

ENTERTAINMENT

Four albums available

Beatles revived on compact disks

The Beatles were our first recording artists, and they probably are still our best. So when Capitol Records began releasing original Beatles music on compact disks last month, people everywhere began to invest in CD players so they could hear John, Paul, George and Ringo with the highest possible fidelity.

The first four British albums -- "Please Please Me," "With the Beatles," "A Hard Day's Night" and "Beatles for Sale" -- were released in their original form. They mark the first time this music has been available in the U.S. with the layouts and arrangements the Beatles themselves intended. The remaining albums will be released in installments throughout the year.

Capitol's history with this band is anything but generous. In the sixties, Beatles records were disassembled

and re-sequenced for the American audience, creating more records -- and more profits -- from the same amount of material British fans got.

But this time around, Capitol is doing things right. Even though the first four records were released in monaural instead of stereo, producer George Martin -- who worked with the group during its heyday -- is working on the future releases.

"Of course I would have changed things," Martin says today, "if I had today's technology. But the actual quality of the recordings I'm very pleased with, listening to them again, going back all those years. They have a tremendous drive and vivacity and cleanliness which I'm very pleased about."

Martin was involved in reworking the middle period records -- "Help!," "Rubber Soul" and "Revolver" -- that are due out in stereo in April.

"When I heard the transfers that had been done, I didn't think they were very good, and should have been cleaned up," he says.

"So I asked if I could listen to the original four tracks that had been done, and I found there were things on there which could have been put over on to compact disk much better, so I've been working on that."

"I've been working," he emphasizes, "not to change anything, but to clean up the sound. It's surprising how effective it is because on CD you hear so much more. You hear distortion and all sorts of things you'd rather not hear things you didn't hear in the original songs."

Critics still argue which was the Beatles' best album, though many choose either "Rubber Soul" (1965) or "Revolver" (1966). It was the period in which the musicians began composing more with the studio in mind, just before

they gave up touring. "Rubber Soul" is about romantic astonishment, containing such seminal songs as "Nowhere Man." The tone is dusky, and the range of moods is remarkable.

"Revolver" is a more complex record. It begins with George Harrison's "Taxman," moves through romance ("Here, There and Everywhere") and disillusionment ("She Said She Said") to Lennon's metaphysically ecstatic "Tomorrow Never Knows."

Whichever is the best, hearing these albums through the miracle of CD's unvarnished clarity should be a revelation.

The next group of releases is due in June, with the 20th anniversary of the most notorious release of all time: "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band." And even though "Pepper" is the Beatles' most overrated album, it will probably be a boon to CD summer sales, spurring interest in

other CDs' and signaling a revival of a psychedelic sound already creeping into today's music (witness: the Bangles' "Manic Monday").

"The White Album" and "Yellow Submarine" will appear in August, followed by "Abbey Road" and "Let It Be" in October. George Martin is working on them all.

Martin says the work has been bittersweet.

"It's been exciting, but somewhat traumatic, particularly going back over the master tapes and listening to all the outtakes and to John's voice sort of chatting me up as I'm playing the piano with him," Martin says.

"It's like going back in time, and it's a little bit unnerving and at the same time thrilling because in fact the rawness of the their performance is wonderful. It thrilled me to bits to listen to those voices as they were. I'm so glad they're going out on compact disk."

When the Beatles broke in 1970, no one could have predicted they would dominate pop as much by their absence as they did by their presence. Pop has seen a number of trends come and go since, course, but nothing has come close to the Fab Four's cheerful genius. You can still hear their influence -- straight-ahead rock to the most sprawling experimentalism -- in almost every record of the eighties.

Only Bruce Springsteen and Michael Jackson command the same kind of audience the Beatles once did collectively, and their careers are markedly different. Springsteen has developed a persona as a generous performer. Jackson remains a recluse except for videos.

But it's clear the world still wants quality from its pop and the current Beatles revival couldn't have demonstrated that quality any better.

'Dance on the Move'



Elizabeth City State University's modern dance group presented its spring concert "Dance on the Move" April 15 in Williams Hall Gymnasium. From left are Jeffrey Hinton, Willie Cannon, Sean Sharp, and Jane Williams, Cipporah Turnage, Feefee Williams and Stefania Johnson.

