

VIRGINIA ARTS FESTIVAL

The Rhythm Report

Volume 27

Spring/Summer 2009

Dear Friends,

Much has transpired since our last newsletter. All Rhythm Project ensembles came to a satisfactory close at the end of the academic year and the All Stars Summer Jobs program is now in full swing. Students are enjoying performing for audiences at the Virginia Beach Oceanfront, in downtown Norfolk and for conferences and other indoor and outdoor events in the area.

The jobs program started on July 1 after a hectic weeklong summer camp filled with rehearsals conducted by a brilliant guest clinician, exciting recreational activities intended to assimilate new recruits into the group, and studio recording sessions. After a successful spring season, which included 5 gold ratings and the Grand Champion Award at the 7th Annual PANorama Caribbean Music Fest, students are enthused about upcoming Summer activities.

After recruiting 8 new students and offering parting wishes to 2 students who have graduated and will be attending college in the fall, the All Stars is now comprised of 21 students.

Sincerely,

Sophia Subero
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R.P. Associate Director
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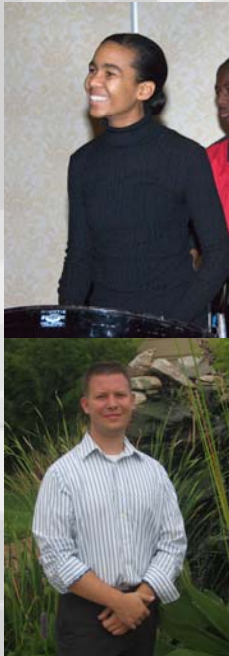
Robert Cross
VAF Executive Director



J. Scott Jackson
VAF General Manager



Get your
Rhythm Project
"Live in Norfolk" DVD
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Performance/ Activity Calendar

Friday, August 14, 2009

4th Annual CaribFest 2K9
Steelman Jamboree
All Stars
Harbor Park, Norfolk, VA
Time TBD

Tuesday, August 18, 2009

Waterside Landing
All Stars
Town Point Park, Norfolk, VA
12:00 - 1:15 PM

Saturday, August 29, 2009

Seawall Art Show
All Stars
High St. Landing, Portsmouth, VA
12:00 - 1:00 PM

Monday, August 31, 2009

2009 SYTA Conference
All Stars
31st Street Park, Virginia Beach, VA
6:30 - 7:30 PM

Monday, September 7, 2009

Portsmouth Museums Labor Day Celebration
All Stars
Children's Museum of VA
12:00 - 1:00 PM



Visit us online at: www.rhythmproject.org
Send email to: ssubero@vafest.org

Spring/Summer 2009 Performance Review



After recruiting eight graduating Rising Star students for the All Stars via an audition process held on June 16 and 23, new and veteran members participated in the Rhythm Project's **2nd Annual Weeklong Jumpstart Summer Camp**; students had the opportunity to interact with guest clinician Kenneth Joseph during the week of June 22 through 26. An even more exciting experience for this exceptional group of high school students was the opportunity to record their music for the first time at a professional recording studio. The week was filled with educational as well as artistically stimulating activities that allowed students and instructors to develop a bond crucial for social, academic and musical success. An afternoon at the beach and a picnic with family and friends proved to be an ideal way to end a day of hard work.

The All Stars competed with steelbands from Maryland, New Jersey, and throughout the east coast at the **Harbor View Festival in Baltimore, MD** on July 11 and placed third. In addition to having the opportunity to perform in an environment that allows students to compare the different styles of music presented, this trip served as a means to build camaraderie amongst students and parents in attendance.

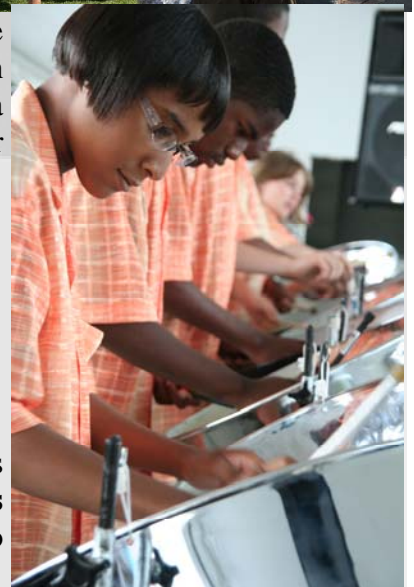


What better way to kick off the Rhythm Project All Stars' **Summer Jobs Program** than with performances at the Virginia Beach Oceanfront? The All Stars performed at the 17th Street Stage on June 22 and then at the 24th Street Stage on July 1 to evidently appreciative audiences. The uniquely appealing sound of the steel drums was a highlight for vacationers as they danced the night away to the energetic performance delivered by the talented students of the Rhythm Project.

"I think this is the largest crowd drawn by any of the acts at the festival." This was the comment of just one of the hundreds of people that stood in awe listening to the All Stars at **Norfolk's HarborFest** on July 3. The ensemble had the privilege of performing for half hour immediately after the official opening ceremony for the recently renovated Town Point Park; and then for an hour later in the afternoon. Onlookers crowded around the tents that shaded the steelband playing music from the 70's through the 21st century, for the entire duration of their performances.



