Musical variety offered at Christmas concert

By Beth Harig
Staff Writer

The university chorus, chamber choir and concert band will perform in the annual Christmas concert Sunday at 3 p.m. in St. John’s Church.

Carol Bean, assistant professor of fine and performing arts and choir director, said she tried to choose a representative selection of Christmas carols from different countries. Bean said since the concert is in St. John’s all the music is sacred. But some of it is festive and fun, while other selections are more serious.

The university chorus will perform a group of carols from different countries and will also sing an antiphonal piece with the chamber choir. Bean said the antiphonal piece is contemporary and will be sung from different parts of the church.

Tenor soloist

The chamber choir’s main piece is titled “Fantasia on Christmas Carols.” The piece is a series of European carols with organ accompaniment. Mike Kelly is the tenor soloist.

The chamber choir will also sing some Mozart and the university chorus a piece from “The Messiah.”

The concert band will perform three carols, a march and an overture. The concert band is new this year and is directed by Daryl Stehlik, who plays trumpet for the Omaha Symphony.

Bean said the campus participation in music has increased lately. “The chamber choir was new last year and with the new concert band, a lot more students are involved.

Seventy-one students participate in the university chorus, chamber choir and concert band. Bean said all three can be taken for credit, but it invovles hard work.

Busy time of year

This is the busiest time of the year for the performers. The groups have already done several performances and, Bean said, “We could have done two or three more if we’d had time. We’ve been really busy.”

Tickets Sunday are $3 for students and $5 for the general public. They will be available at the door.

An informal post-concert gathering will be held in lower St. John’s with refreshments.