Greetings,

It is almost that time of year when nature brings color, warmth and vitality back into our lives. The pleasant Virginia weather in the Spring brings with it several opportunities for Rhythm Project ensembles to perform in the community. The Virginia International Tattoo and 9th Annual PANorama Caribbean Music Fest are among several events at which Rhythm Project steelbands will be featured. These events follow a spectacular winter season which included four Rhythm Live! performances in February and March reaching a combined audience of approximately twenty-five hundred. Preparations for our spring and summer performance seasons are underway. Five Rhythm Project ensembles at Salem High School, Kempsville Middle School, Fairlawn Elementary School, as well as the All Stars and Hampton Roads Rising Stars are hard at work in an effort to maintain a high standard of performance at Virginia Beach’s PANorama Caribbean Music Fest competition on May 7. Our students will greatly appreciate your support during their performances. On their behalf, we invite you to come out to this all day family event at the Virginia Beach Oceanfront. We look forward to seeing you throughout the spring and summer this year!

Sincerely,

Sophia Subero  Dave Longfellow  R. P. Director  R.P. Associate Director
(757) 282-2823                     (757) 282-2815
Robert Cross                    J. Scott Jackson
VAF Executive Director     VAF General Manager

The Rhythm Project is a community engagement program of the Virginia Arts Festival involving elementary, middle and high school students from Portsmouth, Virginia Beach and Norfolk Public Schools. Special thanks is extended to these cities and our sponsors.

The Rhythm Project is supported in part by the Surdna Foundation, the Tidewater Children’s Foundation, the D. Baker Ames Charitable Foundation and the following municipalities and/or their Arts and Humanities Commissions: Norfolk, Portsmouth, Virginia Beach.

Visit www.vafest.org for more information on the Rhythm Project!
Salem High School’s Rhythm Project ensemble had a busy start to the year with performances at host school’s open house (1/7) and at the Virginia Beach African American Male Summit at Renaissance Academy (1/8). This talented group was also featured during a pre-show performance for Savion Glover: SoLo in Time at the Sandler Center for the Performing Arts (2/17).

The Virginia Beach Rising Stars had their debut performance for the academic year at Fairfield Elementary School’s Multi-Cultural Night on Monday, February 21. The event attracted approximately 250 students and relatives of Fairfield Elementary School.

In addition to three Rhythm Live! performances at the Roper Theater, Norfolk and an additional show at the Downing Gross Cultural Arts Center, Newport News, the All Stars were featured at First United Methodist Church, Fox Hill, Hampton. The group was warmly received by the church’s congregation.

The Rhythm Project Norfolk Rising Stars at Fairlawn Elementary School performed for an ecstatic audience during host school’s Black History Month Program on Tuesday, February 15.

...Teachers, parents and especially our students marveled at the creativity and talented performers. Some of our friends were literally on the edge of their seats during the performance!” School Administrator attending Rhythm Live!

The Virginia Beach Rising Stars had their debut performance for the academic year at Fairfield Elementary School’s Multi-Cultural Night on Monday, February 21. The event attracted approximately 250 students and relatives of Fairfield Elementary School.

In addition to three Rhythm Live! performances at the Roper Theater, Norfolk and an additional show at the Downing Gross Cultural Arts Center, Newport News, the All Stars were featured at First United Methodist Church, Fox Hill, Hampton. The group was warmly received by the church’s congregation.

The Rhythm Project Norfolk Rising Stars at Fairlawn Elementary School performed for an ecstatic audience during host school’s Black History Month Program on Tuesday, February 15.

“...Teachers, parents and especially our students marveled at the creativity and talented performers. Some of our friends were literally on the edge of their seats during the performance!” School Administrator attending Rhythm Live!

Don’t Miss out on the beach fun at the 9th Annual PANorama Caribbean Music Fest

May 6-7, 2011

A musical adventure that fuses together the rhythm of steel drums, ocean breezes, and great Caribbean food transforming the breathtaking Virginia Beach Oceanfront into an island paradise!

Saturday, May 7, 10am-6pm: See over 20 bands from throughout the US perform; including 5 Rhythm Project ensembles.

Friday and Saturday, May 6 and 7, 8:00-10:00pm: Free Headliner Concerts featuring one of New York’s leading steelbands, Steel Sensation.

24th Street Oceanfront Park
Virginia Beach, VA
All performances FREE to the public!!!