“Music means a lot to me for two reasons. One, it helps me express myself in a different way. And two, I accepted Christ through music, which is why worship is my favorite way of glorifying the Lord. The best thing about music is that it impacts everyone, maybe not in the same way but it has the power to really move you.”

-Paul Davison

“I am passionate about creating. God has blessed more than I could ever imagine or ask for, and I believe it’s my privilege and duty to use the gifts that He has given me to glorify Him and create beautiful and meaningful things, whether that be singing or taking a photo or creating something with my hands. Art has given me a voice and a means to communicate the things that I’ve been learning as I grow into who I’m becoming and who Christ is shaping me to be.”

-Michael-Andrew Spalding
“For me, art is a diverse amalgam that helps human beings express themselves with beauty. In my life, music has been that art. Being Puerto Rican, I can say that popular traditional music has had a great effect in the definition of the culture of my island, as well in myself, and to a certain extent, it comes to define individuals. With my saxophone and the ability the Lord gave me to play it, I can worship Him with the art of music. I intend to become a doctor in medicine and hope to study much more about neural and cognitive effects of music in humans. I am honored to work with music, the art that God himself created.”

- Alexander Freytes Campos

“Art is the outpouring of thoughts, of wonder, of dreams, of reality. Every piece is meant to draw in, capture, and evoke feeling from those experiencing it, which will each leave the piece changed. A part of them has been expended and filled. Music is just the same. A song can emote joy, fear, sorrow, taking listeners out of their own circumstances and into another world in which nothing exists but this interwoven line of melodious moments. And yet, the listeners are simultaneously brought into a whirlwind of memories of their own pasts, inspired by the spark of emotion that the music has provided, joining all listeners together for that brief time.”

-Hayley Marcordes
While not letting life pass them by, the Green Room artists let life pass by their audience as they showcased a production of the different stages of life in their Broadway Revue performance. From behind the scenes to the night of performance, the cast connected with the audience through the different scenes that related all too well to the happenings of life. Each production walked the audience through the years of early childhood, to teenage angst, to finding a place in the adult life. The audience was in uproar with appraisal and rounds of applause. What made this production extraordinary were the directors that helped put this together. "The show was all about different stages of life," said senior Hannah Martin, "and the directors are actually all different ages. So they all have different years of experiences in the show and the dynamics brought different perspectives to the show to make it unique, new and exciting. With the content that they created, they definitely executed it well."

With the quality of the production, hard working people were definitely behind the making. "Being a new director has definitely been a new learning experience" said sophomore Hope Morris, lead director of the production. "It has been stressful but very very rewarding. I love getting to create a story that flows and also create smiles from my actors and audience."

An important aspect of theater to the performers was leaving the audience with something to remember, and sophomore Paul Hubbard wished the same. "I wanted the audience to find enjoyment through this," Hubbard said. "And be able to reflect on what their lives can be in the future." Audience members and performers agreed, it was definitely a night for jovial emotions, reflection, and true theatrical fun.
FALL PLAY: WIT

Theater is more than just entertainment; it impacts the audience's lives. 2016's fall play, "Wit" by Margaret Edson, was about a woman's battle with cancer. Ashley Sarver played the lead role of Dr. Vivian Berring, the cancer victim and even shaved her head for this performance. "Yes, I have a huge dedication to theater, but it goes deeper than that. By shaving my head, I was honoring everyone who had struggled with cancer," Sarver told Nathan DiCamillo in an interview for GlimmerGlass.

Sarver's grandpa passed away from cancer right before the weekend of the first opening, according to DiCamillo's interview with Sarver. Sarver's character was going through the same things that her grandpa was going through, and her character could relate to it. "Wit" was an emotional play that made people think more deeply about their lives. "It's a fearful journey knowing that we're all going to die, but this play shows that, although there is fear of the unknown, it's the journey to the next step," said school play director and Communications professor, Jerry Cohagen in an interview with Lauren Stancle for the GlimmerGlass. Sarver also learned a lot about life from the play. She told DiCamillo that life is more than just our personal achievements; it is the simple things that matter in life. We are not just who others label us to be. Cohagen hoped people would still come to the play despite the serious subject matter. He said that even though the subject of the play is sad, there was still some humor in it, according to his interview with Stancle. This play had an influence on the audience in how we are living our lives.

