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1-25-2021

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Ouachita News Bureau, "Ouachita Worship releases first original song, "Holy Fire" (2021). *Press Releases*. 1249.

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January 25, 2021

For more information, contact OBU's news bureau at newsbureau@obu.edu or (870) 245-5208.

ARKADELPHIA, Ark. –After releasing more than half a dozen cover songs <u>on YouTube</u>, Ouachita Worship has recorded its first original song, "Holy Fire," which is now available on Spotify, Apple Music and YouTube.

Running just over six minutes, "Holy Fire" is written by Cameron Conner, Robert Pilcher and Stuart Sowerbutts. Conner is a senior music industry major from North Little Rock, Ark.; Pilcher is a 2020 music and Spanish graduate from Maumelle, Ark.; and Sowerbutts is a senior music industry major from Hot Springs, Ark.

Pilcher said the inspiration behind the song came from Acts 2, "where we see the Spirit of God moving powerfully among the Church when they choose to seek His face in prayer and by the teaching of His Word.

"Just like a fire, God's presence consumes the hearts of those who live in a posture of surrender so that they are living anthems of praise," he said.

The student group formed in 2018 to lead worship during the university's weekly Chapel gatherings and later became Ouachita Worship.

"This group is continually growing and reaching new heights musically as well as in their depth of understanding of worship leadership," said Larry Grayson, chair of Ouachita's <u>Department of Worship Arts</u>. "Our students are inspired to write songs; it has become an important means of expression of their spiritual journey."

Joel Winters, who serves as worship pastor at First Baptist Church in Benton, Ark., began working with Ouachita Worship when the group started leading music in Chapel. He said he is proud of the group and that their work on "Holy Fire" "is just a good picture of what's possible for students because of the environment Ouachita creates for them."



"Given the right tools, students have the ability to do this on their own," Winters said. "That's an important part of preparing them to be ministers in their churches after they graduate."

To learn more about Ouachita Worship, contact Larry Grayson at graysonl@obu.edu. Watch and listen to more from Ouachita Worship at <a href="mailto:youtube.com/ouachita">youtube.com/ouachita</a>.