

# Hang on — one more day until the Clefs

## Clef Hangers

Friday, April 3, 8 p.m.

Memorial Hall, UNC campus

Tickets — \$5 in Pit or Union Box Office. For information, call 962-1449

Here they go again. Carolina's own Clef Hangers are preparing for their 15th Annual Spring Concert, to be held Friday, April 3 in Memorial Hall. And what a show it's going to be.

Tickets are \$5 each, and are being sold in the Pit or at the Union Box Office through Friday.

This year's show will feature several songs from the Clef's first CD, "Safari".

Although they have produced five previous recordings, "Safari" is the first to be released in compact disc form, and so far, sales have been highly successful.

Friday's performance will contain only two songs from the Clef's last concert, said group member Greg Bowman, and the rest are new selections. Some of these, however, were previewed at February's A Capella Jam.

The show's theme is top secret, and all group members have been instructed to keep their lips sealed.

## JENNI SPITZ

### Concert

Zack Nelson, the Clef's music director, hinted, however, that this year's theme is very timely.

"If you like 'Safari', Nelson said, "then you will like the concert. We've been learning a lot of new songs and have incorporated a lot of pop music."

Mike Wakeford, a sophomore member of the group, agrees that the concert will satisfy those with an ear for the pop sound. He said the Clefs have put a lot of effort into preparations for the annual concert.

"We've been working hard, many long hours, to get together a good show," said Wakeford, "not just a musical show, but a comical performance as well."

Clearly, everyone is excited about the finale to a busy performance year. Bowman said that the feature spring concert is traditionally the last and best performance of the year.

After Friday's concert, although the Clefs performing season will be over, auditioning for new members will remain a top priority for the group. These auditions are to be held April 6 and 7.

Six spots will be open in next year's Clef Hangers, as four seniors will graduate and two other members



UNC's popular a capella group, the Clef Hangers

will be leaving. Interested applicants should look for applications and information at the Union desk.

For senior Clefs, this spring concert will be their last performance

ever as an official member of the group. John Owen, president of the Clefs, said that he is sad to leave:

"Being in the Clef Hangers has been great. A lot of hard work and a

lot of time spent, but still, great," he said, "I can't imagine life at Carolina without it."

Nor can we imagine life at Carolina without the Clef Hangers.

# A cappella album takes listeners on musical 'safari'

## Clef Hangers

Safari

Independent

●●● 1/2

**S**afari, the latest album offering from UNC's all-male a cappella group the Clef Hangers, lives up to its name. It's an intrepid, often exciting venture into new musical territories, but you can occasionally expect to get lost.

Safari offers an ambitiously large sampling from a wide musical palette. With nineteen tracks, the songs range from such standard a cappella fare as "Chatanooga Choo-Choo" and a Mamas and the Papas medley of "Monday, Monday" and "California Dreamin'" to a few selections that may cause some double-takes.

Like the first track, for instance. It was surprising to see Toto's "Africa" on the song list for an a cappella group, but after listening to it, I'm convinced it's better than the original. The vocal adaptations of the song's layered percussion is imaginative and well-conceived, and the harmonies certainly surpass the thin, strained chorus of the original version.

Similarly ambitious was a version of the Police's "Every Little Thing

## JONATHAN McCALL

### Album

She Does Is Magic," but unfortunately, the same arrangements which worked so well for "Africa" did not measure up. The vocal adaptation of the original's interwoven instrumentation ended up sounding rather cluttered.

However, whenever the Clef Hangers took on songs that were primarily vocal driven, the results were uniformly excellent. "Kiss the Girl" featured a wonderfully mellow solo by bass Jay Reynolds, while the adaptation of the orchestral parts remained faithful to the feel of the original. "Sleeping with the Television On" was a fast-moving, upbeat pop offering, as was Lindsay Buckingham's "Holiday Road."

Safari also included a few slow numbers, all of which worked well. "Somebody" boasted delicate harmonies, as did the standard "Leader of the Band." Another slow song was Eric Clapton's "Wonderful Tonight," which would have done fine except for its vocal mimicry of Slowhand's wah-wah guitar. Nice try, but it just didn't work.

There were only a couple of songs I would characterize as actually bad. One, surprisingly enough, was a version of Van Morrison's "Brown Eyed Girl." I was really enjoying this song, which adapted very well to the all-vocal format, until the middle. The

rap chorus of "bust that body" was utterly gratuitous. I know it was probably done for humorous effect, but it completely ruined the mood of the song.

Fortunately, Safari's high points outnumber the occasional dud. Even if all the attempts did not pan out, the Clef Hanger's adventurous musical experimentation is admirable. Par-

ticularly impressive is the fact that in almost all the cases, the songs were arranged by the Clef Hangers themselves.

Safari does occasionally get lost. There are some songs which simply do not work well as a cappella versions. But when the arrangements and the interpretations gel, the results are impressive.

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