"My favorite part of theater itself is that it tells stories that a lot of times people wouldn't hear otherwise," cast member Hope Morris told Access ONU. Many people know someone battling cancer, and "Wit" portrayed the true side of it. It showed what life is about and what really matters. "Wit" was an emotional play that not only entertained, but also impacted the lives of the people in the audience.
With just a week to prepare, the Orpheus Choir went all out to put together the Orpheus Variety Show in the fall. Rehearsals ran late and friends got closer as the show time neared.

"It's inspiring to see our family work together and work diligently in order to do our task well," said president Daneli Rabanalez. While acts may not always be perfect, the audience does not mind as they are entertained by the singers. During the show itself, the audience gets to see a side of Orpheus Choir that does not often find its way onstage.

"Being onstage and making a complete fool out of yourself is a big part of what the Variety Show is," said sophomore Jayme Putney. Among the favorite acts in the show were the men's rendition of "My Heart Will Go On," along with the opening and closing numbers that included dance moves called "fruit basket" and "disco basket."

"My favorite act was the belly button song," said junior Karah Lain. "The performers were so serious about it, which made it all the more amusing, and the choreography was perfect. I watched it from backstage during all four shows." The Orpheus Variety Show was all about making music, having fun, and laughing; this year, the singers agreed that they definitely achieved that goal.

"It’s inspiring to see our family work together and work diligently in order to do our task well."
Sounds of The Season

While the crowds bustled and the children laughed, people everywhere hurried to get their seats, if they were lucky enough to get one in the crowded auditorium. The lights dimmed and everyone waited in silent anticipation. Then, the first notes of the Olivet’s orchestra floated over the crowd in a wonderful array of Christmas sounds. The smiling voices of the Olivetians joined in with the sound of the strings. Sounds of the Season had returned. For the much anticipated event, the entire Olivet School of Music came together to put on this annual event, Sounds of the Season for a crowd of over 3,000 people, including Olivet students and the community of Bourbonnais and Kankakee. From the marching band to the jazz band, to the flautists and the harpists, musicians of all types played their hearts out in glorious Christmas song. Many different choirs, such as Orpheus, Gospel and Apollo were able to showcase their talents and use their voices to praise God and celebrate Christmas.

This event was very important to the school and to the community.

“It was an opportunity to feature a lot of different groups from the school,” said head of the School of Music Dr. Don Reddick. “It was our gift back to the university and community, a chance to say thank you for supporting the Arts at ONU.”

The quality of the music at this year’s Sounds of the Season was heard to be unmatched. Voices and instruments created beautiful music that was unprecedented at Olivet, according to Reddick.

“I do believe the quality of this year’s program was the best yet,” Reddick said.

For example, two beloved music professors, Dr. Paul Kenyon and Dr. Karen Ball performed a piano duet that blew the crowd away. Few students usually get to see their teachers perform and excel at what they do best, making this a special opportunity for music students.

“I think this year’s event was spectacular,” said sophomore harpist Katie Obi Obasi. “I was floored by the outstanding, talented people we have here at Olivet. I am proud of all of those who performed and grateful for the amazing professors.”

Olivet certainly did not lack in skill, and professors made sure to uphold this standard.

“I believe that skillful, excellent music making can be a real and powerful witness,” said conductor of the University Orchestra and Concert Singers Dr. Neal Woodruff. “Credible craftsmanship must be part of credible worship and witness.”

Many appreciated when the university president Dr. Bowling came onto the stage during the song Silent Night.

“My favorite part of the second half is when Dr. Bowling read the Christmas story,” Reddick said. “Even though we have done it for several years, it still felt special. I think it is great that we are an institution that places the Christmas story at the featured spot in the program.”
From cathedrals to family tables, people have sung the Messiah, or pieces of it like the Hallelujah chorus, for centuries all over the world. One of the locations in which it has been found is none other than Olivet’s own campus.

“This was Olivet’s eightieth year performing it,” said head of the school of music Dr. Don Reddick when asked about Olivet’s performance of the piece.

An instrumental part of coordinating the performance, Dr. Reddick spoke very proudly of the event, which has always been a significant undertaking for practically the entire department. The students worked incredibly hard, learning the incredibly difficult music for months.

