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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. Special thanks is extended to these cities and to our sponsors.

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



VIRGINIA ARTS FESTIVAL

The Rhythm Report

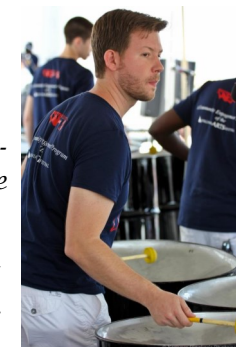
Volume 44

Winter/Spring 2014-2015

Greetings,

It has been a while since our last Rhythm Report and we're excited to get everyone back in the know with all things Rhythm Project!

The summer and fall seasons were quite successful, with the All-Stars taking a trip to Morgantown, WV to be featured at the Ellie Mannette Festival of Steel where they got to learn from renowned pan artists like Andy Narell, Jeff Narell and Ken "Professor" Philmore, and an additional All-Stars trip to Athens, OH where they were featured at the Nuit Blanche Festival.



We are pleased to welcome Mr. Paul Munzenrider, all the way from Denver, Colorado to join the Rhythm Project team as Associate Director! He has already had an exciting couple of months getting to know our Rhythm Project ensembles and offer his unique expertise in all things "pan."

We look forward to expanding our audience in the digital age with e-mails of the Rhythm Report. Please e-mail us and let us know if you would like to be added to our mailing list! You can also follow us on [facebook.com/therhythmproject](https://www.facebook.com/therhythmproject)

Thank you for your continued support of the Rhythm Project.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Sincerely,

Dave Longfellow
RP Director
(757) 282-2823

Paul Munzenrider
RP Associate Director
(757) 282-2815

Robert Cross
VAF Exec. Director

Scott Jackson
VAF Gen. Manager



Performance/ Activity Calendar

Thursday, March 19, 2015
Larchmont Fine Arts Night
Larchmont Rising-Stars
Larchmont Elementary School
6:00 PM

Friday, March 27, 2015
Rhythm Live!
Rhythm Project All-Stars
Harrison Opera House
7:30 PM

Saturday, March 28, 2015
All-City Bands Concert
Virginia Beach Rising-Stars
Sandler Center for the Performing Arts
7:00 PM

Tuesday, May 5, 2015
Salem Spring Concert
Salem High School Steelband
Salem High School
8:00 PM

Saturday, May 9, 2015
Virginia International PANFest
All Rhythm Project Ensembles
24th Street Park, Va. Beach Oceanfront
9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Visit us online at:
www.rhythmproject.org
or email:
dlongfellow@vafest.org
For a full calendar listing



New Faces of Pan



We are happy to continue the mission of the Rhythm Project by starting a new Steel Drum ensemble at Tidewater Park Elementary school in Norfolk. While these 5th graders are new to the instrument, they have taken to playing very quickly and have already performed for a large audience at their winter program in December of 2014. They are scheduled for three more performances this spring including their first appearance at the Virginia International PANFest on May 9th.

In addition to the young pan players at Tidewater Park, the Ruffner Academy Steel Drum ensemble is off the ground and running. These two ensembles will work together to create a musical outlet for these exceptional students to follow throughout their grade school and junior high years. Most of the 5th graders at Tidewater Park will continue on to attend middle school at Ruffner Academy, which means that the students who start with steel drums in 5th grade can continue to play for the next 3 years in our Ruffner Rising-Stars group. The comprehensive nature of this program will undoubtedly help us create very strong musicians as well as an excellent feeder system in Norfolk for our Rhythm Project All-Stars. The potential musical ability in these students is obvious, and we look forward to seeing them grow and benefit from playing steel drums for years to come.

Rhythm Project 2015 Calendar of Events: <http://www.vafest.org/2015/rp-calendar>

dlongfellow@vafest.org or **757-282-2823** for more information or to book the Rhythm Project

All-Stars in Athens

The Rhythm Project All-Stars were the featured artist in the 2014 “Nuit Blanche” arts festival hosted by Ohio University in Athens, Ohio. The festival, which took place on October 4th, 2014, made for a chilly afternoon performance of steel drum music. The All-Stars were given the opening spot to kick off the entire festival, and despite the 40-degree temperature that day, the audience members were impressed with the ability of the group and it was a very successful gig across the country. Students were later treated that night to the unique festivities provided by the University, complete with African drum ensembles, jazz combos and avant-garde electronic music.

This past fall, the All-Stars also performed at the Virginia Beach Aquarium for a Virginia Arts Festival event on the same night that the Salem High School Steel Band opened for the famed “Blue Man Group” at the Sandler Center for the Performing Arts. In December the All-Stars played Christmas music for a Nordstrom’s holiday event at the MacArthur Center, and they were also featured in the January senior recital of Emily Barritt, a longstanding member of the Rhythm Project.



Rhythm Live! and Virginia International PANFest

The Spring of 2015 is about to become a very active time for students in the Rhythm Project. In addition to local elementary and middle school programs, we look forward to *Rhythm Live!* on March 27th. This is the time for the RP All-Stars to shine each year, and we are diligently preparing our music. As usual, the program will feature Calypso music from the Caribbean, classical masterpieces, and popular songs from the U.S. library while telling the amazing story of music evolving in Trinidad and Tobago over the past 85 years.

This year’s evening concert will also feature the world premiere of Dave Longfellow’s new composition *Just In Time*, a complex piece that is already being added to college steel band programs throughout the country. Don’t miss this incredible performance at the Harrison Opera House in downtown Norfolk, VA. Friday, March 27th at 7:30PM.

May 8th and 9th will be two of the biggest days of the year for steel pan in our state with the annual Virginia International PANFest. Many bands from around the country have already registered and we once again expect groups from the Caribbean islands and Canada to play in the competition. To top it all off, our headlining artist is a storied band from Trinidad and Tobago, the *Renegades*, who are sure to perform an incredible program with their soloist Duvone Stewart.

