Association. But most of the major ones have been struck down by the courts.

Alabama, South Dakota, Oklahoma and West Virginia restrict liquor sales on Sundays and Louisiana restricts the sale of cars. In Maine, small specialty stores are exempt from Sunday closing laws, and all stores are allowed to open on Sundays between Thanksgiving and Christmas. In Missouri, counties have the option of restricting Sunday sales.

Patty Smith, a mother of two who traveled the 25 miles to Fargo from Amenia to shop on Tuesday, said Sunday should be a day for families.

"I know they say it will generate more business for the stores and revenue for the state, but that has to be weighed against the effects on families," Smith said.

Others say that on religious grounds Sunday should be a day of rest for retail workers. Jeff Hickman, a restaurant manager and president of the West Acres Merchants Association, disagrees.

"Opposing it on religious or moral grounds doesn't make it as far as I'm concerned because you can buy a Playboy on Sunday but you can't buy a Bible," he said.

Dale Anderson, head of the Greater North Dakota Association, said the civil lawsuit will ask the court to allow any business to open on Sunday, including liquor stores and bars.

The planned court challenge comes as some cities have begun exploiting a loophole that allows stores to open if a "community festival" is declared.

Fargo was the first to declare such a festival last month, granting stores authority to open on Sundays between Thanksgiving and Christmas as part of its "Merry Prairie Christmas" celebration. But Cass County State Attorney Robert Hoy has said his office will prosecute businesses that operate on Sundays.

Vince Lindstrom, head of the Fargo-Moorhead Convention and Visitors Bureau, said he hoped the association would seek a court order barring authorities from arresting store owners who choose to open during the festival.

Attorneys have yet to decide when or where the civil lawsuit will be filed, or to choose a defendant. They said Tuesday it could be filed against an assortment of government bodies.

Schmitz said he hoped the court system would handle the lawsuit speedily, "so that we can get it resolved once and for all, as to what is the status of Sunday shopping in North Dakota.

"Because right now," Schmitz added, "it's in utter chaos."