About OCO …

The Olin Conductorless Orchestra (OCO)—an ensemble, minus conductor—features instrumentalists in leadership and collaborative roles. Dedicated to orchestral performance in the concerted spirit of chamber music, the orchestra forges individual participation, active listening, and group-motivation into performances that have established it as the only conductorless orchestra composed of engineers—in the world! With an essentially flat hierarchy that incorporates an ever-evolving sense of culture and cooperation as a working ensemble, OCO functions as a team of musicians—regardless of position—comprising students, faculty, and external guests, all dedicated to making good music with intensity, camaraderie, excitement, and humor.
Serena Chen, Shreya Rangarajan, Maggie Rosner, Sarah Walters, Judy Xu, Nathan Yee, Lydia Zuehsow—violins
Anne Ku—viola
Jeremy Garcia, Duncan Hall, Kian Raissian, Emma Westerhoff—cellos
Katie Hite, Eric Miller—flutes
Jeremy Ryan—piccolo and flute
Taylor Sheneman—oboé
Meg Lidbauch, Sunny Shroff—bass clarinets
Diego Alvarez—pocket trumpet
Diego Alvarez, Paul Nadan—tenor trombones
Joe Sutker—bass trombone, percussion, and glockenspiel
Emily Yeh—piano
Joseph Lee—timpani
Marie-Caroline Finke—glockenspiel and percussion

Many thanks to the following people for their help with OCO this year:

William Baez (Facilities personnel), Holly Bennett (Admin. Asst. for Academic Affairs), Susan Brisson (Assoc. Director of Admission), Pedro Cabrera (Facilities personnel), Linda Canavan (Assoc. Dean of Student Affairs and Registrar), Neiza Correia (Facilities personnel), Paul Coveney (Admin. Asst. for Academic Affairs), Michelle Davis (Chief Marketing Officer), Catherine Didion (V.P. for Development, Family and Alumni Relations), Noel Espinal (Facilities Asst. Director), Francisco Fernandez (Facilities personnel), Marcella Fornagiel (Admin. Asst. for Academic Affairs), Alyson Goodrow (Director of Marketing), Steve Hannabury (Executive V.P. and Treasurer), Joe Hunter (Asst. V.P. for External Relations and Director of Communication), Zhaopeng Ji (Director of Budgeting and Accounting), Susan Johanson (Asst. to Dean of Admission and Financial Aid), Ellise LaMotte (Director of Academic Services), Jayme Larcherelle (Facilities Operations Manager), Vin Manno (Provost and Dean of Faculty), Robinson Medrano (Facilities personnel), Beth Miaoulis (Development Officer), Rick Miller (President), Katherine McDonough (Admin. Asst. for Academic Affairs), Linda Miller (Asst. to the Provost and Dean of the Faculty), Emily Petersell (Asst. Director of Admission and Financial Aid), Krissy Raposa (Director, Family and Alumni Relations), Emily Roper-Doten (Dean of Admission and Financial Aid), Liam Ross-Fitzgibbons (Asst. Director of Admission and Financial Aid), John Sullivan (Program Director, Needham Lions Club), Nancy Sullivan (Asst. to the President), Hannah Wilk ’17, Russ Zacharias (Facilities Director), Music Program Assistants Pinar Demetci ’17, Joseph Lee ’19, Bryan Werth ’19.
Sunny Shroff ’18, from Nashua, New Hampshire, has been playing the bass clarinet for 8 years. He has performed with his middle and high school bands as well as in the NH All State and Chamber bands. In addition to music, he enjoys playing pool and watching TV shows on Netflix. His major is MechE.

Joe Sutker ’18, from Boonton Township, New Jersey, is majoring in Engineering with a concentration in Computing. While he dabbles in many instruments, he is playing Bass Trombone and various percussion for OCO. While not playing instruments, he is singing, acting, spinning fire staff, playing videogames, and doing math. A lot of it.

Sarah Walters ’17, is from Boulder, Colorado. Her major is engineering with a concentration in computing. She has been studying violin for thirteen years and piano for sixteen, and has performed with the Boston Philharmonic Youth Orchestra, the Mercury Orchestra, and with various all-state orchestras and chamber groups.

Emma Westerhoff ’20, is from Scottsdale, Arizona. She has been playing cello for seven years, and has studied under both classical and fiddle instructors. She also plays upright and electric bass in jazz ensembles. With plans to study Electrical Engineering, Emma also enjoys baking, origami, and getting lost in the desert.

Judy Xu ’18, is from Toronto, Canada. She is studying Mechanical Engineering at Olin, but likes coding and wants to go into Aerospace. She started piano in kindergarten because she liked the piano teacher. She started violin in middle school because ensembles are fun. She really likes watermelons and Chopin.

