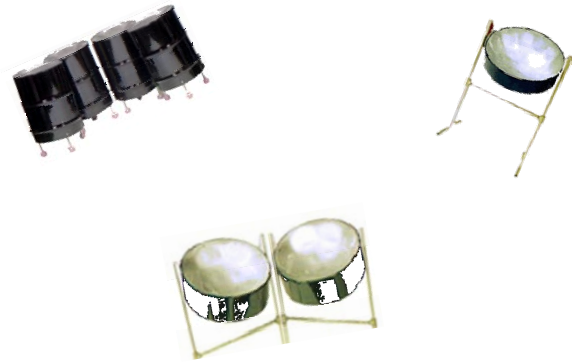




Visit www.vafest.org for more information on the Rhythm Project!



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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 Portsmouth, Virginia Beach and Norfolk 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: Norfolk, Portsmouth, Virginia Beach.

VIRGINIA ARTS FESTIVAL

The Rhythm Report

Volume 32

Fall 2010

Greetings,

A special thank you to those of you who contributed to making our fall recruiting process a success by encouraging students in your communities to consider participation in the Rhythm Project. Rehearsals for all seven Rhythm Project ensembles are up and running and students are excited about performing for their peers as well as in the community. The completion of the Robin Hixon Theater at the Virginia Arts Festival represented a milestone for the Rhythm Project. The state of the art theater is now the home for three of our ensembles; the All Stars, Junior All Stars and Hampton Roads Rising Stars. In addition to rehearsing at this facility, the space has been the venue for several Rhythm Project performances including the overall building's Ribbon Cutting and the Theater Dedication, during which the All Stars were featured. Other featured performances this fall included the Hyattsville International Festival, MD and the Rhythm Project's 9th Annual Showcase Concert which highlighted the artistic accomplishments of our high school steel drum ensembles; the All Stars, Junior All Stars and Salem High School. As we wrap up our activities for the year and look forward to an exciting year in 2011, we would like to thank all of our supporters for their contributions. Have a safe and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Sophia Subero
R. P. Director
(757) 282-2823

Dave Longfellow
R.P. Associate Director
(757) 282-2815

Robert Cross
VAF Executive Director

J. Scott Jackson
VAF General Manager



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Performance/ Activity Calendar

Rhythm Live! 2011

TCC Jeanne and George Roper
Performing Arts Center
Norfolk, VA

All Stars and GSA African Drumming
Ensemble and Dance Department

Friday, February 11, 2011
Student Matinee Performances
10:00 and 11:30 AM

Saturday, February 12, 2011
Evening Concert
8:00 PM

Tickets available at
Ticketmaster.com

Sunday, March 6, 2011

First United Methodist Church (FUMC)
Open Door Series

All Stars
FUMC Fox Hill
Hampton, VA
5:00 - 6:00 PM

Thursday, March 24, 2011

Rhythm Live! at Downing Gross
All Stars
Downing Gross Cultural Arts Center
Newport News, VA
10:30 AM

Visit us online at: www.rhythmproject.org
Send email to: ssubero@vafest.org

RHYTHM PROJECT

2010/2011 Ensemble Overview

During the 2010/2011 Academic year the Rhythm Project will reach approximately 120 students in the cities of Norfolk, Portsmouth and Virginia Beach via seven programs. Below is an overview of each of our seven ensembles.



The **Sundevil Steel Drum Band** at Salem High School, Virginia Beach has flourished in the past three months. The ensemble has done over five performances including the host school's fall and winter concerts and a community concert at the Sandler Center for the Performing Arts, Virginia Beach. Twenty-two students are enrolled in this ensemble.

Stars, bringing the total number of students in this ensemble to 21.

Nineteen 4th and 5th grade students at Fairlawn Elementary School were recruited this fall for participation in the **Norfolk Rising Stars**. The instruments are larger than this group of students but their high aspirations have allowed them to excel musically.

This year has been a pivotal year for the **Hampton Roads Rising Stars** as all returning students were promoted to the Junior All Stars; and new students were recruited from middle schools in Norfolk and Portsmouth. Ten promising students are currently involved in the ensemble.

In anticipation of a large All Stars graduating class, a **Junior All Stars** ensemble was formed by combining 8th and 9th grade



students who aspire to participate in the All Stars. Sixteen students are enrolled in this transitional ensemble.

Nine students are learning to perform West African rhythms through the **Governor's School for the Arts African Drumming Ensemble** this semester.

The **All Stars** continues to perform extensively throughout the Hampton Roads community.





**Don't Miss
Rhythm Live! 2011**

Featuring
**The Rhythm Project
All Stars**

In collaboration with
**The Governor's School for the Arts
Dance Department**

**Saturday, February 12, 2011
8:00 PM**

TCC Roper Performing Arts Center, Norfolk
Ticketmaster.com



Rhythm Project Fall 2010 Performance Review



The *Junior All Stars*, a freshman transitional ensemble to the *All Stars*, made their debut performance at the **Rhythm Project's 9th Annual Showcase Concert** on November 19 at the Attucks Theatre, Norfolk. The *All Stars* and *Salem High School Steelbands* were also featured at the Showcase Concert.

The *All Stars* has had a hectic fall season with performances at: *Virginia Arts Festival's Ribbon Cutting* (10/13) and *Season Announcements* (11/3) and *Town Bank's Fall Extravaganza* (10/30).

The *Virginia Arts Festival's* state of the art rehearsal and performance space was dedicated to Robin Hixon, an arts education advocate, with a feature performance by the *All Stars*. The *Robin Hixon Theatre* will serve as a permanent rehearsal space for the *All Stars*, *Junior All Stars* and *Hampton Roads Rising Stars*.

A weekend trip to Maryland for the **Hyattsville International Festival** (9/25) was a perfect beginning to the All Stars' fall performance season. The festival featured 3 leading steelbands on the east coast in addition to the All Stars.



The All Stars presented their last show for 2010 at Newport News' **Holly Dazzle** event (12/3) held at City Center at Oyster Point. The ensemble received overwhelming applause.