Even for soloists, music is a shared experience. We have our audiences, we have our peers, and we have our teachers and conductors. It takes practice to create moving music; it takes dedication and belief in what you are playing. It takes persistence to march, patience to rehearse. To see those hours pay off is a gift.

To share it with the friends you have made along the way is an even greater reward.
"Apollo is a mixed choir with its own sound and personality."

266 Music Feature: Apollo
This year marks the debut of Olivet’s new singing group, Apollo Choir, a merger of the women’s choir, Chrysalis, and the men’s choir, Testament. “We realized we had a niche in our curriculum,” said Dr. Reddick, the choir’s director and head of the music department. “Most of our choirs were singing sacred music...What we really didn’t have was a group singing all the wonderful music that was not sacred, from jazz to Broadway.” The variety of music was best served with a mixed choir. “You can’t compare Apollo to Chrysalis and Testament,” said senior alto section member Sierra Navarro, “Apollo is a mixed choir with its own sound and personality.” Both the students and the director have enjoyed the changes that have come with the new group. “I’m having a blast [directing], and the choir has really risen to the occasion,” said Dr. Reddick. Navarro’s experience with the choir spoke to the benefits of its focus on non-sacred music, expressing that the jazz pieces were her favorites, but she quickly added, “Honestly, I love all the music we sing!”
The members of Orpheus Choir donned their traditional purple robes for their performance in "Sounds of the Season."

Orpheus Choir, one of Olivet's largest music ensembles, always knows how to entertain. From performances in chapel and revival services to singing in Handel's Messiah and Sounds of the Season, Orpheus always satisfies the crowd with a wide selection of choral pieces. Despite their incredibly polished performances in the choral setting, Orpheus also entertains in other ways on campus.

Each fall semester Olivet brings about one of the more inventive events of the year - the Orpheus Variety Show. Put together entirely by the members of Orpheus Choir, the show includes a wide variety of skits, parodies, dance numbers, and anything else that the choir finds entertaining. This year's show included acts such as synchronized swimming routines, stomp dance numbers, short plays performed at increasing speeds, break-up songs, and the ever-popular Olivet Report. Despite the incredibly vast and unpredictable acts included within the show, it is put together by the choir members in a surprisingly short amount of time. "The mentality and focus that goes into our week's worth of rehearsal is incredible. It's crazy to think that we put together this show in only a week!" said sophomore Jess Hendricker.

"We always put this show together in a pretty short amount of time, but it all comes together every time," agreed senior Sarah Mowry. "I love being a part of a show that has a purpose of having people come to relax, forget about the stresses of life, and laugh a lot!"

Aside from giving the audience countless reasons to relax and laugh, putting together the Orpheus Variety Show does a lot to enhance the environment of community within the choir itself. "Each year, we receive a slew of new members. Orpheus is a family," explained Hendricker. "By having a week's worth of intense rehearsing, we really have to learn to love each other and respect one another. We learn through the intensity and stress of it all that each person in Orpheus has seventy-five brothers and sisters that love them unconditionally." Year after year, the brief yet intense hours of rehearsing always pay off as the final product of the show brings surprises and laughter to the campus of Olivet.
Left: A chilling performance of Pentatonix "Run to You" created an atmosphere of silence and awe in the audience.

Below: Orpheus Choir holds more than just incredible vocal talent, Evan Schafer revealed his incredible skill of playing the banjo.

Far Below: Nathan Lain played his guitar to accompany vocalists Brenna Close, Brianna Denhart, and Jessica Brown who sang a trio full of harmony.

Above: Dr. Bell spends many hours directing the Orpheus Choir. Class meets on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday and includes much laughter alongside the hardwork.

Left: The ladies of Orpheus Choir showed off their girl power when they danced to one of Taylor Swift’s songs.
Jamila Coker, Curtis Case, JD Dulinsky, Kara Anne Evans, Chad Olds, Joshua Robinson, Malik Temple, Ashley Sarver, and Macy Murray. (Photo by Joe Mantarian)

Megan Hendrickson, Enos Hershberger, Emily Swartzwelder, Susan Morrill, Wes Reece, Shelley Fellows, Chase DeMott, and Adam Deckard. (Photo by Joe Mantarian)
Olivet has many ways that it reaches out into the community to minister to others. One of those ways is through the PR groups comprised of students. This year, the three PR Bands that Olivet has sent out into the community are the Olivetians, City on a Hill, and The Narrow. Each group travels on the weekends to camps, churches, and district events to perform and to lead the congregations into worship. The Olivetians, made up of ten students, traveled many weekends throughout the year to churches to represent Olivet and to use their talents. One of the most well-known musical groups on campus, the Olivetians have performed in many different churches in the region and also perform on Olivet's campus on a regular basis. City on a Hill and the Narrow travel to churches in the region as well, but they also travel to camps and invest in the lives of children and families. In addition to traveling on the weekends, many of the students in the PR bands also participate in chapel worship groups and contribute to the chapel service through their musical talents.

