

# 2008 Winter Performance Review



The All Stars perform at the Logan Street Baptist Church Christmas Vespers Service in Batavia, IL.

On the weekend of December 14 to 17, 2007, students of the Rhythm Project All Stars were blessed with the once in a lifetime opportunity of witnessing a demonstration of the steel drum building process from Cliff Alexis, one of the pioneers of the steelpan. In addition to this, and enjoying a white Christmas in Chicago, IL, they were privileged to perform on the same stage with two accomplished gospel choirs; The Empowerment Fellowship Logan Street Baptist Church Gospel Choir and Wheaton College Choir. Another highlight of the trip was a bus-tour of the downtown Chicago area. The group witnessed some famous Chicago landmarks like Harpo Studios, Wrigley Field and visited Navy Pier (a major tourist attraction in Chicago) and the Du Sable Museum of African American History. The journey to Chicago was long but well worth the while.



The All Stars performed their rendition of Destra Garcia's (a renowned Trinidadian soca artist) Colours Again (arranged by Dionne Kerr, a native of Trinidad and Tobago) at a Tattoo preview staged by the Virginia Arts Festival for the American Bus Association (ABA) Marketplace on February 6, 2008. They captured the audience's attention with their energy and musicality. The Tattoo preview was held at Nauticus in downtown Norfolk.

Earlier that week, on February 4, 2008, the All Stars provided entertainment to welcome the ABA Marketplace delegates at a reception held at Sandler Center in Virginia Beach. The delegates' appreciation for the music was reflected in their merry moods as they made their way into the reception area.

The Rhythm Project Hampton Rising Stars (wearing red and black shirts in the picture on the right) shared their talent with those in attendance at the Ft. Monroe African American History Month program on Wednesday, February 20, 2008. The group comprised of only five students, from Spratley Middle School in Hampton, but they were able to put on an exceptional performance which the audience found worthy of a standing ovation. The children also had the opportunity to enjoy the other performances on the program and to benefit from presentations on the evolution of Black History Month. The picture on the right includes all of the featured guests on the program including Transportation Express (a vocal ensemble comprised of military volunteers).



The All Stars participated in the Kimoyo African Missions Fundraiser in Roanoke, VA for the second time this year. Kimoyo is an organization that funds education and health projects in underserved communities in Roanoke and northern Ghana. The All Stars performed an African Drum and Dance program for an enthusiastic audience during Kimoyo's matinee presentation for elementary school students on Saturday, February 23, 2008. Later that evening the Rhythm Project awed their audience of about six hundred at the charity concert entitled "From Africa to Appalachia" held at the Jefferson Center in Roanoke. The Swahili word "Kimoyo" is translated into English as "language of the heart" and the Rhythm Project truly spoke to the hearts of their listeners with their African Drum and Dance and Steelband performances.

The Rhythm Project Virginia Beach Rising Stars had their first performance for the year on Saturday, March 15, 2008. They represented the Rhythm Project well, with their performance of Aldwyn Roberts' Mystery Band, Michael Jackson's Human Nature and Dmitri Kabalevsky's Comedian's Gallop, at the Virginia Beach City Public Schools All City Festival held at Plaza Middle School in Virginia Beach. The program also featured the Virginia Beach All-City Sixth and Seventh Grade Bands, and Jazz Ensemble.

