

# VIRGINIA ARTS FESTIVAL

## The Rhythm Report

Volume 29

Winter/Spring 2010

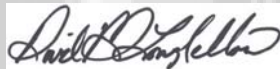
Greetings,

Winter with a tropical instrument is all but dull and cold. The Rhythm Project added warmth and excitement to the lives of over two thousand Virginians this winter. Their Rhythm Live performances in February displayed the vivacious nature of Caribbean culture in a staged performance presented in collaboration with the Governor's School for the Arts Dance Department. The ferocious cheers of amusement coming from an audience of over 850 elementary through high school students, along with the glowing faces of over 60 high school performers was the ultimate moment of fulfillment for the Rhythm Live production team and for many Rhythm Project supporters. A trip to Roanoke, VA marked the beginning of a busy spring performance season for the Rhythm Project. With upcoming performances at Norfolk NATO Festival, the opening night of the Virginia Arts Festival and the PANorama Caribbean Music Festival, you can enjoy the music of the Rhythm Project regardless of where you live in the Hampton Roads region. We hope to see you dancing to our music this spring and summer!

Sincerely,

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Robert Cross  
VAF Executive Director

J. Scott Jackson  
VAF General Manager




Get your  
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### Performance/ Activity Calendar

Thursday, April 15, 2010

VA Arts Festival Opening Night  
All Stars  
Scope Plaza  
Norfolk, VA  
6:30 - 7:15 PM

Saturday, May 1, 2010

Norfolk NATO Festival  
Norfolk Rising Stars  
Towne Pointe Park  
Norfolk, VA  
11:00 - 11:30 AM

Saturday, May 8, 2010

8th Annual PANorama Caribbean Music Fest  
VA Beach, Norfolk and Hampton Roads  
Rising Stars, Salem High School and All Stars  
24th Street Oceanfront Park  
Virginia Beach, VA  
10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Thursday, May 27, 2010

NPS Technical Center Awards  
Hampton Roads Rising Stars  
1330 N. Military Hwy, Norfolk, VA  
5:30 - 7:30 PM



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

# Featured Rhythm Project Student Megan Davis



If you've been to a Rhythm Project All Stars performance in the last four years, you probably know Megan Davis. She has been a member of the Rhythm Project since her sixth grade year and has captured the attention of Rhythm Project fans with her outstanding musical ability and dance routines. Megan's involvement in the Rhythm Project is not the only thing that makes her an outstanding individual. She has also completed black belt karate training and has served in her school's marching band as drum captain and field captain. Megan is now seventeen years of age and will graduate from Churchland High School, Portsmouth this spring. She has been accepted into the Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, CO to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Foreign Area Studies. The Rhythm Project wishes Megan the very best in her future endeavors. We are confident that she will continue to shine and make us proud!!!

## Winter/Spring 2010 Performance Recap



In addition to performances at Salem Academy's Winter and Showcase Concerts on December 15th and January 8th and 9th, the **Salem Rhythm Project Steelband Ensemble** has performed for community events at multiple venues in the city of Virginia Beach, including the Sandler Center for the Performing Arts.

**Phoebus High School Steelband** performed at their school's winter concert on December 17 and also presented a private concert for members of the Arc of the Virginia Peninsula

The **All Stars** kicked off the spring performance season with an appearance at Lucy Addison Middle School, Roanoke, VA on March 26.

The **Virginia Beach Rising Stars** received overwhelming applause for their performance at the Virginia Beach All City Festival.



The **Hampton Rising Stars** finale performance was presented at the Hampton Main Library on Wednesday, March 30. Students and parents are looking forward to participating in next year's program.

Parents, teachers and students attending Fairlawn Elementary School's Winter Concert on February 16, were delighted by the outstanding musical ability demonstrated by the 4th and 5th grade students of the **Norfolk Rising Stars**.



# Rhythm Live was a Blast! Congratulations Rhythm Project All Stars and Governor's School for the Arts Dance Department

Held at the Roper Theatre on February 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, this year's Rhythm Live performance was full of surprises that dazzled everyone in the audience. With a cast of over 60 high school students from the Rhythm Project All Stars and the Governor's School for the Arts Dance Department, this year's presentation was well received by an audience of over 2000 persons who attended two student matinees and one public performance.



Students and Teachers attending the Matinee Performances were ecstatic!!!

*"I really enjoyed the Rhythm Live performance. The music was wonderful and the costumes were amazing!"* - 7th Grade Student, John Yates Middle School

*"My favorite part of the show was the music, costumes and overall show."* - 10th Grade Student, Tallwood High School

*"Our students enjoyed very much the performance of Rhythm Live. My colleague and I could have stayed a lot longer, it was so good. The length was perfect for our students. A lot of talent out there! Super job."* - Nancy Lessard, Teacher Isle of Wight County Public Schools





**VIRGINIA ARTS FESTIVAL**  
**220 BOUSH STREET**  
**NORFOLK, VA 23510**

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

*Come join us for the 8th Annual*  
**PANORAMA  
CARIBBEAN  
MUSIC FEST**  
*Friday & Saturday  
May 7 & 8, 2010  
Virginia Beach, VA*

Headliner Concerts by the  
**Andy Narell and Friends**  
Friday and Saturday May 7 and 8  
8:00 –10:00 PM

See **20 Steelbands from across the  
US** perform!  
Saturday, May 8  
10:00 AM –6:00 PM

All Performance are **Free** and open  
to the Public!!!

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 Tidewater Children's Foundation, the D. Baker Ames Charitable Foundation, the Dick and Donna Wood Unrestricted Endowment Fund of The Portsmouth Community Foundation and the following municipalities and/or their Arts and Humanities Commissions: Hampton, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Virginia Beach.