

vcuarts **Richmond's Bands**

Department of Music at Virginia Commonwealth University

Richmond's Bands began in 1995 with the founding of the Greater Richmond Youth Wind Ensemble (GRYWE) for advanced high school musicians. The following year the Richmond Honors Band was created as an opportunity for advanced middle school and young high school students. In response to popular demand, a high school jazz ensemble was added the following year. The **Richmond's Bands** program is a valuable addition to Richmond's vibrant instrumental community because it offers valuable aspects of a district or All-State band experience within a long-term rehearsal environment.

Greater Richmond Youth Wind Ensemble

Dr. Terry Austin, Conductor

Richmond Honors Band

Robert Ellithorpe, Conductor

Greater Richmond High School Jazz Band

Antonio Garcia, Director

www.vcubands.org

This program has given Richmond area students the opportunity to work with some of the finest conductors and teachers in the United States. Guest conductors for GRYWE have included composer Timothy Mahr, retired United States Marine Band Director, Colonel John Bourgeois, band clinician and author Ed Lisk, and internationally renowned conductor Dr. David Whitwell. Students from **Richmond's Bands** have gone on to study in some of the finest music schools in the country.

What do students like most about Richmond's Bands?

"...the chance to meet new people and learn more about music" ♦ "...being surrounded by music and others with similar interests and ideas" ♦ "...getting to work with VCU teachers and meet and hear VCU student performers" ♦ "I think it is neat that students from so many different backgrounds can come together and communicate with their music."

Director's Biographies

Dr. Terry Austin is Director of Bands and Professor of Music at Virginia Commonwealth University where he oversees all aspects of the band program and teaches courses in conducting and music education. Under his leadership, the VCU Symphonic Wind Ensemble has earned a reputation for musical excellence and has been invited to perform at numerous conferences including the Music Educators National Conference, the College Band Directors National Association, the Virginia Music Educators Association and the American Bandmasters Association.

Dr. Austin is an active guest conductor, clinician and adjudicator and is published in several journals. He is past-president of the Virginia Music Educators Association, chairman of the National Band Association/William D. Revelli Memorial Band Composition Contest and a member of the Boards of Directors of the John Philip Sousa Foundation and the National Band Association.

He is an elected member of the American Bandmasters Association, a multiple recipient of Who's Who Among America's Teachers and the National Band Association Citation of Excellence and is an Honorary Kentucky Colonel. He is an honorary member of Kappa Psi, Phi Beta Mu and Pi Kappa Lambda.

Antonio García is a performer, composer/arranger, clinician, educator and author in both instrumental and vocal genres. He is an Associate Professor of Music, Coordinator of Music Business, and Director of Jazz Studies at Virginia Commonwealth University, where he directs the Jazz Orchestra I and instructs various jazz courses. He is a past nominee for CASE U.S. Professor of the Year. García has performed as trombonist, bass trombonist or pianist with 70 major artists including Ella Fitzgerald, Phil Collins and Mel Tormé and at such venues as

Carnegie Hall, Royal Festival Hall and the Montreux, Nice, North Sea, Pori (Finland), New Orleans, and Chicago Jazz Festivals.

A Bach/Selmer clinician/soloist and avid scat-singer, he is Associate Jazz Editor of the International Trombone Association *Journal* and Past Editor of the International Association for Jazz Education *Jazz Education Journal*, Past-President of IAJE-IL, Board Member of The Midwest Clinic and previously of the Illinois Coalition for Music Education, and is Co-Editor/Contributing Author of *Teaching Jazz: A Course of Study*. Visit his web site at <www.garciamusic.com>.

Robert Ellithorpe has 35 years of experience as a band director in high school, middle school, and elementary school. He retired in 2004 from Hanover County where he was Band Director of Liberty Middle School since 1981.

He has served as guest conductor for "All County Bands" in Henrico, Chesterfield, Stafford, Spotsylvania and the Quad County Band in Central Virginia. In addition, he has been guest conductor of All District Bands in districts III, IV, and XV. For the past 16 years, Mr. Ellithorpe has been guest conductor for the Mid-Atlantic Middle School Band Camp at Ferrum College.

Mr. Ellithorpe's professional affiliations include: Virginia Music Educators Association, Music Educators National Conference, International Trombone Association, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, and Phi Beta Mu. He is recognized in the 1996, 2000, and 2002 editions of Who's Who Among American Teachers.

Mr. Ellithorpe is a retired member of The Richmond Symphony. He currently performs as a trombonist with the Richmond Philharmonic, Richmond Symphonic Winds, Richmond Brass Consort, Richmond Swing Band, and the Pasta Posaunen. He is a part-time instructor of trombone at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Audition Information

Students will be asked to perform a prepared selection such as an etude or a portion of a piece that best demonstrates their musical and technical abilities. Students should also be prepared to play scales and sight-read a short excerpt. Percussionists are only required to audition on one instrument but strong consideration will be given to those who demonstrate proficiency on snare, mallets and timpani. Percussionists must bring their own sticks, mallets, cymbals and clutch; percussion instruments will be provided by VCU.

GRYWE and RHB auditions will be five minutes in length. Auditions and rehearsals for all bands will be held in the Singleton Center for the Performing Arts at 922 Park Avenue. **A non-refundable fee of \$150.00 is due at the first rehearsal.**

GRHSJB auditions must be scheduled by emailing Mr. Garcia at <ajgarcia@vcu.edu>. Auditions will be 10 minutes in length. **A non-refundable fee of \$150.00 is due at the first rehearsal.**

GREATER RICHMOND YOUTH WIND ENSEMBLE

Dr. Terry Austin, Conductor

Auditions: Jan. 8, 3 p.m. - 9 p.m. -- **woodwinds only**
Jan. 9, 3 p.m. - 9 p.m. -- **brass & percussion only**
Rehearsals: Mondays beginning Jan. 28, 2008
from 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Concert: May 10, 2008 at 5 p.m.

RICHMOND HONORS BAND

Robert Ellithorpe, conductor

Auditions: Jan 8, 4 p.m. - 8 p.m. -- **woodwinds only**
Jan. 9, 4 p.m. - 8 p.m. -- **brass & percussion only**
Rehearsals: Thursdays beginning Jan. 31, 2008
from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Concert: May 10, 2008 at 3 p.m.

GREATER RICHMOND HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ BAND

Antonio García, Director

Auditions: Jan. 3, 4 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Jan. 4, 4 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Rehearsals: Sundays beginning Jan. 20, 2008
from 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Concert: May 10, 2008 at 1 p.m.

Complete this form and bring it to your audition. Please fill out a separate form for each audition.

NOTE: Please email Mr. Garcia at <ajgarcia@vcu.edu> to schedule a GRHSJB audition. No appointment is necessary for a GRYWE or RHB audition.

Which group are you auditioning for?

- Richmond Honors Band (for middle school and early high school)
- Greater Richmond High School Jazz Band
- Greater Richmond Youth Wind Ensemble (for advanced high school musicians)

Name: _____
last first m.i.

Address: _____
street city state zip

Phone Number: (____) _____ Email Address: _____

Instrument: (if saxophone, specify alto, tenor or baritone) _____

School: _____ Current Grade in School: _____

Band Director's Name: _____ Signature: _____

Private Music Teacher's Name: (if any) _____ Phone Number: _____

"I understand that by auditioning, my child is committing to be available for the rehearsal and concert schedule through May 10, 2008 as printed above. I confirm that s/he understands that students who cannot fulfill this commitment to the ensemble should not audition."

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

QUESTIONS? Please call the VCU Bands Office at 804.828.1660 or email Dr. Austin at <taustin@vcu.edu>.