

Mater Christi Tower - December 22, 1970



[L to R]: Ray Bombardiere ('71), Dan Marra ('71), Fran Gammill ('72)

What Are Dance Band?

Why doesn't the Mater Christi Dance Band play at dances if their name states so? The answer involves several main reasons. The first is that the name "Dance" Band is just a classification that this organization could be called. The word "Band" would ordinarily mean, in general, a musical ensemble that contains no violins, violas, or cellos. However this broad meaning could include a Sousa-type marching band, or a wind ensemble (a violin-less orchestra) or a "Stage Dance" Band, that is a band that would play contemporary type music that every sort of person would be interested in. The second main reason for a dance-less Dance Band is that Rock music, (heard on the radio) usually cannot be purchased from a publishing house in band form with enough parts for everyone, until several months after the songs has been on the radio. This is because of copyright laws, and complications that a publishing house must go through such as arrangement and proper harmonization. The third reason is that the dance band concentrates on quality rather than quantity. The songs are practiced until the right ending or right solos have been included within them. The Dance Band is challenging the idea of playing at school functions as well as concerts. Last November the Dance Band proved it could conquer this idea by performing at the girls' "Freshman Mother's Tea." Their music, as it always has been, was superb. The Dance Band not only plays known songs but anything that sounds good. This includes large amounts of jazz type songs. The Dance Band is under the management of Mr. Nicholas, who is a professional virtuoso trumpet player. Some of the songs included in the Christmas Concert will be: "For Once In My Life," "Mercy, Mercy, Mercy," "Who Am I," and "Sunday Morning."

The main power in the band lies in trumpet players, senior Ray Bombardiere and junior Robert Contrucci. Karen Welling, who also plays the trumpet, will be the band's vocal soloist. Lead guitar is played

by everybody's friend Kirk Tolbert. Kirk is noted for his intricate finger work when he plays. A new addition to the band, senior Freddy Sinn, is a New York State accordion champion. He has appeared on television thrice, on the Ted Mack Amateur Hour. The funkiest drumming heard in M. C. is executed by seniors Dan Marra and Joe Santomauro.

Louise Ciliano is back this year to play the piano for the band. A fantastic flute solo by senior Mike Henderson, is played during his ad lib interpretation of "The Principal of the Thing." Mike also plays the tenor sax for the band and is an excellent piano player. The main soloist and the longest member of the band is Al Willen. Al is the first sax in the band, and the first clarinet in the orchestra; he also plays some flute. Al is going to the New York University next fall in order to become a professional musician. Other members include Francine Gammill—alto sax, Doug Coffey—Trombone, Joe DeDomincis—bass, Denise Semashko — trumpet, Robert Rupnick and Eugene Dolce — French Horn, and Tim Crowley—baritone sax.