“The university orchestra and all university choirs participated to make this event possible this year,” Reddick said. “We started rehearsals halfway through the semester to make sure it was as well done as possible.”

The music, written during the Baroque period of art, is incredibly complex, and is an extreme challenge to learn.

“From an instrumental standpoint, the Messiah was super challenging,” said junior music major Leandra Decatoria. “I absolutely loved the music, but it was extremely hard to learn and play.”

Sandra Reedy, a member of the community who has attended the Messiah production every year for the past decade shared that she enjoyed the beautiful music.

“I love the ambience I see every year,” said Reedy when asked why she attended so faithfully. “It’s always very calming and you can feel the joy of the Lord very deeply through the music.”

Reedy expressed the true meaning of the concert and the reason for the season. “It is always our Christmas gift back to the community,” Reddick said when asked why the tradition has carried on so long.

Eighty years faithfully devoted to a magnificent testament to the joy and glory of the Lord has affected many in both Olivet’s community, and outside of it.
SOUNDS LIKE FAMILY

ORPHEUS CHOIR
Long rehearsals and weekend tours bring Orpheus together throughout the busy of the school year. The hard work of rehearsal is offset by jokes, prayer and family bonding.

"Dr. Bell did a great job of making a tight-knit family of seventy-four people," said sophomore Jayme Putney. "He made sure that we could rely on each other through prayer."

Game nights and retreats were planned with strengthening friendships in mind.

"I love that we are a family which prays for each other, encourages each other and supports one another," said president Daneli Rabanalez.

Tours gave the choir a chance to deepen relationships, and Dr. Bell a chance to hand out awards for whatever he deems worthy once the tour is over.

"I left my pillow behind in a host home during a tour and had to ask the host family if I could go back and get it," said sophomore Steven Case. "When we got back, I was awarded the Steven Pillow Case award."

Their ministry through music students said could be appreciated when preparing for a performance. Songs like Amor de Mi Alma provide opportunities for Orpheus to share their love for each other and for God with those who sit in the seats to hear them.

"I LOVE THAT WE ARE A FAMILY"
Gospel Choir

One of Olivet's most consistently enthusiastic choral ensembles this year was its Proclamation Gospel Choir. Under the direction of Professor Jasper Taylor, this choir lived into the grand tradition of passionate Gospel music through its passionate members and lively music choices.

"My favorite part of Gospel Choir was the freedom to praise how we like," said junior member Tatiana Diaz. "The energy in the music and the depth of the lyrics was wonderful. I love how, as a group, we could have fun during rehearsal while learning new music."

The members of the choir worked together and shared their passion in every performance.

"My favorite part of being in Gospel Choir this year was the community and the fact that we were all there to worship," said junior Connor Berg, "not just to sing and not just to sound good, but to praise God through music."

This praise was evident to all who attended their shows. Each singer overflowed with energy and zeal with every note and chord. Their infectious joy spread to every concert, every performance.

"They were all very respectable and polite," said member of Olivet's Apollo Choir Dakota Hunter when asked what it was like singing with the Gospel Choir for Sounds of the Season. "When they appeared in a choir setting, they were very focused, both individually and collectively. They also appeared to be very passionate about their music and bringing praise to God."

Gospel Choir was a perfect example of how God can work through music as the choir sang their hearts out and brought a piece of the kingdom not only to Olivet's campus, but to the community as well.

"...WE WERE ALL THERE TO WORSHIP. Not just to sing and not just to sound good, but to praise God through music."

...WE WERE ALL THERE TO WORSHIP.

Not just to sing and not just to sound good, but to praise God through music."
A DIFFERENT TYPE OF OUTREACH

Set apart from other musical groups on Olivet’s campus, Apollo Choir performed strictly secular music, including jazz, pop and Broadway tunes. By singing secular music, Apollo Choir could get into places that they otherwise would not have been able to. Their quality music pulled in the secular world and allowed them to appreciate the gifts that God gave to these students. These students loved sharing the light of Christ and the gifts he has given them through secular music this year. “It was a lot of people that were passionate about music,” said sophomore Sarah Albertson, “and that passion was infectious.” They had a passion for sharing their gifts with a crowd that was different from the norm. This passion brought them together and allowed them to share this love for music with each other.