During the first semester, Jonathan and Kate Burkey provided leadership for the PR bands. After feeling God call them to a position as a worship pastor at a church, they followed God's leading and passed the leadership onto Joel and Ali Deckard. Both couples provided excellent leadership and poured into the lives of these musicians so that they could pour into the lives of others through their music.

The Olivetians, City on a Hill, and The Narrow are full of talented musicians who have a heart for sharing Christ's love through music. Their influence on our community and region is obvious and they have touched the lives of many people through their travels.

Front Row: Christine Caven, Brianna Denhart, Anna Burkey, Sarah Mowry, and Emily Fernette. Back Row: Ben Geeding, Mark Fleschner, Michael-Andrew Spalding, Joe Mantarian, and Brady Bettis. (Photo by Image Group Photography)
Below: The men of Sound Foundation show their enthusiasm to perform in Sounds of the Season.

Far Below: Olivet’s new show choir, Sound Foundation, wowed the crowd with their ability to dance and sing simultaneously.

Amidst various musical groups, Olivet’s Handbell Choir brings a traditional feel to an ever-changing environment. Although small in size, the group packs a punch with their musicality and song choices as well as with the rich tones of the bells themselves. The group performed at this year’s Sounds of the Season, dazzling the audience with delicate Christmas music. Other than their holiday music, the group performs a variety of both contemporary and traditional pieces. The choir members love that they can push themselves as musicians to try their hand at playing this unique instrument. As the music department continues to move forward into broader horizons, the Handbell Choir reminds us of our roots and points toward the importance of tradition.

Far Above: Handbell choir is a great place to play a traditional instrument, but not always traditional music.

Above: Choir members concentrate on their iPads as they follow along to the musical score.
A Tight-knit Group

Left: Sound Foundation members show off their dancing skills during a performance.

Below: Dancing and singing with a smile, these girls are having fun performing.

Among Olivet’s large music department, the show choir Sound Foundation makes space for a small, tight-knit group. Led by Dr. Bell, Sound Foundation’s performances demonstrate a wide selection showcasing both exciting and heartfelt songs, even throwing in a few goofy numbers like “Make a Man Out of You” from Disney’s Mulan. Freshman Erica Browning said, “The mix of music helps us not take ourselves too seriously.” Whether performing or rehearsing, the show choir has made some lasting memories this year. Browning says, “My favorite memory was definitely when we were practicing in the chapel and Dr. Bell had us all sit on stage while he tried to play the organ. He couldn’t get it to connect, and after a while it was just us, rolling around the stage crying because we were laughing so hard.” Sound Foundations shows that a little laughter and a lot of hard work goes a long way.

Above: The sound of the low bells in the handbell choir echoed through the chapel as the Handbell Choir performed a Christmas tune at Sounds of the Season.

Left: Members of the Handbell Choir practice diligently so their performances go smoothly.
Olivet offers a wide variety of ensemble options for student musicians. The Flute Choir is a chamber ensemble composed entirely of flautists. The ensemble focuses on learning classical chamber pieces to perform in various outlets and these pieces have different musical parts including 4 concert flute parts, an alto flute part, and a bass flute part. Flautist Lynnae De Jong shared about her experience with the choir and she said, “I love that Flute Choir has given me the opportunity to learn how to play the alto flute. The alto flute has a beautiful sound, and I would not have had the chance to learn outside of Flute Choir. Being able to make music with eight other girls who have a passion for the flute like I do is such a fun and rewarding experience as well.” The Flute Choir offers the musicians a chance to get exposure to new pieces of music, new techniques, and to grow in their abilities.

The ladies in the Flute Choir are incredibly passionate about their craft, and excited to continue growing and learning more about their instrument of choice. Justine Von Arb explained, “I decided to join because I was excited to take part in something that I love - making music - with others who love the same thing... The sound of flutes playing without any other accompaniment - and, really, being one of those musicians, is simply incredible.”