Residents at **St. Mary's Home for Disabled Children** were overjoyed when the All Stars presented a one hour concert on Sunday, April 26 at the Norfolk facility. It was truly a meaningful experience to see young people coming together to be of service to other children.



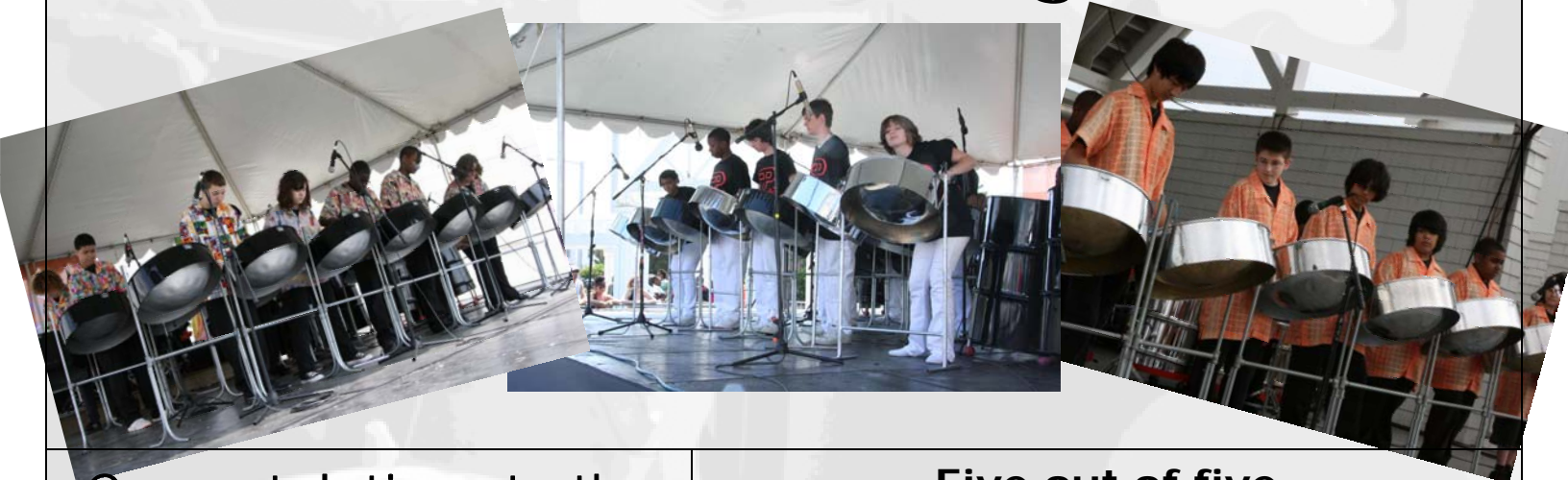
The Rhythm Project's Spring Season included performances at:
Drums at the Beach - All Stars - 17th Street Park, Virginia Beach
Hampton History Hunt - Phoebus - Hampton Roads Convention Center
VA Beach All City District Concert - VA Beach Rising Stars - Plaza Middle School
Salem Academy Showcase - Salem - Salem Academy, Virginia Beach



The **Norfolk Rising Stars** made their parents, teachers and peers proud when they awed their audience at the **Norfolk Public Schools All City Festival**. The 4th and 5th graders did a feature set and also provided accompaniment for the All City Elementary Chorus.

Don't miss the Rhythm Project Showcase Concert Friday, November 20, 2009 TCC Roper Theater, Norfolk, VA 8:00 PM

A Golden Weekend for the Rhythm Project



Congratulations to the Rhythm Project All Stars on receiving the Grand Champion Award!

Five out of five Rhythm Project ensembles participating received **Gold Ratings!**

The **Virginia Beach Rising Stars** received the highest score in the middle school band category. The crowd-pleasing rendition of K'naan's "*Wavin' Flag*" was a hit!

Salem High School earned a gold medal in their first appearance at PANfest! The most recent addition to the Rhythm Project has done well this past year and is expected to flourish in the future.

The six **Phoebus High School** students involved in the festival should be commended for their performance. They were able to make a big impression in spite of being the smallest ensemble.

The **Portsmouth Rising Stars** put on a great show with a blend of calypso and soca.

An overwhelming crowd response following the **All Stars'** performance indicated that they were deserving of the Grand Champion Award!

Congratulations to our new All Star Members!!

Jacob Barritt - Virginia Beach
Victoria Mitchell - Portsmouth
Passion Green - Hampton

Charles Cicero - Portsmouth
Christian Petterson - Portsmouth
Guy Mullis - Hampton

Delecia Garrett - Portsmouth
Rachel Mc Lellan - Chesapeake



Visit www.vafest.org for more information on the Rhythm Project!

Congratulations to our graduating Seniors!



Sarah Nelson
graduated from
Heritage High School
Newport News
She will major in
Biology/Pre-Professional at
Norfolk State University



Reginald Whichard
graduated from
I.C. Norcom High School
Portsmouth
He will major in
Music Education at
Shaw 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 supported in part by the Surdna Foundation, the Tidewater Children's Foundation and the Lee and Helen Gifford Endowment Fund of the Portsmouth Community Foundation.

