



Even in rehearsal youth choir soloist Mary Porter captured the hearts of her fellow singers.



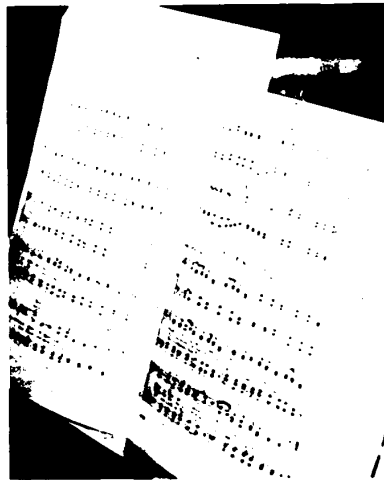
Choir director Mario Belanger directs against a backdrop of winter beauty.

## Music of joy and love

Photos by Gerry Gazda



Young faces, young voices are an integral part of the celebration of Christmas.



Familiar, but still dearly loved, Christmas songs



With careful concentration Evin Brunn of the St. Fabian youth choir rehearses his solo.

## Rejoice

### Their gift to all is music

For many, the moment that most truly symbolizes Christmas is the stroke of midnight, Christmas Eve.

While lots of children are snuggled in their beds, some like those in the St. Fabian Church choir, Farmington, are providing the music for the midnight Mass.

For churchgoers, the candlelight and the reading of the Christmas story from the scripture is a vital force in their lives.

The joyous procession of robed singers, the sound of young voices pure

and clear, the familiar much-loved music are memorable images.

But, before all that happens, there is work and fun. Choir director Mario Belanger combined her adult and junior choirs and had them rehearsing before the college student instrumentalists arrived in town for Christmas vacation.

Instrumentalists, choirs and two organists, Peggy Cyrowski and Margaret Williams, rehearsed many more times in less than a week to attain that pure, effortless presentation

which added the richness, depth and pageantry that is so moving in the Christmas Eve Mass.

The choral selections before and after the Mass included portions of Handel's "Messiah," the triumphant "Hallelujah Chorus" and traditional Christmas music.

The college instrumentalists, most of whom are music majors, were Debbie Tomchak, French horn, Benson Huff, trumpet, Fran Hughes, bassoon, Phyllis Hughes, oboe, and Ann Osterdale, flute.



Home from college for the holidays, Benson Huff and Debbie Tomchak immediately began rehearsing for the midnight Mass at St. Fabian church.



Ann Osterdale, flutist, regularly contributes her talents to the the St. Fabian choir at Christmas.