



Chris Masseth, Erik Thatcher and Dan Howell (clockwise from top left) lend their musical talents to the Christian rock band God's Gobles.

talent," said Tony, 16, from St. Mary's Church in Dansville. "I think about it every day, throughout the day."

In fact, Tony can't keep from tapping his fingers on desk tops or any other available surface. During these moments, he said, he likes to slip into his favorite rock 'n'roll fantasy.

"I picture the audience screaming at me. Everybody else in the band stops playing, and I'm just doing this really mean drum solo," Tony said. "I'm throwing a stick into the audience and everybody is running after it. Millions of people are watching me on TV, and people in Dansville are saying, 'Hey, that's Tony Bovee. I knew him.'"

Tony's attraction to the limelight stems from his father, John, a former drummer in a popular Dansville band, Incognito. "They were very close to becoming famous," Tony said.

The group played in cities throughout the Northeast, and Tony often accompanied his father on the road before John quit touring in 1988.

"I have baby pictures of me sitting on his lap and playing the drums," Tony noted.

While Tony has been zoning in on a musical career for some time, Dan said his experience with God's Gobles has only recently spurred him to think long-term about the profession.

"It started out as fun, but now I'm considering it more seriously as a career," said Dan, who is also a clarinetist for his school band at Greece Olympia High School.

Meanwhile, Dan and his fellow God's Gobles have high aspirations for the band.

"We would love to play for the pope," Chris said. He added that the God's Gobles would like to take their success "as far as it will go."

By the same token, these teens are aware that instrumentalists are in a very unsettled, risky and competitive profession.

"If it turns into something, I'll love it. But it wouldn't break my heart if it didn't," said Chris, who explained he'd like to study art in college.

"I'd love it if it could go somewhere, I really would. But I want a career that's more stable," Patti commented.

The reality of the music business, Erik said, is that "it's way too hard to get into. You could be the best musician in the world, but you'd have to also know the industry and know the right people."

Even Tony realizes there might be some limitations to how far he can go with his musical career.

"I want to be famous but my mom says sometimes, 'Do you really think that's going to happen?'" Tony said.

Nevertheless, it's too soon for the Dansville teen to let his head win out over his heart.

"It's something I want to do the rest of my life," he said.

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coffeehouse debut, rocking the hall with such energetic Christian rock tunes as "Seek First," "I Want to Thank You Lord" and "We Believe in God."

Chris said that none of the instrumentalists has an extensive background in Christian rock, yet they have quickly embraced this genre of music.

"It's a new style and a good experience," said Chris, 17. "It shows a fun way to live your faith."

"We sit around and have fun, that's what it is. We're not some great professionals," added bass player Erik Thatcher, 17.

Jenny LaFlam said that although she,

also, has fun being a musician, her craft requires countless grueling hours of practice. Much of Jenny's effort on the tenor saxophone is devoted to the Marion High School band, which she said has won numerous awards at the competitive level.

"It makes it all worth it — all the reeds I've broken, and all the practice," said Jenny, 14, from the Catholic Communities of St. Anne and St. Gregory in Palmyra and Marion.

In addition to her school performances, Jenny serves as vocalist for Remedy, a teen rock band co-organized by her brother Donnie, 15. Jenny said she hopes to convince her brother to let her play the saxophone, even though Remedy's brass section already includes a trumpeter and a trombonist.

"That's kind of up to them," Jenny remarked.

Tony Bovee is another youth who hones his musical talents with his peers. He is currently forming a new band, and also belonged to a now-defunct group known as Anti-Anti.

"We were against people that were against things," Tony explained.

The teen bands have helped Tony move closer to his ultimate goal of becoming a world-famous rock 'n' roll drummer.

"My dad says, 'I hope you do it.' My mom and dad tell me I have a natural

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