

VIRGINIA ARTS FESTIVAL

The Rhythm Report

Volume 24

Spring/Summer 2008

Dear Friends,

The Rhythm Project Summer kicked off with our first ever week-long summer camp. This was an undertaking that focused on preparing both new and returning All Stars students for Summer performances. The first of our Summer performances was the Rhythm Project Showcase Concert on Saturday, July 19, 2008. This event, in addition to being the first of a series of successful performances, marked the beginning of a new period for the Rhythm Project as we said good bye to Ben Meyer. Ben served the Rhythm Project for four years; first as the Assistant Director (2004-2007) and then as the Director (2007-2008). During this time, the Rhythm Project has expanded from five to eight ensembles and now serves elementary, middle and high school students in public school systems in Hampton, Norfolk, Portsmouth and Virginia Beach. We wish Mr. Meyer well in his move to South Carolina and in all of his future endeavors. This Summer was also filled with bitter-sweet moments as we said farewell to six students who graduated and are now in college. Finally, we welcomed Mr. Dave Longfellow into the Rhythm Project family as our Associate Director; he started with us on August 18. Thanks to all of you for supporting the Rhythm Project through this period of transition; we look forward to serving you and the greater community in the upcoming academic 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

Get your
Rhythm Project
"Live in Norfolk" DVD
today! Only \$20



Performance/ Activity Calendar

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Salem High School Auditions
2:40 - 4:30 PM

Thursday, September 25, 2008

VA Beach Rising Stars Auditions
Kempsville Middle School
4:30 - 6:30 PM

Monday, October 6, 2008

**Portsmouth Rising Stars
Fall Start Date**

Children's Museum of VA
6:00 - 8:00 PM

Friday, October 10, 2008

Farm Fresh Tailgate Gala
All Stars - Half Moone Cruise
Terminal, Norfolk, VA
6:00 - 9:00 PM

Monday, November 10, 2008

Rejuvenate Conference
All Stars Combo - Sandler Center
Virginia Beach, VA
11:30 - 1:00 PM

Friday, December 5, 2008

Newport News Holly Dazzle
All Stars - City Center
Newport News, VA
6:00 - 9:00 PM



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Send email to: ssubero@vafest.org

RHYTHM PROJECT SPRING/SUMMER PERFORMANCE REVIEW



PANorama Caribbean Music Fest

Rhythm Project Virginia Beach, Portsmouth and Hampton Rising Stars as well as the All Stars gave sizzling performances at the 2008 PANorama Caribbean Music Fest held at the Virginia Beach Oceanfront on May 10, 2008. This event provided an opportunity for Rhythm Project students to showcase their talent and to observe other similar school steelband ensembles.



2008 Rhythm Project Jumpstart Summer Camp

New and returning All Stars students participated in the Rhythm Project's first ever week long Summer Camp during the week of June 16-20, 2008. Students enjoyed a week of bonding and musical creativity. The camp proved to be a great team building activity as veteran students mentored novice students to become better pannists. The highlight of the camp was our guest clinician, Mr. Alan Lightner, who is an accomplished composer, arranger, producer and performer of steeldrum music.

2008 Rhythm Project All Stars Awards

Presented at the Closing Ceremony of the Rhythm Project Summer Camp:

Best All Around Student *presented to* Megan Davis

Best Attitude Award *presented to* Travis Chase

Attendance Award *presented to* Malcolm Davis

Most Promising New Student *presented to* Kyle McCormick

Most Supportive Parent *presented to* Carolyn Chase



2008 Rhythm Project Showcase Concert

On Saturday, July 19, 2008 three Rhythm Project ensembles performed at the Attucks Theatre in Norfolk for our annual Showcase Concert. The audience of about two hundred was entertained by the Portsmouth and Virginia Beach Rising Stars (two of our middle school groups) followed by our premier performing ensemble, the All Stars. Evidence of on-lookers' appreciation was expressed with overwhelming applause.



Virginia Beach Oceanfront Concerts

The Rhythm Project All Stars performed at the Virginia Beach Oceanfront 17th and 24th St stages on three occasions during the months of July and August this summer. The fun-loving audiences danced to the scintillating sounds of the All Stars and were reluctant to leave at the end of the performance. Students also had the opportunity to play in an intimate setting to an audience that comprised of Sandbridge Beach community members on August 21.

Congratulations to our graduating Seniors
We are proud of you

Devin Beale

Graduated from Lake Taylor High School, Norfolk

Best wishes as you embark on a student career in Music Education at

Norfolk State University



Travis Chase

Graduated from Salem High School, Virginia Beach

Best wishes as you embark on a student career in Music and Psychology

Virginia Commonwealth University

Michael Hall

Graduated from Norview High School, Norfolk

Best wishes as you embark on a student career in Music Education at

Norfolk State University



Africa Hurdle

Graduated from I.C. Norcom High School, Portsmouth

Best wishes as you embark on a student career in Physical Therapy at

Liberty University

Reginald Jones

Graduated from I.C. Norcom High School, Portsmouth

Best wishes as you embark on a student career in Music/Emphasis in Media at

Norfolk State University



Braxton Taylor

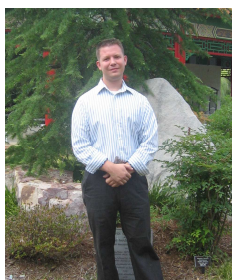
Graduated from I.C. Norcom High School, Portsmouth

Best wishes as you embark on a student career in Comp. Science/ Comp. Engineering

Norfolk State University



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



Dave Longfellow - Rhythm Project Associate Director

Dave Longfellow, a native of Morgantown, WV brings to the Rhythm Project a wealth of experience as a musician in genres ranging from jazz to West African music. Mr. Longfellow was introduced to steelpan and African drumming while in middle school and was privileged to study with West Virginia University (WVU) professors Dr. Tim Peterman, Dr. Ellie Mannette, and Dr. Paschal Younge as a high school student. In 2000, he ventured to Trinidad and Tobago during the carnival season to play with the BP Renegades Steel Orchestra for Panorama. He returned to

Trinidad in 2004 for a six month study abroad program at the University of the West Indies (UWI) St. Augustine campus.

As an undergraduate Jazz Studies student at West Virginia University (WVU), Dave directed the WVU Steel Band from 2003-2005. Their accomplishments included performances at PASIC, the Kennedy Center, and the Virginia Arts Festival Panorama, in which they emerged grand champions. In 2001, Dave formed his own progressive jazz group entitled *The Dave Longfellow Ensemble (DLE)* which has already recorded two CD's, "The DLE: Vol. 1" (2005) and another self-titled CD to be released this fall. Mr. Longfellow graduated with an M.M. in Jazz Pedagogy from WVU in 2008.

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

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