Nathan Yee ’19, is from Alameda, California. He has played violin for 12 years and has performed in numerous orchestras, most notably, the Oakland Youth Orchestra. His major is electrical and computer engineering.

Emily Yeh ’19, is from University Place, Washington. She has been playing piano for about 15 years. Her major is Engineering with a concentration in Computing. She enjoys elephants, watching people, and art. She is really bad at acting normal.

Lydia Zuehsow ’19, from Harwood Heights, Illinois, has been playing violin for 14 years, 13 of them willingly. In her spare time, she enjoys sketching, pottery, and defying death as she leaps about on a patch of frozen H2O. As a Robo:E, she will probably instigate the coming robot apocalypse.
Diego Alvarez ’20, is from Kirkland, Washington. He started playing piano in 5th grade, and later picked up trombone, composition, guitar, and, most recently, trumpet. He plans to study either mechanical or robotics engineering.

Serena Chen ’19, is from Plano, Texas. Her major is Engineering with Computing. She has been playing violin for 9 years. In her spare time, she enjoys drawing snails.

Marie-Caroline Finke ’18, comes from Darmstadt, Germany. Her major is Electrical and Computer Engineering with an interest in sound and renewable energy. In OCO she is playing several percussion instruments.

Jeremy Garcia ’19, is from Dallas, Texas, and is majoring in software engineering. He has been playing the cello for 13 years and has enjoyed playing with various all-state, chamber, and youth orchestras.

Duncan Hall ’19, is from Camden, Maine. He has played cello in a variety of ensembles with peers and mentors, sharing the Berklee Performance Center stage in 2012 with Mark O’Connor and the other 2011 recipients of the Daniel Pearl Memorial Instruments. He is studying software engineering and development, and continues to pursue musical studies throughout his time at Olin.

Kathryn Hite ’18, is from Temperance, Michigan, and is majoring in Engineering with a concentration in computing. She has been playing the flute for 11 years and has performed with the Toledo Youth Orchestra and other concert groups.

Anne Ku ’19, from Palo Alto, California, has been an active musician for over 12 years. Her major is Electrical and Computer Engineering.

Joseph Lee ’19, is from Huntsville, Alabama. He has been playing piano for 12 years and is vastly enjoying playing timpani in OCO. He is majoring in Electrical and Computer Engineering and spends most of his free time doing all sorts of different projects ranging from building harps to building remote control air-planes.

Meg Lirdbauch ’17, is from Hamilton, Massachusetts, where she first discovered the wonder and mystique that is the bass clarinet. She has been playing bass clarinet for eight years. She is studying Environmental Systems Engineering with a particular interest in sustainability and renewable energy. She loves that the Olin Conductorless Orchestra gives her the opportunity to continue with music and grow as both an instrumentalist and a person.

Eric Miller ’19, is from Granville, Ohio. He has been playing flute for 11 years in Honor Bands, orchestras, small ensembles, and now the OCO. He is majoring in Robotics, and is one of the OCO Navigators this year.

Paul Nadan ’20, is from San Carlos, California. He began playing the euphonium in 5th grade, and picked up the trombone two years later. He plans to study aerospace engineering during his time at Olin.

Kian Raissian ’20, is from Houston, Texas. He has studied cello since he was 5 years old. He has played in various ensembles including the Houston Youth Symphony, the Texas All State orchestras, the Houston Symphony, and the Helios quartet, which he founded. He is also a recipient of the Texas Young Masters Award and a winner of the Houston Young Artists Competition. Additionally, he was a finalist in the Houston Symphony League Concerto Competition and a soloist in a masterclass held by the Israeli Philharmonic. He is still technically undecided regarding his major, but is leaning towards a path in Engineering with Product Design.

Shreya Rangarajan ’18, is from Baltimore, Maryland, and is majoring in Engineering with a concentration in Bioengineering. She started her performing arts training at the Peabody Conservatory and has been playing the violin, singing, and dancing for 15 years. When she’s not involved in arts, she likes to socialize, play sports, and watch Netflix.

Maggie Rosner ‘20, is from Tacoma, Washington. She has played the violin for 9 years and while at Olin is planning to major in either Mechanical or Electrical Engineering with a focus in sustainability.

Jeremy Ryan ’20, from Medical Lake, Washington, is majoring in Electrical and Computer Engineering. He began studying piano at age 5, and has since taken up flute, piccolo, mallet percussion, and accordion. Jeremy has been composing music for at least six years, including a piece entitled “Tension” that was performed by a concert band when he was in eighth grade. Outside of music, he enjoys unicycling, drawing, and digital art.

Taylor Sheneman ’19, is from Highwood, Illinois. He has been playing oboe for 11 years, and piano for 15. Apart from music performance, he enjoys parkour, mixology, electronic music composition, and making stuff. Taylor is an Electrical and Computer Engineering major, because computers are going to be a great thing to understand during the robot apocalypse.