“Apollo Choir provided an opportunity for students who enjoyed singing to come together, build friendships and sing,” said Apollo Choir director Dr. Don Reddick. “They were talented, fun to be around, and knew how to give 100 percent.” Apollo Choir showed Christ by being a light and sharing their passion for music in a different way through secular music. Because they were not the typical Christian college choir, they were able to reach secular crowds outside of Olivet. This became their new outreach, and their unique ministry.
SOUND FOUNDATION

Sound Foundation's second year of performing was even better than its first. As the only show choir at a Christian college or university, Sound Foundation had their work cut out for them as they grabbed the audience's attention at Sounds of the Season, and various competitions throughout the year.

"I'll never forget the first time this group took the stage," said assistant director Ben Geeding. "When the lights hit and the audience cheered, I could sense this surge of energy course through their collective presence. They were there to make a statement and they succeeded."

The same statement was made in Manteno when Sound Foundation made a guest appearance at Manteno High School's Show Choir Invitational.

"Not only was it a great showing for Olivet, but I believe that it was a great witness to Christ through the actions of the individual members of our group," said sophomore Josh Dille. "Trips to competitions and guest appearances at high school invitational highlighted this school year for the members of the group. Through the long year, the choir supported each other and worked hard at rehearsals."

"We saw each other when things are great and when things are not so great," said sophomore Olivia Loew. "The camaraderie that formed among the members contributed greatly to the impressive performances."

The members of Sound Foundation agreed that they made good progress this year, setting the stage for the years ahead in the show choir world at Olivet.
The sound of ringing followed the Handbell Choir wherever they went. Rehearsals and performances were positive experiences for instrumentalists and audiences alike. According to the musicians, practices had a lighthearted atmosphere where learning and rehearsal was surrounded with smiles and enjoyment.

“Practice was always amusing,” said junior Julie Shreves. “We got practice in, and we also got lots of laughs in, as we talked about random topics during breaks.”

Their bells could be heard resounding and harmonizing at concerts like Sounds of the Season where they played complicated pieces often requiring hand fulls of bells and special techniques. Classic pieces were tackled alongside some that were more adventurous choices for the choir to take on.

“I especially loved the Christmas music we played in the lobby at Sounds of the Season,” Shreves said.

Unlike many instruments, handbells are not normally introduced in early music classes, but practiced skills led the choir to success. The unusual instrument may have presented new learning experiences for some of the musicians, but they set their mind to it and learned.

“I have loved learning the techniques involved in ringing the bells and being challenged by some of the pieces,” Shreves said.
Music is an artistic avenue for the expression of a story. It gives character to the times and brings people together. It covers a range of genres, instruments and stories and connects the audience with the deeper themes and messages. One musical group that excelled at making this kind of beautiful music was the Flute Choir.

“Through technique and expression, a musician can connect with his or her audience on an emotional and sometimes even a spiritual level,” said Lynnae De Jong. “If you don’t tell the story the composer is trying to convey in the music and connect with the listener, the music is not nearly as enjoyable or powerful.”

The flute choir performed as a chamber ensemble, being able to showcase their instruments through a variety of repertoire and with several different kinds of flutes. The uniqueness that each musician, vocally and instrumentally, brought was just as important as the performance itself.

Another group that told beautiful stories through their music was the Concert Singers, the chamber choral ensemble who performed sacred and secular music ranging from madrigals to jazz—served as a wonderful example of great diversity within music.

“We work together to bring to life complex rhythms and harmonies,” said Dr. Woodruff. “Performing music in an ensemble gives us an opportunity to do something that no one person could do by himself. And yet, our success depends on each person doing his or her very best. It’s a great picture of the Body of Christ.”

Music brought character, diversity, and color to the lives of these singers and their audiences, sharing stories and creating beautiful symphonies that spoke to deeper truths.
One of the crowning jewels of Olivet’s grand musical empire is its orchestra. With students from all concentrations, Olivet’s University Orchestra and University Strings have brought a variety of people together and joy to the campus and to the community through rich art and culture.

“I love the music we played this year,” said sophomore French horn player Danielle Conrad. “Orchestral music is my favorite to listen to, and to be a part of making it was just a really cool experience.”

