

VIRGINIA ARTS FESTIVAL

The Rhythm Report

Volume 25

Fall 2008

Dear Friends,

Like our education counterparts, the fall semester represents a new beginning for the Rhythm Project. We were faced with many challenges as changes and additions, designed to improve and expand the outreach component of our program, were executed. A new program was implemented at Salem High School in Virginia Beach; and in Hampton, an increasing number of students have access to additional hours of instruction. Because of the continued support that we receive from you, our partners, parents, and well-wishers, we are now able to contribute to enriching the lives of over 140 students, through the gift of music. You are the foundation of our organization! In recognition of this, we have chosen to include a description and report about each of the Rhythm Project's eight ensembles in this newsletter. Thanks again for your support; we hope that you had a great Holiday season and wish you nothing but the very best for 2009!

Sincerely,

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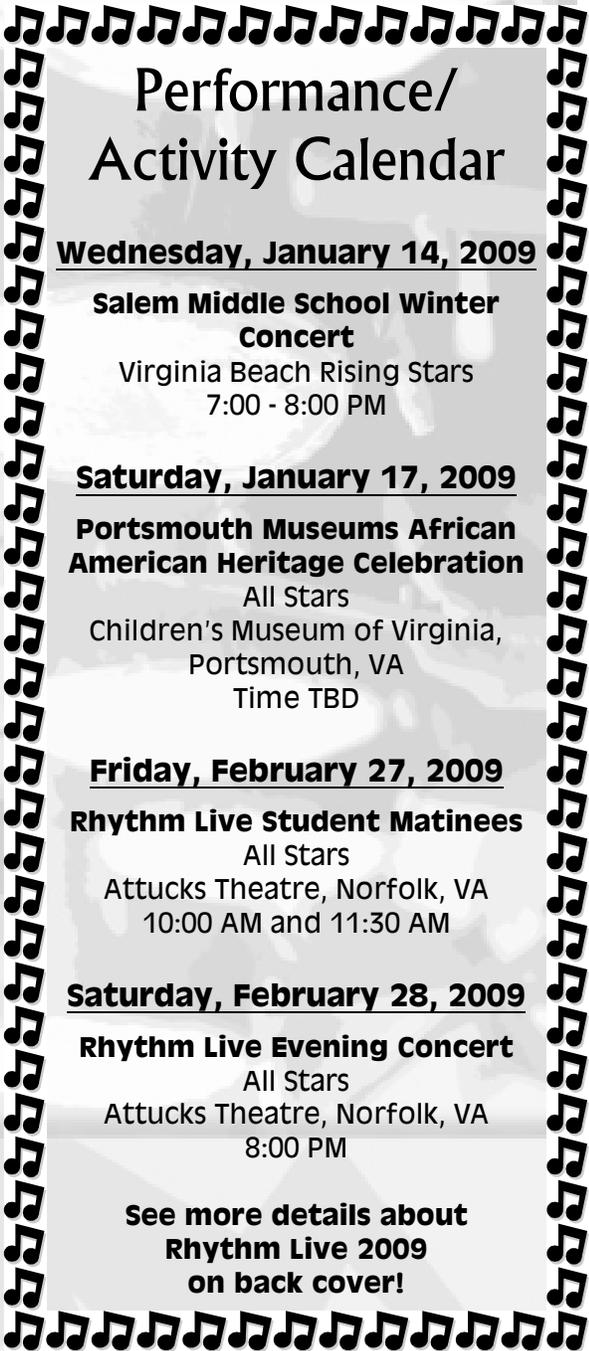



Robert Cross
VAF Executive Director

J. Scott Jackson
VAF General Manager




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Rhythm Project
"Live in Norfolk" DVD
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Performance/ Activity Calendar

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Salem Middle School Winter Concert

Virginia Beach Rising Stars
7:00 - 8:00 PM

Saturday, January 17, 2009

Portsmouth Museums African American Heritage Celebration
All Stars

Children's Museum of Virginia,
Portsmouth, VA
Time TBD

Friday, February 27, 2009

Rhythm Live Student Matinees
All Stars

Attucks Theatre, Norfolk, VA
10:00 AM and 11:30 AM

Saturday, February 28, 2009

Rhythm Live Evening Concert
All Stars

Attucks Theatre, Norfolk, VA
8:00 PM

**See more details about
Rhythm Live 2009
on back cover!**



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

OVERVIEW OF RHYTHM PROJECT ENSEMBLES BY CITY



The City of Virginia Beach

Beginning September 2008, there are 2 Rhythm Project ensembles in the city of Virginia Beach; the Virginia Beach Rising Stars and Salem High School Steelband. The **Virginia Beach Rising Stars** has been in existence since 2004 and is comprised of middle school students recruited from Kempsville, Salem, Brandon and Larkspur Middle Schools. Currently, there are 19 students enrolled in this program. The most recent addition to the Rhythm Project is the steelband at **Salem High School** which was implemented this fall. This ensemble is comprised of 27 students.



