

Executive Summary 2022-2023



JUNE 20, 2023

THE GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS
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Overview

The Governor's School for the Arts (GSA) is home to a rich tapestry of pre-professional arts education experiences for over 380 young people from the localities of Chesapeake, Franklin, Isle of Wight, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Southampton, Suffolk, and Virginia Beach.

The six disciplines of GSA (Dance, Instrumental Music, Musical Theatre, Theatre/Film/Design Tech, Visual Arts, and Vocal Music) worked throughout the year to build community partnerships, produce live arts experiences, and prepare students for for success at the post-secondary level, all in line with the mission of GSA:

The Governor's School for the Arts is a center for innovation that develops excellence, nurtures creativity, inspires artistic vision and builds communities with a passion for the arts.

Class of 2023

The GSA Class of 2023 is comprised of 88 graduates, one of whom is a National Merit Finalists. Collectively, these graduates earned **\$13,832,518** in scholarship awards and will pursue a variety of opportunities including entering the arts industry directly from GSA, attending two and four year institutions, and participating in apprenticeship/training programs.

Students will be attending 40 different institutions of higher learning to include: Belmont University, Boston Conservatory, Cleveland Institute of Music, Duke University, Eastman School of Music, Savannah College of Art and Design, University of Southern California (USC), University of the Arts, and many more.

Departmental Highlights

Dance

Performances

Senior Showcase (Capstone)

Neon Festival

Two Main Stage Dance Concerts

Collaboration with Instrumental Music for Mars Festival at the Barry Art Museum

Collaboration with Visual Arts for the Wearable Arts Fashion Show

Collaboration with Virginia Arts Festival for Rhythm Live

Virginia Symphony Orchestra Gala

National High School Dance Festival

Master Classes

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre

Kieron Sargeant (West African & Caribbean Dance)

Marquise Hitchcock-Jones (Broadway Jazz)

Nutmeg Ballet Conservatory

Philadelphia Ballet

Rita Addico Cohen (African)

Starrenne Foster (VCU and Richmond Ballet Faculty; Star Foster Dance)

Additional Highlights

- 1,925 Community Service Hours Performed by the Department
- 14 Students Inducted into the National Honor Society of Dance Arts
- Dance students taught weekly classes on Tuesday nights for Teens With A Purpose



Instrumental Music

Performances

16 Senior Recitals (Capstone)
Neon Festival
Four Chamber Music Concerts
Two Main Stage Orchestra Concerts
Two Jazz Concerts
Two Pre-Concert Showcase Performances at Chrysler Hall
Side-by-Side Performance with the Virginia Symphony Orchestra
Collaboration with Vocal Music for Messiah and the opera
Collaboration with Dance for Mars Festival at the Barry Art Museum
Collaboration with Visual Art for Wearable Art Fashion Show
Hermitage Museum’s “Live From the Music Room”
Numerous Small Ensemble Performances to Support Community Events

Master Classes

Buster Williams
Howard Curtis (Jazz Drummer)
Jeff Smith (Saxophone)
New England Conservatory’s String Trio
Old Dominion University’s Jazz Vibe Master Class
PUBLIQuartet
Quinteto Latino
Simone Porter (Violin)
The Westerlies
VCU Jazz Ensemble



Additional Highlights

- 1,972 Private Lessons and 1,088 Small Ensemble Coaching Sessions Throughout the Year
- Jazz Combos Showcased at the Chantilly Invitational Jazz Festival
- 25 Students Selected for Senior Regional Orchestra
- 6 Students Selected for District Band
- 7 Students Selected for All-Virginia Band and Orchestra
- Traveled to Philadelphia to see the Philadelphia Orchestra with the Aaron Diehl Jazz Trio
- Students from the department selected as winners of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Talent Hunt (both Lambda Omega and Gamma Xi Chapters)

Musical Theatre

Performances

Senior Cabaret (Capstone)

Senior Showcase

Performances with the Virginia Symphony Orchestra

Into the Woods

Co-Production of *Grease* with Virginia Musical Theatre

The One-Act Play That Goes Wrong

Students in *School of Rock* and *Catch Me if You Can* with Virginia Musical Theatre

Soloists for Virginia Symphony Orchestra Gala & Holiday Pops Concert

Master Classes

Luke Bernier (*Cats*)

Matt Densky (*Wicked*)

Tari Kelly (Virginia Arts Festival's *Chicago*)

Nasia Thomas (*Beautiful – the Carole King Musical*, *Ain't Too Proud*, *Six*)

Anthony Wayne (*Pippin*, *Anything Goes*, *MJ: The Musical*)

Rob Wilson (*The Second City*)

Additional Highlights

- Partnership with Virginia Musical Theatre for an Internship Program that empowered GSA students to serve as cast and crew for *Forever Patsy Cline*, *School of Rock*, *Catch Me If You Can*, and the Sustaining Sponsor's Dinner Fundraiser.
- Virginia Musical Theatre Awarded \$11,000 in Scholarships to Students in the Department
- Partnership with the Neptune Festival (Awarded \$9,786 in Support)