The students who have made up Olivet’s orchestra, like Conrad, have always been passionate individuals with a mind for creativity. Kinship was strong in the orchestra this year as in every year.

“The sense of community was really strong within the various instrument sections since we suffered together, grew together, and spent a lot of time together,” said senior bassist Elijah Gebre. “All the time and effort that has gone into what we do and have done is worth it in the end.”

These students expressed their sense of community through their ministry, sharing it in every performance. The University Orchestra and University Strings have graced the student body and the surrounding community with campus concerts, annual performances of Handel’s Messiah and Sound of the Season, as well as serving as the pit orchestra for spring musicals and operas. Olivet’s orchestra has been serving the community for years, playing not only for its students and the friends of Olivet’s campus but also alongside local area orchestras to spread God’s gift of music beyond Olivet’s borders.
"All the time and effort that goes into it is worth it in the end"
CONCERT BAND

Travelling around to local high schools to support and play with their bands was a significant part of the events that Concert Band participated in this school year. “Concert Band is where we really get to work on our skills on our instrument,” said clarinet player Felicia Baer. “That is what helps to make us better musicians, so it’s nice to have a side of band where we get to sit on the stage and focus just on playing.”

These “run out” concerts were a chance for high school students to play with a college level band and have a fun time with the college students during the school day. Sophomore Kaleb Smith said, “Being in the band is a great time to just work on the music,” said sophomore Kaleb Smith. “I really enjoyed some of the songs we played, not only aesthetically, but I enjoy the musicality of each piece individually.”

The three bands underneath the umbrella of concert band were made up of members who participated in marching band in the fall semester. Because of this transition from the field to the stage, the diversity in interest and department was maintained in the band. “I really like being able to play music,” said trombonist Brad Fitzgerald, “but besides that, I like the opportunity to meet and be friends with people that are outside my major and that I don’t have classes with every day.”

New friends and skills gained in the pursuit of music were at the top of the list for those keeping the beat in Concert Band.
Jazz Band

Smooth melodies and syncopated rhythms filled the air during the Jazz Band's rehearsals and concerts. Their preparations for their New Years' Eve concert in London's Cadogan Hall made their set all the more impressive to their audience across the pond.

"My favorite part of Jazz Band was being able to relax and enjoy the sweet sound of jazz and realizing that I am a part of that sound," said sophomore Sarah Eslinger. Whether it is a brassy big band sound or the smooth tones of a ballad, jazz is unique in the world of music as a release for musicians to turn to. The musicians shared that the freedom of jazz music requires improvisation and emotional playing that more classical pieces tend to limit.

"I think that jazz music is the best way for me to express myself," said senior Aaron Evans. Through this self-expression, the Jazz Band entertained and took both the audience and the musicians into a depth of music only found in the sweetness of jazz.
STEP WITH PURPOSE

“I was proud to stand on the world stage with Olivet Nazarene University.”
A personal invitation from the Queen to perform in London’s New Year’s Day Parade was given to Olivet’s marching band. A total of 223 students in Olivet’s marching band received that privilege. “It was one of the best experiences I had in a long time,” said freshman Jonathan Loosa.

For a freshman, Loosa explained this was an amazing way to start his time at Olivet. “It was amazing,” said sophomore Liz Sonneveld when talking about her experience in London as a color guard. “It was life-changing.”

Olivet’s marching band was the lead band in the parade, which was a tremendous honor for Olivet. Not only were they able to play in London’s New Year’s Day parade, but the band also got the opportunity to help out the community in London by doing service work for homeless shelters. This was a great experience for the band members especially since London has never asked a band to do service work before. The band had extra practices to prepare for this once-in-a-lifetime experience, but they were not able to practice the two weeks before they left for London because of Christmas break. Sonneveld was hoping that everyone would remember everything they practiced, and they did.

