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

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



# VIRGINIA ARTS FESTIVAL

## The Rhythm Report

Volume 37

Winter/Spring 2012

Greetings,

Spring is finally here! The Rhythm Project All Stars are currently preparing for their first appearance of the season at the Kemah Pan Jam (March 24), a Steelpan and Caribbean festival held in a resort area just outside of Houston, TX. Though most of you will not be able to attend our performance at this event, there are several upcoming opportunities for you to come out and enjoy a Rhythm Project performance this spring. Upcoming performances include the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual PANorama Caribbean Music Fest, OpSail 2012 and Norfolk Harborfest. We hope that you will visit our website throughout the spring and summer for a full list of performances. The Rhythm Project reaches students throughout the Hampton Roads community, including on the peninsula, so you can support us regardless of your location in the region.

Two ensembles at the Renaissance Academy, Virginia Beach and York County School of the Arts were added to the Rhythm Project family of ensembles this year. This brings the total number of ensembles to nine and the total number of students served to over 140. We look forward to seeing you this spring!

Sincerely,



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



J. Scott Jackson  
VAF General Manager

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### Performance/ Activity Calendar

Saturday, May 5, 2012

Celebrate Kids  
All Stars  
Children's Museum of Virginia  
Portsmouth, VA  
11:30 and 2:30 pm

Friday-Saturday, May 11-12, 2012

10<sup>th</sup> Annual PANorama  
Caribbean Music Fest  
All Stars, Norfolk and Virginia Beach  
Rising Stars, Salem  
Seaside Palladium at 24th Street  
Oceanfront Park  
Virginia Beach, VA  
10:00 AM - 6:00 PM  
FREE!!!

Saturday, June 9, 2012

OpSail 2012  
Junior All Stars & Hampton Roads Rising Stars  
High Street Landing  
Portsmouth, VA  
1:00 - 1:45 PM

Saturday, June 9, 2012

Norfolk Harborfest Governor's Ball  
All Stars  
Half Moone Cruise & Celebration Center  
Norfolk, VA  
8:00 PM

Visit us online at:  
[www.rhythmproject.org](http://www.rhythmproject.org)  
or email:

[ssubero@vafest.org](mailto:ssubero@vafest.org)  
For a full calendar listing



# RHYTHM PROJECT

## Winter 2012 Performance Review



Martin Luther King Day and Black History Month were the basis of excellent performance opportunities for the Rhythm Project this winter. The photo to the left shows the All Stars performing at the Children's Museum of Virginia in Portsmouth on January 14 for their African American Heritage Celebrations.



The Norfolk Rising Stars at Fairlawn Elementary School performed for the host school's Black History Month PTA program on February 21. This ensemble was also featured at Norfolk Public Schools' City-wide Science Fair at Nauticus on February 25.

## The *Rhythm Project* welcomes Virginia Beach Renaissance Academy and York County School of the Arts to it's family of ensembles



SOA student enjoys her first rehearsal

The Rhythm Project's Steelband and African Drumming ensemble at the **Renaissance Academy** began January 25, 2012. The program engages 10 high school and 8 middle school students from the academic and alternative education strands of the school. Students are exposed to Caribbean and West African culture during one two-hour rehearsal every week.

**York County School of the Arts (SOA)** is a Fine Arts program that provides students, grades 6-12, with instruction in Literary, Theater and Rhythmic Arts. The Rhythm Project Steelband at SOA is the school's only Applied Music program. Weekly instruction on the steel drums commenced February 6. Twelve students are currently enrolled in the ensemble. They made their debut at the host school's *Evening of the Arts* presentation on March 15.

Don't Miss out on the beach fun at the

## 10th Annual PANorama Caribbean Music Fest

May 11-12, 2012

*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 12, 10am-6pm:** See over 20 bands from throughout the US perform; including 4 Rhythm Project ensembles

**Friday and Saturday, May 11 and 12, 8:00-10:00pm:** Free Headliner Concerts featuring *Etienne Charles & Kaiso*

24th Street Oceanfront Park  
Virginia Beach, VA

All performances FREE to the public!!!



## *Rhythm Live! Highlights*

This magnificent performance combining music and movement attracted an audience of over 2000 in a student matinee and an evening performance on February 17. Held at Norfolk's Harrison Opera House, the production outlined the story of Caribbean Steelpans.



The cast featured over 60 high school students of the Rhythm Project All Stars and Governor's School for the Arts Dance and Instrumental Departments.

Photography by Karen Williams and David Polston