Dear Friends,

The Rhythm Project Summer kicked off with our first ever week-long summer camp. This was an undertaking that focused on preparing both new and returning All Stars students for Summer performances. The first of our Summer performances was the Rhythm Project Showcase Concert on Saturday, July 19, 2008. This event, in addition to being the first of a series of successful performances, marked the beginning of a new period for the Rhythm Project as we said good bye to Ben Meyer. Ben served the Rhythm Project for four years; first as the Assistant Director (2004-2007) and then as the Director (2007-2008). During this time, the Rhythm Project has expanded from five to eight ensembles and now serves elementary, middle and high school students in public school systems in Hampton, Norfolk, Portsmouth and Virginia Beach. We wish Mr. Meyer well in his move to South Carolina and in all of his future endeavors. This Summer was also filled with bitter-sweet moments as we said farewell to six students who graduated and are now in college. Finally, we welcomed Mr. Dave Longfellow into the Rhythm Project family as our Associate Director; he started with us on August 18.

Thanks to all of you for supporting the Rhythm Project through this period of transition; we look forward to serving you and the greater community in the upcoming academic year!

Sincerely,

Sophia Subero  
R. P. Director  
(757) 282-2823

Dave Longfellow  
R.P. Associate Director  
(757) 282-2815

Robert Cross  
VAF Executive Director

J. Scott Jackson  
VAF General Manager

Get your Rhythm Project “Live in Norfolk” DVD today! Only $20

Performance/Activity Calendar

Tuesday, September 23, 2008  
Salem High School Auditions  
2:40 - 4:30 PM

Thursday, September 25, 2008  
VA Beach Rising Stars Auditions  
Kempsville Middle School  
4:30 - 6:30 PM

Monday, October 6, 2008  
Portsmouth Rising Stars Fall Start Date  
Children’s Museum of VA  
6:00 - 8:00 PM

Friday, October 10, 2008  
Farm Fresh Tailgate Gala  
All Stars - Half Moone Cruise Terminal, Norfolk, VA  
6:00 - 9:00 PM

Monday, November 10, 2008  
Rejuvenate Conference  
All Stars Combo - Sandler Center  
Virginia Beach, VA  
11:30 - 1:00 PM

Friday, December 5, 2008  
Newport News Holly Dazzle  
All Stars - City Center  
Newport News, VA  
6:00 - 9:00 PM
PANorama Caribbean Music Fest
Rhythm Project Virginia Beach, Portsmouth and Hampton Rising Stars as well as the All Stars gave sizzling performances at the 2008 PANorama Caribbean Music Fest held at the Virginia Beach Oceanfront on May 10, 2008. This event provided an opportunity for Rhythm Project students to showcase their talent and to observe other similar school steelband ensembles.

2008 Rhythm Project Jumpstart Summer Camp
New and returning All Stars students participated in the Rhythm Project’s first ever week long Summer Camp during the week of June 16-20, 2008. Students enjoyed a week of bonding and musical creativity. The camp proved to be a great team building activity as veteran students mentored novice students to become better pannists. The highlight of the camp was our guest clinician, Mr. Alan Lightner, who is an accomplished composer, arranger, producer and performer of steeldrum music.

2008 Rhythm Project All Stars Awards
Presented at the Closing Ceremony of the Rhythm Project Summer Camp:
- Best All Around Student presented to Megan Davis
- Best Attitude Award presented to Travis Chase
- Attendance Award presented to Malcolm Davis
- Most Promising New Student presented to Kyle McCormick
- Most Supportive Parent presented to Carolyn Chase

2008 Rhythm Project Showcase Concert
On Saturday, July 19, 2008 three Rhythm Project ensembles performed at the Attucks Theatre in Norfolk for our annual Showcase Concert. The audience of about two hundred was entertained by the Portsmouth and Virginia Beach Rising Stars (two of our middle school groups) followed by our premier performing ensemble, the All Stars. Evidence of on-lookers’ appreciation was expressed with overwhelming applause.

Virginia Beach Oceanfront Concerts
The Rhythm Project All Stars performed at the Virginia Beach Oceanfront 17th and 24th St stages on three occasions during the months of July and August this summer. The fun-loving audiences danced to the scintillating sounds of the All Stars and were reluctant to leave at the end of the performance. Students also had the opportunity to play in an intimate setting to an audience that comprised of Sandbridge Beach community members on August 21.
Congratulations to our graduating Seniors
We are proud of you

Devin Beale
Graduated from Lake Taylor High School, Norfolk
Best wishes as you embark on a student career in Music Education at
Norfolk State University

Travis Chase
Graduated from Salem High School, Virginia Beach
Best wishes as you embark on a student career in Music and Psychology
Virginia Commonwealth University

Michael Hall
Graduated from Norview High School, Norfolk
Best wishes as you embark on a student career in Music Education at
Norfolk State University

Arica Hurdle
Graduated from I.C. Norcom High School, Portsmouth
Best wishes as you embark on a student career in Physical Therapy at
Liberty University

Reginald Jones
Graduated from I.C. Norcom High School, Portsmouth
Best wishes as you embark on a student career in Music/Emphasis in Media at
Norfolk State University

Braxton Taylor
Graduated from I.C. Norcom High School, Portsmouth
Best wishes as you embark on a student career in Comp. Science/ Comp. Engineering
Norfolk State University
The Rhythm Project is a community engagement program of the Virginia Arts Festival involving elementary, middle and high school students from Portsmouth, Virginia Beach, Norfolk and Hampton Public Schools. Special thanks is extended to these cities and to our sponsors.

The Rhythm Project is funded in part through the generous support of the Surdna Foundation. Additional support provided by the D. Baker Ames Charitable Foundation, Irene Leache Memorial Foundation, and Portsmouth Community Foundation.