

# VIRGINIA ARTS FESTIVAL

## The Rhythm Report

Volume 28

Fall 2009

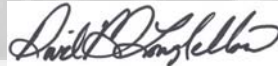
Greetings,

I write this letter hoping that you have enjoyed an eventful summer, a rejuvenating autumn and a thanksgiving filled with warmth and love that provides a preview for many more blessings to come during the holiday season. The Rhythm Project's summer included 12 performances throughout the region as part of the All Stars' summer jobs program; the group also had the opportunity to perform at the Harbor View Festival in Baltimore, MD. Our fall season was equally exciting with preparations to reconvene all of our Rising Star ensembles. After recruiting over 70 students this semester, the program now serves a total of 135 students. We celebrated the program's success with a pre-thanksgiving concert on November 20 and students now anxiously anticipate exciting activities in store for 2010. Thank you for the support that you provide to our young people. Have a healthy, hearty and joyous Christmas, and a prosperous New Year!

Sincerely,

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Robert Cross  
VAF Executive Director

J. Scott Jackson  
VAF General Manager




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### Performance/ Activity Calendar

Wednesday, January 20, 2009

**Junior League Meeting**  
All Stars  
Norfolk Collegiate Lower School  
Tidewater Drive, Norfolk  
6:00 - 6:30 PM

Tuesday, January 26, 2009

**Sandler Center Cocktail Performance**  
All Stars  
Sandler Center for the Performing Arts  
Virginia Beach  
6:00 - 7:00 PM

Saturday, February 20, 2010

**Rhythm Live!**  
All Stars  
Roper Performing Arts Center  
Norfolk  
2:00 PM

Thursday, April 15, 2010

Virginia Arts Festival Opening Night  
All Stars  
Scope Plaza, Norfolk  
Time TBD



Visit us online at: [www.rhythmproject.org](http://www.rhythmproject.org)  
Send email to: [ssubero@vafest.org](mailto:ssubero@vafest.org)

# RHYTHM PROJECT

## OVERVIEW OF RHYTHM PROJECT ENSEMBLES

### The Virginia Beach Rising

Now comprised of 20 students, this program is open to middle school students in the Kempsville area of Virginia Beach. Students are recruited from Kempsville, Salem, Brandon and Larkspur Middle Schools.



### The Norfolk Rising Stars

This is the only Rhythm Project ensemble that serves students at the elementary school level. Based in Fairlawn elementary School there are 18 fourth and fifth grade students currently involved in the program.



### The Hampton Rising Stars

In Hampton, the Rising Star ensemble is hosted by Benjamin Syms Middle School but involves middle school students from throughout the city. Talented students involved in their school's band program are selected to participate in this ensemble each year. For the 2009/2010 academic year, 7 students will be introduced to Caribbean culture through the program.



### The Hampton Roads Rising Stars

Formerly the Portsmouth Rising Stars, the Hampton Roads Rising Stars is open to middle school students throughout the Hampton Roads region and particularly those students enrolled in the public school systems in the cities of Norfolk and Portsmouth. There are currently 12 active participants in this ensemble.



### Phoebus High School

Now in its third year, students at Phoebus High School continue to demonstrate exceptional talent. For the current academic year, 13 students will participate in the Rhythm Project's steelband ensemble and Caribbean Music History class which is offered as an elective.



**The All Stars** needs no introduction for those that have supported the Rhythm Project over the years. This ensemble has shown tremendous musical growth over the years and in the past year has surpassed the expectations of parents and supporters. With 20 exemplary students enrolled, the upcoming year is expected to bring yet the most impressive performances from the group.



### Salem High School

The Arts Academy at Salem High School in Virginia Beach is the home of the largest Rhythm Project ensemble. With twenty-two members, this ensemble has managed to impress school administrators as well as audiences in the wider community in just one year of existence.

### Governor's School for the Arts

The African Drumming Ensemble at the Governor's School for the Arts is offered to music students attending the region's premiere high school arts academy. Fourteen students are involved in this ensemble that focuses on West African culture for the 2009/2010 academic year.



**Congratulations to all students who participated in the 8th Annual  
Rhythm Project Showcase Concert  
on an  
Outstanding performance!**

*The Program*

**Salem High School**

Every Little Thing She Does is Magic - Sting  
Mariella's Dance - Ray Holman  
Green Light - John Legend

**The All Stars**

Pan Rising - Len "Boogsie" Sharpe  
In the Mood - Joe Garland  
O Holy Night - J.S. Dwight/A. Adam  
War 2004 - Winston Scarborough

**The Virginia Beach Rising Stars**

The Chicken - Jaco Pastorius  
Celebrating With Steel - Hollis Wright

**The Hampton Roads Rising Stars**

Sunset - Len "Boogsie" Sharpe  
Master Blaster - Stevie Wonder

**Finale - Salem High School and the All Stars**  
Soca Pressure - Mighty Sparrow

*Summer 2009 Performance Recap*



**The Rhythm Project All Stars Summer jobs program included performances at the following venues and events**

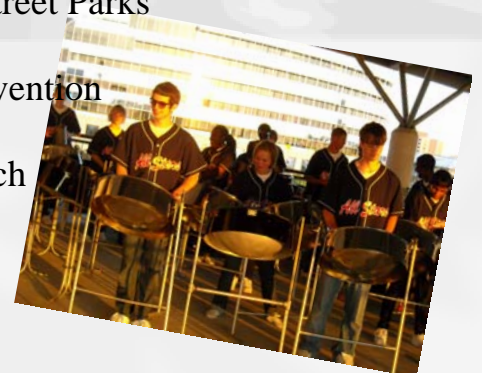
The Virginia Beach Oceanfront 24th and 17th Street Parks  
Norfolk Harborfest

Fidewater American Guild of Organists Convention  
Harbor View Festival, Baltimore, MD  
Shining Stars Conference, Virginia Beach

East Beach, Norfolk  
Waterside Landing, Norfolk  
Carib Fest, Norfolk

Seawall Art Show, Portsmouth

Student Youth Travel Association (SYTA) Convention, Virginia Beach





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Visit [www.vafest.org](http://www.vafest.org) for more information on the Rhythm Project!

## **Don't Miss Rhythm Live! 2010**



featuring

**The Rhythm Project All Stars**

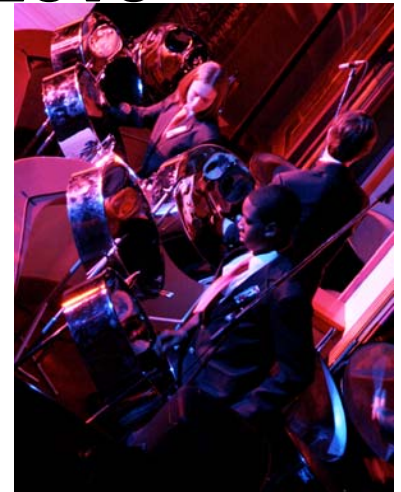
In collaboration with

**The Governor's School for the Arts  
Dance Department**

**February 20, 2010**

**TCC Roper Performing Arts Center  
340 Granby Street, Norfolk**

**[Ticketmaster.com](http://Ticketmaster.com)**



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.

