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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 School of the Arts. 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 39**

**Summer/Fall 2012**

Greetings,

With Labor Day behind us and the kids back in school, you may feel like the fun is over. The truth is that the fun never ends for those of us involved with the Rhythm Project. With eight ensembles this year, the Rhythm Project will bring the joy and warmth of the Caribbean to upward of 120 students and their parents. These ensembles are located throughout the region in Norfolk, Portsmouth, Virginia Beach and York County; and there is still time for you to get in on the fun.

The Rhythm Project is currently accepting new students in all ensembles. Our performance-based ensembles are designed to nurture self esteem through individual and cooperative achievement using the Caribbean steel drums as the primary medium. Rhythm Project performances over the past year have included: the Kemah Pan Jam, just outside of Houston, TX; *Rhythm Live!*, a fully staged production held at the Harrison Opera House; several in-school performances in host buildings; and community performances.

Please contact us if there is a child you would like to get started in one of our ensembles. We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

Sophia Subero  
RP Director  
(757) 282-2823

Dave Longfellow  
RP Associate Director  
(757) 282-2815

Robert Cross  
VAF Exec. Director

Scott Jackson  
VAF Gen. Manager



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### Performance/ Activity Calendar

**Saturday, September 15, 2012**

Isle of Wight County Fair  
All Stars  
County Fair Grounds  
Windsor, VA  
2:00 - 3:30 PM

**Saturday, September 22, 2012**

Front Porch Neighborhood Summit  
All Stars  
Norfolk City Hall  
Norfolk, VA  
10:00 - 11:00 AM

**Saturday, December 8, 2012**

Olde Towne Holiday Music Festival  
Junior All Stars  
Children's Museum of Virginia  
Portsmouth, VA  
Time TBD

**Friday, February 22, 2013**

Rhythm Live!  
All Stars  
Roper Performing Arts Center  
Norfolk, VA  
7:30 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

**Now Recruiting  
All Ensembles FREE!!!**

## RHYTHM PROJECT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS BY ENSEMBLE

**VIRGINIA BEACH RISING STARS - Kempsville Middle, Thursdays 4:30-6:30 PM**  
Open to all Middle School band students in the city of Virginia Beach

**JUNIOR ALL STARS/PORTSMOUTH RISING STARS**  
**Portsmouth Art and Cultural Center, Thursdays 6:00-8:00 PM**  
Intended to serve Middle and Lower High School students in Portsmouth but students throughout the region may become involved. This ensemble is not attached to a school district.

**NORFOLK RISING STARS - Fairlawn Elementary, Fridays 8:00-9:15 AM**  
Open to 4th and 5th grade students at Fairlawn Elementary School, Norfolk

**GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS (GSA) AFRICAN DRUMMING ENSEMBLE**  
Offered to GSA music students as an elective

**RENAISSANCE ACADEMY STEEL DRUM CLUB - Wednesdays 2:15-4:45 PM**  
Open to Middle and High School students at the Renaissance Academy, Virginia Beach (both academic and alternative strands welcome)

**SALEM SUNDEVIL STEEL DRUM BAND - Tuesdays 2:15-4:15 PM**  
Open to students at Salem Academy, Virginia Beach

**YORK COUNTY SCHOOL OF THE ARTS STEEL BAND - Mondays 3:00-5:00 PM**  
Open to all Middle and High School students at SOA

**ALL STARS**  
Not recruiting at this time. Recruiting is done at the end of the spring semester. High School students with two years or more experience accepted.

ssubero@vafest.org or 757-282-2823 for more information

## SUMMER PERFORMANCE REVIEW



The All Stars and Junior All Stars provided entertainment for *OpSail 2012* in Norfolk and Portsmouth respectively. *June 9*

Six weeks later, the All Stars performed at *Norfolk's Harborfest/OpSail Thank You Party* (right). *July 19*



Other performances (all ensembles) during the late spring and summer have included: *Newport News King Lincoln Festival* (6/2); *Virginia Beach Latin Fest* (6/9); *East Beach Family Day* (7/15); *Virginia CaribFest* (8/11).

The All Stars' summer kicked off with a week-long summer camp. This year's guest clinician was Tracy Thornton, a rock drummer turned steel panist. Thornton's 20+ years experience as a rock and steel pan musician allowed him to bring a fresh perspective of steel pan music to Rhythm Project students. *June 18-22*



Students of La Petite Academy, in Chesapeake and Portsmouth, visited the Virginia Arts Festival's Robin Hixon Theater for a special Rhythm Project presentation. The group, which included students age 6-12, had the opportunity to test steel drums (above) and other hand percussion instruments, and to listen to and dance to a Rhythm Project performance (left). *July 16*

***The Rhythm Project goes to Luray!***  
Residents of Luray, VA were treated to a performance by the All Stars in July. Prior to the performance, the ensemble visited Luray Caverns (right). *July 27*