The City of Norfolk

Typically, students are recruited from middle schools in the Tidewater area to participate in the Rhythm Project. In Norfolk however, **Rising Stars** are recruited from **Fairlawn Elementary School**; twenty-two 4th and 5th grade students now participate in this steelpan ensemble. Norfolk is also the home to our only program that focuses solely on **African Drumming and Dance**. This program is offered to students at **Governor's School for the Arts** and is comprised of 13 of the area's most talented young musicians.



The City of Hampton

Hampton students are privileged this year to receive more instruction time than members of any other Rhythm Project ensembles. The **Hampton Rising Stars**, formerly offered to Spratley Middle School students only, is now a city-wide program housed at Benjamin Syms Middle School. They rehearse twice weekly on the steeldrums. A program at **Phoebus High School** was implemented in the fall of 2007 as an after school program; this year, steelpan is offered as an elective open to all students.



The City of Portsmouth

Current enrollment in the **Portsmouth Rising Stars** amounts to 25. Students are recruited from Cradock, Waters, and Churchland Middle Schools. For the first time this year, 6th grade students were recruited from Churchland Academy Elementary School. The Portsmouth based, **All Stars** ensemble is comprised of students from throughout the Hampton Roads area that participated in one of our Rising Star programs prior to entering high school. These students are the cream-of-the-crop and perform extensively throughout the Hampton Roads area; they have also toured the US and Canada.



Fall 2008 Performance Review

Farm Fresh Tailgate Gala

The Rhythm Project All Stars contributed to the Caribbean, “Lost in Paradise” theme at the Farm Fresh Charitable Foundation’s 4th Annual Tailgate Gala with their energy and musicality on Friday, October 10 at the Half Moone Cruise Terminal in Norfolk, VA. The expressions on the faces of guests was a reflection of their captivation and feeling of truly being “in paradise”.



Norfolk Municipal League Conference

Mayors, city officials and other Virginian VIP’s were welcomed to the City of Norfolk’s Municipal League Conference with the scintillating sounds of the Rhythm Project All Stars on Monday, October 20, 2008 at the Half Moone Cruise Terminal. Attendees not only enjoyed the music, they were also delighted to see young people involved in an activity that requires a high level of discipline.

Did you see this article (right) in the Daily Press?

Fireworks weren’t the only thing that dazzled on-lookers at the city of Newport News’ Hollydazzle event on Friday, December 5. The All Stars, performing on the Market Stage at City Center Oyster Point, was a popular stop for many families enjoying a night out in the “City”. The energy generated by Rhythm Project students involved in the performance was transferred to the initially shy audience; the evening ended in celebration!



Sandler Center Community Concert

The Sandler Center for the performing Arts introduced a series of free community concerts in the lobby area of their state of the art concert hall in Virginia Beach for the first time during the week of December 8th -12th. The All Stars played a combination of quiet classical music, modern pop music and calypso in an intimate setting on Wednesday, December 10.



Olde Towne Holiday Music Festival

The 2008-2009 Portsmouth Rising Stars ensemble had their debut performance at the Children’s Museum of Virginia in Portsmouth on Saturday, December 13. Their performance was followed by light entertainment provided by the All Stars.

The Following Rhythm Project Ensembles performed at their School Winter Programs and received stellar reviews from those in attendance!!!

Salem High School Steelband - Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Phoebus High School Steelband - Thursday, December 11, 2008

Norfolk Rising Stars (Fairlawn Elementary) - Tuesday, December 16, 2008



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

Don't Miss Rhythm Live 2009

at the Attucks Theatre
1010 Church Street
Norfolk, VA

Student Matinees: Friday, February 27, 2009 at 10:00 and 11:30 AM
Evening Concert: Saturday, February 28, 2009 at 8:00 PM
Adults \$15, Students (under 25) \$10



The Rhythm Project
in collaboration with
Governor's School for the Arts
presents

*A Fully staged production based on the evolution of
Caribbean Steelpan, and Calypso*

For tickets call 1-800-982-2787 (ARTS) or 757-282-2822 for more information



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.

The Rhythm Project is supported in part by the Surdna Foundation, the Tidewater Children's Foundation and the Lee and Helen Gifford Endowment Fund of the Portsmouth Community Foundation.