“I was proud to stand on the world stage with Olivet Nazarene University,” said director of athletic bands Matt Stratton. Stratton was personally in charge of coordinating everything for the London trip from the fund-raising to writing the marching band drill for Olivet’s performance. Brooke Gentille, a freshmen in marching band, commented on the way the band was drawn together by their experiences. “We’re like family,” said Gentille, “Music is a lifelong bond.” Gentille made many unexpected friendships from band, which she knows are going to be life-long. The common interest in music brings everyone together, which Gentille discovered right away her first year at Olivet. It does not matter if you have been in marching band at Olivet for one year or four, friendships come about easily with the common interest in music, according to Gentille. Marching band members said they work together as a team. They trust in each other and work together to create harmony. The band agreed it was truly an exciting
In a “society that is as hard and unforgiving as concrete or brick” it is the “eternal belief that through such suffering and loss, ‘someday, somehow, somewhere’ the bricks may begin to crumble.” stated Dr. Cohagen, in an interview, to GlimmerGlass Assistant Editor, Lauren Stancle.

This is the message of the classic, West Side Story, according to its director, professor Jerry Cohagan. Brought to the stage by 37 cast members, this play is a tragedy based on Shakespeare’s Romeo and Juliet.

“It is a story that is continually retold, whether it be in Romeo and Juliet, found in today’s voices shouting about building a wall to keep others out, or chanting in our own streets that ‘Black Lives Matter.’ Our world seems so polarized,” Cohagan wrote in his Note from the Director.

A main theme of the play is tolerance and accepting differences in others. West Side Story illustrates how we can “bridge the gap” between our differences and it will leave us “with hope for a better world.”

Cohagan added: “I think we need to begin to respect that which we don’t understand, and we can begin by loving people.”

The director hoped that everyone left the show entertained, but also moved to make a difference, and that the audience would recognize the outsiders in their lives, who could even be their neighbor.

Freshmen Josh Skinner and Ellie Urish stole the hearts of the audience through their moving performances of Tony and Maria, the lead roles in West Side Story. It is uncommon for both lead roles of the Spring Musical at Olivet to be cast as freshmen, but Skinner and Urish proved themselves by their pure talent, hard work, and raw emotion in the shows. The cast as a whole, was able to successfully convey the message of West Side Story. The hard work and dedication of each member was obvious as the show came together to display a story of love, suffering, and passion.
Many people are passionate about music, but few decide to take that passion and perform for others. Fewer still would do this by travelling. On Olivet's campus, four ensembles have made this their goal: The Olivetians, LifeSong, City on a Hill, and The Narrow. These groups, filled with brave and faithful people, hit the road with their passion and talent to share with their mission field. Coming from a variety of music genres, each group had its own unique sound that they use to spread the Gospel across Olivet's four-state educational region.

The Olivetians kept up their good reputation with the community and the student body as the featured entertainment at special occasions. The Olivetians toured frequently, often requesting to perform throughout the Olivet district. “Every week we went to a different church, and so the team was the only thing that was consistent,” said junior alto Alynn Franklin. As an ensemble, they showed their devotion to the Lord through their music. “I loved being part of a team. We ministered together,” Franklin said.

LifeSong, most well-known in chapel services, kept their music casual yet spiritual. Comprised of many different majors and musical talents, LifeSong’s focus was on contemporary and group worship. “It was a good experience, worshipping with people,” said sophomore Erin Doherty. “And meeting new people and hearing their stories. We went to retreats and played at churches for Sunday services and youth events.” LifeSong’s eclectic, contemporary sound leads to great audience participation and a wide selection of music through which the message of the Lord can be communicated.

The third band, also known for singing in chapel frequently is the worship band City on a Hill. Filled with lively musicians, City on a Hill went many places this year, including Camp Awana in Wisconsin to perform for their junior high school camp as well as many churches in the surrounding areas of Olivet’s influence. Their focus was worship among church and youth communities, spreading their love of the Lord through their music and the fellowship that has followed them on the road. When asked about her favorite part of being in the band this year, member Morgan Shribe said, “I got to do ministry, sharing Jesus and music with teens and congregations, with some of my best friends...what could be better than that?”

The final of the four travelling music ministries, The Narrow, was another contemporary band focused heavily on worship and creating an atmosphere of devotion. The group primarily travelled to camps and churches in the surrounding states, as well as summer camps, winter retreats, lock-ins, church festivals, and Sunday services. “One of my favorite things about traveling is not just playing music on the road, but the amazing experiences and friendships made with students and others we meet in our travels,” said junior engineering major Zach Pessia.

Bringing the word of God and His presence to a larger community outside of Olivet’s campus is a noble goal, and these four music groups were more than up to the task.