

Winter Performance Review



On Thursday, February 8th, 2007, the Rhythm Project All Stars staged the Rhythm Project's first event West African Drum and Dance Concert at the TCC Roper Performing Arts Center in downtown Norfolk, VA. The program consisted entirely of authentically presented West African dances and instrumental music from the nations of Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Tanzania and Togo. The program also included authentic West African costumes and instruments. In order to continue to present this type of program during Black History Month, we plan to make this concert an annual event to occur each February in the city of Norfolk. Look for it next year and be sure not to miss the fun!

The Portsmouth Rising Stars made their second concert appearance of the school year on Saturday, February 17th, 2007 at the Portsmouth Branch NAACP Black History Month Program at St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church in Portsmouth, VA. Having performed at this event last year as well, the group received a very warm welcome from their hosts. Students performed two numbers from their current repertoire including *Soca Pressure* by Calypso legend The Mighty Sparrow and an arrangement of the Overture to Georges Bizet's classic opera *Carmen*. After their performance, students were treated to a nice lunch and had a chance to interact with those in attendance. We look forward to participating in this event again in the future.



The Virginia Beach Rising Stars made their first concert appearance of the school year at the 2007 Virginia Beach All-City Band Festival on Saturday, March 17th, 2007 at Plaza Middle School in Virginia Beach, VA. The house was full of Virginia Beach City Public Schools music students and their families as this event also features the Virginia Beach All-City Sixth Grade Band, Seventh Grade Band and All-City Jazz Ensemble. The audience enthusiastically cheered and applauded each of the Virginia Beach Rising Stars' tunes and really made the students feel welcome and proud of their achievements. We are looking forward to participating in this event for many years to come!



On Wednesday, March 21st, 2007, the Virginia Beach Rising Stars made a very well-received appearance at a Partners in Education reception held at Landstown High School in Virginia Beach, VA. Hot off the success of their first public performance of the year only four days earlier, the group was primed for a strong performance and did not disappoint. Students performed all four pieces in their current repertoire: *Cachita* (a traditional island tune), *The Love You Save* by the Corporation, *Eleanor Rigby* by the Beatles and *Cha Cha Sandwich* by Phil Hawkins. The audience included many teachers and administrators from Virginia Beach City Public Schools including Superintendent Dr. James Merrill. Virginia Beach Mayor Meyera Oberndorf was also in attendance along with many individuals involved in furthering the education of our areas public school students.



The Portsmouth Rising Stars, also busy in the month of March, performed at the Portsmouth All-City Music Festival at Woodrow Wilson High School in Portsmouth, VA on Saturday, March 24th, 2007. This event featured performing ensembles consisting of band, orchestra and choral students from across Portsmouth Public Schools' various music programs. The audience for the Portsmouth Rising Stars' performance consisted of parents and students from the event's other performing ensembles who graciously responded to each tune with an explosion of cheers and applause. We were glad to be included in this event and to be able to showcase the talent and hard work of our students as a part of this celebration of the achievements of students from across the city of Portsmouth.