

## Worship Collective gaining music following at Mississippi College

*Special to The Clinton Courier*

Their original music and live performances are winning over fans hearing Mississippi College's Worship Collective. Their songs seek to glorify God and encourage listeners.

"Merciful" is the title of the group's first recording by MC student vocalist Mark Soileau of Mandeville, Louisiana. Recorded in the historic sanctuary at First Baptist Church Clinton and released in early October, there are more songs to come this fall. Soileau is pursuing worship leadership studies at the Christian university in Clinton.

A total of six original worship songs are part of the new package of music. Students serve as the songwriters. Their recordings are mixed and mastered at Blue Sky Studios in Jackson. Tyler Kemp, an MC music professor, worked as the project's recording engineer.

Singers combine with guitarists, along with musicians on the keyboards and drums to praise the Lord.

The newest release is "Surely as the Sun," penned by MC communication major Ryan Warnick of Tupelo. It hit



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*Pictured (l to r) are Madeleine Lawrence, Halifax, Massachusetts; Connor Thompson, Fairhope, Alabama; Mark Soileau, Mandeville, Louisiana; Kendall Gregory, Hampton, Georgia; and Maya Thompson, Jackson.*

on social media last month, with the song "Narrow Way" written by worship leadership major Madison Pillow of Memphis following soon after.

The series of new songs each week

continues through mid-November.

Will Bishop, the MC Worship Collective director, hopes the creation of the MC Worship Collective will serve as a Mississippi College recruiting

tool. He says it should encourage people to discover more about Mississippi College, the university's worship degree and the MC Worship Collective.

The goals are ambitious: the new six music videos will reach 100,000 views by the end of the academic year in May 2019. "It's a lofty goal. We're going to need every MC student, parent, alum and friend to share these videos by social media," Bishop said.

It's best to check Instagram (@mcworshipcollective) for more updates, says Bishop, a professor of worship leadership at the Baptist-affiliated university.

Several MC students in MC Worship Collective are from the metro Jackson area. They include: Madeline Stanteen of Clinton, Maya Thompson of Jackson, and Courtney Brooks, Kaitlyn Malouf, Mason Crowe and Chandler Greenwood, all of Madison. A total of 45 students are members of the MC Worship Collective. Nearly every academic major at Mississippi College is represented in the group on the Clinton campus.

For more information, contact Will Bishop at 601-925-3445.



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