The Flute Choir is truly unique in sound and composition, and they make incredible music. Taylor Stark stated, “My favorite part of flute choir is being with a group of awesome musicians and making music that no one else on campus can make. There aren’t any other ensembles that have the same sound and color that flute choir does, and that makes it really interesting.” This group of ladies is incredibly talented and they make beautiful music. They are incredibly dedicated and love being a part of their flautist family.
Concert Singers is a mixed-voice, audition-only ensemble directed by Dr. Neal Woodruff. The ensemble meets three times a week and performs a variety of musical pieces throughout the country, as well as overseas. Junior Madie Bloom, double major in Music Ministry and Spanish, explained that the ensemble often breaks into smaller groups at the end of practice, always composed of different people, to pray and encourage one another. Bloom said that time grows a sense of community and has resulted in Concert Singers becoming a “family.”

Concert Singers perform in various locations around campus, their favorites including Kelley Prayer Chapel and Centennial Chapel. “Personally I love the acoustics of Kelley Prayer Chapel because a small group like Concert Singers can really produce a resonant sound in such a small place – it really helps us hear one another better,” explained Bloom. Cassandra Petrie, a senior Vocal Performance and Music Education major, agreed and added that the Chamber Concerts held in Kelley are “beautiful.” Leandra Decatoria, a sophomore Music Composition major, said that Centennial Chapel is a favorite as well because of how “alive” the acoustics are.

Members of the ensemble had nothing but good things to say about the group’s director, Dr. Neal Woodruff. “He’s completely brilliant and a whole lot of fun,” Petrie pointed out. Decatoria said Dr. Woodruff is one of the most “hip” professors she knows, and Bloom explained that the director loves to see members of the group succeed musically and constantly instills life wisdom in them. Bloom said she most appreciates that Dr. Woodruff encourages the students in the ensemble to continually do their best work to glorify God.
The Marching Tigers Snare Line played a cadence to keep the energy high as the game started. Anticipation built as the Marching Tigers moved onto the field to take their places. There was a moment of silence as drum major, Paige Penrod, counted off before the ONU marching band began to play. Sound flooded the football field and fans watched in amazement as the band moved fluidly between formations. Flutes, trumpets, saxophones, and percussion instruments represented only a fraction of the 198 piece ensemble that could be heard from the opposite side of campus.

Freshman mellophone player Tori Kober insisted, "Marching band is definitely a sport!" Even though the description of sport is not usually applied to marching band, members consider it to be accurate. Band members move into Olivet two weeks early in the fall for daily twelve-hour practices to prepare for their season. Those two weeks are spent learning and polishing drills that will be performed during halftime at Olivet football games. Performances are fifteen minutes long and take several weeks to perfect, not unlike perfecting a play in a sport. The marching band never fails to "wow" the audience. The hours spent in practice prove to be successful any time the Marching Tigers perform.

Color guard is very welcoming in the recruitment of new members. "Everyone should join, even if you have no experience," says Sarah Buffa about becoming a member of color guard. She continued, saying that color guard has a friendly atmosphere where everyone gets along well. Like any other activity, color guard requires hard work and determination as well as humility in order to succeed as a team. Buffa added that "listening to superiors is especially important just because all they want is to help you make yourself better and help the team succeed."
Before every home game, the marching band paraded from inner campus to Ward field to rev up the student body.

Far Left: The saxophone section and drumline played together in the fourth movement of the performance. They started the song “Something Unpredictable.”

Left: The band’s theme this year was Time of Our Life. Members played a variety of songs centered around the idea of time.

Left: The flute section played a feature in the song “One More Time” in the halftime show.

Kristin Marshall @kristin.marshall.376

Base drummers hard at work again! #onuyearbook #onudrumline
Right: Jasper Taylor led the Gospel Choir in a soulful ballad. (photo submitted)

Below: The Gospel Choir performed as a part of Sounds of the Season and dressed in festive colors to brighten the stage. (photo submitted)

Right: The Gospel Choir reveals their signature move, the “side-sway” at one of their off-campus events. (photo submitted)

Janice Burneson @jpburneson

I love these women. #gospelchoir #tour #family

Above: The members of Gospel Choir spend a lot of time traveling together, so it’s expected that bonds are formed between the performers. (photo submitted)
High-energy and full of joy, this 80-voice ensemble delighted audiences on and off campus with traditional contemporary gospel music. Known for their soulful renditions and cheery enthusiasm, the choir kept their reputation this year as one of Olivet’s most beloved performance groups. The Gospel Choir kept the student singers on their toes with tempo and dynamics, as well as constantly changing elements. The unrestricted approach to the music allowed for variations between performances and that is what freshman Quincie McCalla appreciated most about the group. “We follow our director and do whatever he tells us to do,” said McCalla. “He throws us for a loop sometimes, but we have fun making every performance a little bit different than the last.” The choir as a whole is made up of people who love to share God’s love and sing praises to the Lord. This element is what makes their performances so special.
Led by Dr. Woodruff, the University Orchestra wowed their audience with both classical and modern songs. Walking into Larsen on any given day, one would likely encounter many different students from a wide variety of music ensembles. The music department at Olivet may be known for its size as well as its talent, but it may be surprising that aspects of it did not start out that way.