Theatre/Film/Design Tech

Performances

Student Directed One-Act Plays (Capstone)

Co-Production of *The Hobbit* with Virginia Stage Company

The Wickhams

Young Adult Stories: Censored, Changed, & Canceled (Original Work)

A Midsummer Night's Dream

11th Annual Student Film Festival

Master Classes

Arlen Shane Hancock (Fight Choreography)

Douglas Hudson (Movement)

Jimonn Cole (The Juilliard School)

Kandi Sepulveda (Professional Touring Technician)

Rob Wilson (The Second City)

Cirque du Soleil

Virginia Arts Festival

Virginia Stage Company

Additional Highlights

- Film Students Participated in the Hampton Roads 48 Hour Film Project and were awarded Best Ensemble, Best Supporting Actress, Best Original Score, and Best Writing.
- Film Students received top awards at the 2022 High School 48 Hour Script Project, taking first and second place in this international competition.



Visual Art

Exhibitions

16 Senior Art Shows (Capstone)

Neon Festival

Stockley Gardens Art Show (Fall and Spring)

Ocean View Art Show

Innovative for Life Exhibition with Chesapeake Regional Healthcare

Bra Ha Ha

Alone vs. Lonely at Virginia Wesleyan (Collaboration with Dance)

Fall Juried Art Show at Origin Gallery

35th Annual Spring Juried Art Show at GSA Gallery

Wearable Arts Fashion Show (Collaboration with Instrumental Music and Dance)

Master Classes/Community Partnerships

Beserat Debebe (Graphic Novelist)

Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters

Chrysler Museum of Art

Matthew McGuinness (Muralist) & Downtown Norfolk Council

Teens With a Purpose

Additional Highlights

- Awarded Best Mural by *VEER Magazine* for 2022 for Gourmandizing Norfolk mural designed and created by students in Public Art class, along with muralist Matthew McGuinness
- Introduced Branding Class to Teach Marketing and Logo Design to Students and Students Held Two Pop-Up Branding Markets.
- Student-Generated Yearbook
- Students selected to create art for VIBE District, CHKD
- Students Awarded the Top Prizes at All of the Juried Exhibitions Entered
- 19 Students Inducted into the National Art Honor Society
- Selected to Create Artwork for the NEON District



Vocal Music

Performances

Senior Recital (Capstone)

Messiah

The Fortunate and the Forgotten: Vocal Music Cabaret

Orpheus in the Underworld (Collaboration with Instrumental Music)

Opera Scenes Concert

Four Performances with Virginia Symphony Orchestra

Grand Illumination Parade

Master Classes/Community Partnerships

Adam Richardson

Adam Turner (Virginia Opera)

Amy Owens (Virginia Opera)

Chrystal Williams

Court Watson (Virginia Opera)

Courtney Johnson

Danielle Telemantes (Metropolitan Opera)

Dr. Byron Jones (Shenandoah Conservatory)

Dr. Kitra Williams (Tyler Perry Productions)

Professor Kerry Wilkerson (George Mason University)

Tari Kelly (Virginia Arts Festival's *Chicago*)

Will Liverman (The Metropolitan Opera)



Additional Highlights

- Participated in the National Association of Teachers' of Singing Conference and Competition at the State and Mid-Atlantic Regional level, achieving: Seven 1st Place Awards; Four 2nd Place Awards; Six 3rd Place Awards; and Six Honors Awards
- Two students placed nationally at the NAACP Act SO Competition in Atlantic City, NJ with one student winning Gold and another winning 3rd place.
- Students Delivered Four Performances for Patients and Visitors at Sentara Heart Hospital
- Attended four Productions at Virginia Opera and five Metropolitan Opera Productions through Live in HD at Regal Cinemas, including the premier of *Champion*, starring GSA alum Ryan Speedo Green

GSA Foundation

The GSA Foundation Board continued to work to support the mission of GSA. The Foundation raised over \$326,000 in gifts that directly benefit GSA students and programs. These gifts funded the following:

- Harpsichord
- Harp
- Two Trumpets
- New Projector, Mobile Lights, and Black Curtains for the Black Box Theater
- Additional Lighting for Miner Music Hall
- Track Saw
- Mirrors for Dance Program
- Financial Support for Gourmandizing Norfolk Mural Project
- CNC Router for Creation of 3-D Objects

Additionally, the Foundation awarded \$32,000 in scholarships to the Class of 2023, provided \$15,000 to support the Japan Trip in October 2023, and provided \$27,000 in direct assistance for students.

Corporations and Foundations that assisted in these efforts include:

- Bank of America Charitable Foundation
- Capital Group Charitable Foundation
- Goode Family Foundation
- PRA Group
- The Helen G. Gifford Foundation
- The Warden Foundation

