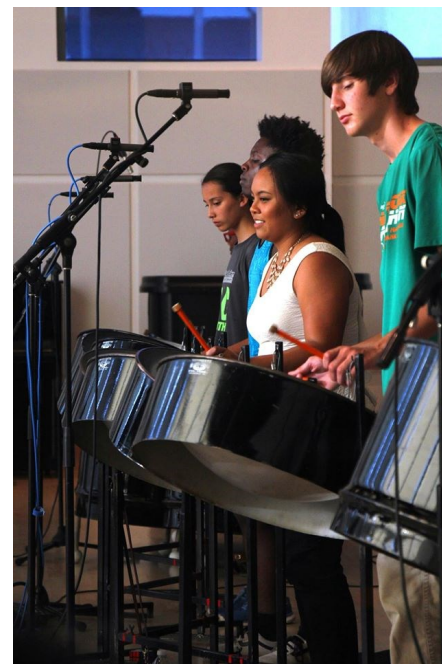


Recording Session cont'd

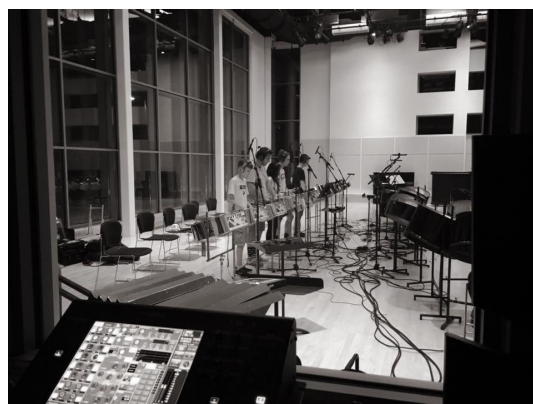
pannists to elevate their playing to an even higher level in order to provide the kind of execution that is required to make a professional-quality album like the one we have put together. The selections recorded include a variety of music from the past few years including highlights like: the "Barber of Seville Overture" from our NPR appearance and numerous other shows, the "R&B Medley" that was arranged and performed for the 2016 Virginia International Tattoo, and "Prophet of Pan," perhaps the



Sponsors



The *Rhythm Project* is supported in part by Batten Educational Achievement Fund of the Hampton Roads Community Foundation, D. Baker Ames Charitable Foundation, and the following municipalities and/or their Arts and Humanities Commissions: Norfolk, Portsmouth, and Virginia Beach.



most difficult piece the All-Stars have ever attempted. They pulled them off with flying colors, and we hope to have a fully-completed CD to present to our friends and families by the time the holidays roll around!

Keep current with the **Virginia Arts Festival** and the **Rhythm Project** online!
www.vafest.org

www.RhythmProject.org

The Rhythm Project

The Rhythm Project is a world percussion ensemble dedicated to the nurturing of self-esteem through individual and cooperative achievement. Founded in 1996, the program was started in Portsmouth, VA by the Virginia Arts Festival. There are four elementary and three middle school Rhythm Project programs that feed the program's premiere performing ensemble, the All-Stars. The All-Stars is a year-round program for high school students that focuses on instilling discipline and dedication in students through performance and touring opportunities. Additionally, two high school programs complete the family of ten Rhythm Project ensembles that serve the cities of Norfolk, Virginia Beach and Portsmouth.

The All-Stars, 2009 and 2010 Virginia International PANFest Grand Champions, have earned international acclaim and collaborated with many prominent artists. They have opened for Gladys Knight, shared the stage with pan artist Victor Provost and the Metropolitan Jazz Orchestra, and performed at the Royal Nova Scotia and Virginia International Tattoos. In May 2014, the group was featured on NPR's "From the Top" program showcasing outstanding talent in high school students.



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www.facebook.com/therhythmproject

Virginia Arts Festival Rhythm Report

Volume 47

September 2016

Greetings Rhythm Project Supporters-

The summer is winding down, and now that PANFest and Festival of Steel are in the books, it's time to recap the recent happenings throughout the Rhythm Project and prepare ourselves for the 2016-17 academic year! As usual, the busy All-Stars schedule never stops, and the start of summer was just the beginning of a new chapter for us as we welcomed our freshman members to the band and got them started in learning our set list. They hit the ground running and jumped right into the fray!