WRVS program guide

WRVS-FM offers the following public affairs and entertainment programs.

Daily Programs

Job Bank - 7:35 a.m., 11:35 a.m., 5:34 p.m., 8:35 p.m.
Shootin' The Breeze - 8:45 a.m., 5:45 p.m.
NC Agricultural Report - 6:30 a.m., 11:45 a.m.
In The Public Interest - 9:05 a.m., 10:10 p.m.
Business Report - 8:10 a.m., 5:10 p.m.
NC Living - 9:55 a.m., 9:55 p.m.
Nutrition Update - 7:10 a.m., 10:10 a.m., 2:10 p.m., 4:35 p.m.
University Calendar - 7:45 a.m., 4:40 p.m.

Evening Programs

Monday 7 p.m. - "Harlem Hit Parade"
Tuesday 7:30 p.m. - "In Black America"
Wednesday 7:30 p.m. - "Forum"
Thursday 7:30 p.m. - "The Search For Mental Health"

Weekend Programs

Saturday 12 Noon - "What's Nu"
4 p.m. - "Urban Music Magazine"
Sunday 10 a.m. - "Inspirations Across America"
12 Noon - "Harlem Hit Parade"
3 p.m. - "Consider the Alternative"
5 p.m. - "In Black America"
6 p.m. - "Jazz From The City"
10 p.m. - "Sunday Classics"
Black Women: A Portrait Of Dignity
Black Protest - 4:30 p.m. Sunday
The Great Ones - 2:30 p.m. Sunday
Story Of A People - 8 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Gospel Choir

Students sing 'Good News'

by Tasey Taylor
staff writer

"Spreading the 'Good News'" is 19-year-old Onnya Johnston's reason for singing with the ECSU Gospel Choir. A Child Psychology major from New Bern, N.C., she plans to work with the choir as long as she attends ECSU.

The ECSU Gospel Choir, according to the members, is getting better each year. Founded five years ago by a group of students, it has primarily been guided by students. The choir has grown from 30 members to 45 members and has raised money to buy robes. This year for the first time, the position of choir director is not held by a student but by the Reverend Dwight Steele, Pastor of the Elizabeth City Olive Branch Missionary Baptist Church.

Ronnie Cherry, an 18-year-old accounting major from Brooklyn, N.Y., says she joined the choir to "continue

to minister in song." "I love the Gospel Choir," she says, "and look forward to singing again next year."

Fall semester found the Gospel Choir on Tuesday and Thursday nights rehearsing their repertoire of songs from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. Concentrating on their style and performance has paid off this spring semester. The Gospel Choir has performed for anniversaries, concerts, visits to nursing homes and even on television. They have toured and performed in surrounding states.

Derrick Wilkins, a 20-year-old computer science major from Roper, N.C., is president of the group. Wilkins is pleased with the choir's improvements, especially the "togetherness" and "organization."

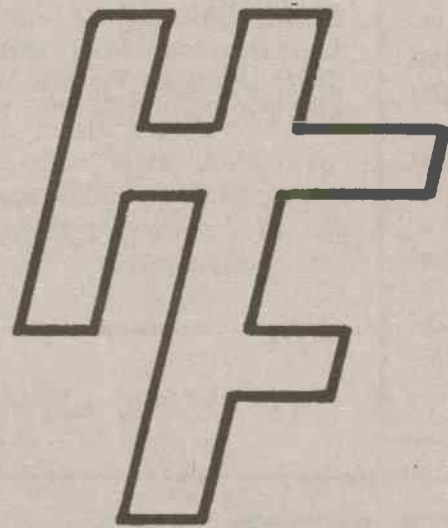
"The choir members are more supportive of one another and many of the mem-

bers have developed close friendships making the 'togetherness' better," he said. "Organizationally, the business aspects of the choir are handled more effectively than in the past."

"The choir is composed of students with different backgrounds who share a common interest in gospel music," Wilkins said. "Rev. Steele is a very profound director who knows music very well and can teach in any given amount of time with quality being the outcome."

Wilkins has big plans for the choir which include cutting an album and establishing a Gospel Choir Boosters Club to stir public interest in the group.

"This year has been a year of achievement for the choir," Wilkins said, "and the future looks very promising."



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