“I started teaching in Olivet’s School of Music in 2000,” recalled Dr. Neal Woodruff, director of Olivet’s orchestra. “While orchestral playing has been part of Olivet for many years, it was often comprised of just a handful of students along with hired community players. We now have two all-undergraduate student orchestras: University Orchestra (full symphonic) and University Strings (strings only). This makes us unique among schools our size, most of whom will have a community-based orchestra program.”

With the orchestra’s increasing size comes an increasing feeling of community, as noted by a handful of its members. “[Orchestra] has provided the opportunity for me to sort of reach out of my comfort zone,” noted senior concertmaster Brittany Pruitt. “It has also introduced me to many people, some of which are some of my closest friends here at Olivet.”

“Being involved in such a prominent department has been very beneficial,” stated freshman Caroline Miller. “The musicians are quality people and have been excellent role models. As a freshman, it has taught me self-discipline with fitting everything else in with academics.”

“Orchestra is basically a family,” said senior Amelia Claus. “You can’t spend so much time in close quarters with people without becoming a family. Everybody is also so passionate about music. Many of us do not have music relating at all with our degrees, but we always do it again. You can’t force students to do something they don’t care about.”

Dr. Woodruff, concurring with Claus, added: “I really enjoy the opportunity to make music with the great students who are part of the orchestra program. Most of them are not music majors and are playing because they like to play. I love being able to partner with them in stewarding God’s gift of music!”

From playing in large-scale events such as Sounds of the Season or Handel’s Messiah to playing in intimate quartets, the family of Olivet’s orchestra continues to steward this gift of music throughout the year.
Pulling Strings

Above: Amy Umrichouer waited to chime in while the University Orchestra played.

Left: Adding dynamic to the orchestra, the upright bass players contributed a unique sound.

Far Left: Hannah Javaux and Emily Jarrells demonstrated their violin skills, which can burn up to 170 calories an hour!

Left: Kari Sunnarborg added a unique sound to the orchestra as she played the harp.

Left: University Strings played a few songs for the public in the Kelley Prayer Chapel, which became so full it was standing room only.

Above: Amy Umrichouer waited to chime in while the University Orchestra played.

Left: Adding dynamic to the orchestra, the upright bass players contributed a unique sound.
Above: Concert band members focus intently as they await their cue to start playing.

Dylan Harris @dylhar96

Sounds of the Season! #LifeatOlivet
#ONUYearbook

Above: The director kept students on tempo to create a stunning performance.

Right: Taylor Stark hit the high notes of the piece with her performance on the flute.
Members of the Jazz Band powered through their concert with complex harmonies that wowed the crowd.

Band members stay concentrated as they performed live.

Concert Band is mostly made up of Olivet’s Marching Band students and performs concerts on campus and throughout the Bourbonnais-Bradley area.

Junior Business Administration major Emily Kammin joined band because she loved the experience in high school and wanted that to continue throughout her time at Olivet. Kammin explained that participating in band has taught her how to manage her time better than before. It also continues to teach her that music is a gift and that she’s blessed to be a part of it.

Kammin played the flute in high school, but said that her favorite experience in band has been switching to the trumpet section. “Trumpet is the coolest instrument in the band,” explained Kammin. She especially enjoys going to a school where she can start every practice and performance with a piece of music that was created for the “sole purpose of glorifying God.” She explained that warming up with her favorite hymn—“Abide by Me”—focuses her and puts what she’s doing into perspective.

Kammin has fortunately made great friends from her experiences in band and encourages anyone able to play an instrument to try it out for a year. She explained, “You spend a lot of time with these people, and they can become like a second family if you let them.”

Auditions for ONU’s Jazz Band are held at the beginning of each fall semester and those chosen remain in the band for the entire academic year. The band performs traditional jazz and showcases instruments such as trombones, trumpets, saxophones, and percussion.