The All-Stars played their typical share of gigs in the summer, including a performance as part of the *Arts of the Albemarle* concert series in Elizabeth City, NC, and an outdoor performance alongside the Portsmouth Rising-Stars. Then it was time for our annual road trip to Morgantown, West Virginia to participate in the Mannette Festival of Steel. The All-Stars are always a big part of the festival and they even got their own feature concert at a beautiful riverside amphitheater in Morgantown. They met new friends and learned new music that was quickly added to our always-expanding list of songs. The fun didn't stop there; we took advantage of our numerous summer performances and decided to record a new All-Stars CD just before our seniors left for college in August!

Read more about the CD project on the next page!

Dave Longfellow

Paul Munzenrider

RP Director (757) 282-2823

RP Associate Director (757) 282-2815

Robert W. Cross

VAF Executive Director

Scott Jackson

VAF General Manager

Activity Calendar

- Saturday, September 3rd, 2016

Community Steel Band @
FUSE Fest
Attucks Green Space
Norfolk, VA
2:30PM
Free and Open to Public

- Saturday, September 17th, 2016

Rhythm Project All-Stars @
NEON Fest
Norfolk Arts District
Norfolk, VA
5:00PM-6:00PM
Free and Open to Public

- Friday, November 4th, 2016

Rhythm Project All-Stars @
Splash Week
Elizabeth City, NC

Details TBD

Full Schedule coming soon at
www.RhythmProject.org





Teens With A Purpose

Perhaps the biggest success for the Rhythm Project this past summer was our newly-forged partnership with the people at “Teens with a Purpose” (TWP) here in the Young Terrace community of Norfolk. We joined forces with their summer camp program and held a steel drum ensemble in which the kids could participate throughout the summer. Despite having to deal with the heat in our outdoor ‘panyard’ under the tent, we got a lot of quality work

done with the kids and they learned an incredible number of steel band pieces. At the end of each 2-week session, they got a chance to perform for parents and friends. Having the music outdoors was an added bonus as it caught the ears of people in the neighborhood and community. Many young musical talents were discovered there and a valuable new alliance was established that we hope will continue in many forms throughout the years to come.

Community Band

In addition to the excellent young people at TWP, we got started on yet another project of having a community steel drum band, located under the same tent that hosted so many practices and performances at TWP. This has been happening on Monday evenings in Norfolk, and has already captured the attention of many community leaders in the area. So far, the rehearsals have seen a true mix of people from our community: kids from the neighborhood and summer camp, current Rhythm Project students (and their parents) from nearby Norfolk ensembles, and even elderly folks from all over Hampton Roads who decided to show up and try their hand at a steel drum! Rehearsals have been highly productive thus far and it’s been wonderful to see such a variety of people come together to make music alongside one another.

Bonus:

Check out the Rhythm Project Facebook page to see a video from our second night of practice with the community band!



“Dave, last night was **AWESOME!!!** I’ve had so many people tell me how much they enjoyed the show and how they can’t wait for you to come back. Thank you so much!”
-Katie Murray, Executive Director of Arts of the Albemarle

New Beginnings in Norfolk

Our mission to reach people through music education using the steel pan grows larger and larger each year. As our current programs thrive, we are continuing to add to our fleet of steel bands by starting a new band at Jacox Elementary School here in Norfolk! This will be a program for 5th graders, modeled after our bands at Tidewater Park Elementary School. Steel pan is a valuable resource for bringing music into the hands of young people, and Jacox will prove to be yet another outstanding group of young pan players. It also fulfills part of our larger goal to create a strong network of steel bands in Norfolk of various ages, and to allow them to grow and learn with this art form throughout their academic years.



Recording Session

The perfect ending to a busy summer this year was scheduling the recording session for our third All-Stars album. With a string of performances throughout July and August, everyone felt great about the repertoire, and our performance level was at a high point. It presented the timely opportunity to bring out one of our pan colleagues, Tracy Thornton, from North Carolina to come and help get the tracks recorded. We camped out in the beautiful Robin Hixon Theater for the week of August 8th and got the entire album recorded in three long days. This is a valuable process for any musician, and it compelled our fine young

