

begins to dwindle. It reaches a point where there is only one student left. Ellen, played by senior Sonia George, is older than the other students in his class. After becoming better acquainted, Thoreau falls in love with her.

When Thoreau asks for Ellen's hand in marriage, she refuses;

au and Emerson resolve their conflict. Thoreau's Aunt Louisa pays his taxes to get him out of jail. However, Thoreau refuses to leave unless his cell mate, Bailey, played by junior Nicky Smit, is finally tried for his unintentional crime. Sam agrees and Thoreau leaves his cell.

The sets were abstract and unique

Thoreau's life, watching over him, but also so they could watch the play when it wasn't one of their scenes in which they were performing.

"It was amusing to watch the characters pop randomly on and off the stage," senior and crew member Tracy Harrison said.

was educational, interesting, and brilliant. Sonia George mentioned that with this play, Carl Sandburg aspires to perform at Theaterfest, the statewide gathering of selected high school plays ranked for their quality, topic, etc. It would be an honor for the school to be chosen to participate.

# Getting the Rock Band back together

by ZACH BAKER  
Staff Writer

As a child, almost any given person experiences the desire to be a musician, jamming out to his or her favorite tunes as millions watch them. Rock Band 2 allows anyone with that childhood dream to live the experience in their own living room. It allows gamers to create their own band, design their personal character, and then pick their instruments and play songs like AC/DC's "Let There Be Rock," Red Hot Chili Peppers' "Give It Away Now," and System of a Down's "Chop Suey."

Rock Band 2 is the highly anticipated sequel to the multi-platform smash hit, Rock Band. Rock Band 2 has many similar features to its predecessor. It still includes four playable instruments—guitar, bass guitar, microphone, and drums—and it still customizable characters and band, multiple modes of play, varying genres of included songs, additional downloadable tunes (on the Xbox 360 and Play Station 3 versions), and four levels of playing difficulty.

Rock Band was definitely a great game to begin with, but Rock Band 2 has many new features to offer. Lessons are now available on the four instruments to improve playing ability and to master rhythm. On the Xbox 360 version, 55

songs can be uploaded from the original Rock Band to be played on Rock Band 2. That way, there are two games in one, and the discs don't need to be switched. It is not known yet if the Wii or PS3 versions will have this feature.

Rock Band 2 also has instrument compatibility. The guitar, drums, and microphone from the original Rock Band, as well as the guitars from Guitar Hero, will work on Rock Band 2, as long as it's on the same console.

The game does not only have many extra features and great solo game play. Rock Band 2 is the ideal party game. There are several modes of play, including Tour Challenge, Battle of the Bands, Training Mode, and Tour Mode. Tour Challenge is designed to unlock some new songs or get better at an instrument. Battle of the Bands, which is only available for Xbox 360 and PS3, allows gamers to play online with or against one another. In Training Mode, skills can be improved by practicing and learning different rhythms for the drums and guitar. The Tour mode of play is what makes Rock Band stand out from the crowd. With this mode, rockers are able to create a band on their own or with friends, give it a name, and "perform" at cities and places around the world. At the begin-



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*Rock Band 2 has new songs and improved features from the original.*

ning, there is only a car to travel in, but as more concerts are performed, new vehicles are earned. The highest vehicle that can be awarded is a private jet, in which the band may travel worldwide and perform anywhere it wants.

This multi-platform hit is a great game for any time, whether it's a late night hanging out with friends, or an evening spent with family. Rock Band 2 is not just a kid's game, either. Its wide variety of songs is appealing to parents too, who may remember songs like "Pinball Wizard" by The Who. Each person can play their instrument on their own difficulty

level, which does not force the band to play on one level. Its four levels of difficulty—including easy, medium, hard, and expert—allow newcomers to get a feel for what's going on and ease into the more difficult modes of play.

The Rock Band 2 game disc came out for Xbox 360 on September 14, 2008 and is scheduled to come out on PS3 on October 19, 2008, and Wii and PS2 on November 18, 2008. Packages with separate instruments and instrument sets will be released later in the year. The starting price, of the disc only, is \$60 for Xbox 360. The prices for the other console versions are still unavailable.