

# Civic Orchestra of Tucson Presents Free Concert and Instrument Petting Zoo



Photo courtesy of Robert A. Suomala of Green Valley, AZ

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**H**ave you ever wanted to try a trombone? Or a trumpet? Or a cello? Here's your chance! You can explore these instruments and many more at a unique, hands-on Musical Instrument Petting Zoo. This special event is part of a free concert of the Civic Orchestra of Tucson on October 8.

The Civic Orchestra of Tucson is no stranger to Green Valley. This 60-member, all-volunteer community orchestra performs a free concert every fall in either Green Valley or Sahuarita. It also performs a "Pops at Quail Creek" concert in the spring. Several orchestra members are residents of Sahuarita or Green Valley. The orchestra is a proud member of the Green Valley Sahuarita Chamber of Commerce.

The Free Concert and Musical Instrument Petting Zoo will be held on Sunday, October 8. The Musical Instrument Petting Zoo begins at 2:15 pm and the concert starts at

3:00 pm. The events will be held at the Sahuarita District Auditorium, 350 W Sahuarita Rd in Sahuarita.

The October 8 concert is titled "Dancing Across Europe," as all the pieces are filled with dance rhythms. The program will include Beethoven's popular Symphony No. 7, Romanian Folk Dances by Béla Bartók, Hungarian Dances by Johannes Brahms, and a Romanian Rhapsodie No. 1 by George Enescu. The rhythmic energies of these pieces will definitely keep your toes tapping.

In the spotlight at this concert is 17-year-old violinist Nikolai Robbins. This talented young musician received high praise from the judges at the orchestra's 2017 Young Artists' Competition. He has chosen to play the exciting third movement of Violin Concerto No. 2 by Henryk Wieniawski, a nineteenth-century Polish composer; the movement's subtitle, "à la Zingara" is named for a gypsy dance.

Nikolai started playing the violin when he was just three years old and began performing in a string quartet at age nine. He has won a number of local and state competitions. For the past two summers he has attended the prestigious Meadowmount School of Music in upstate New York, where he received private lessons from renowned Juilliard teachers. He intends to pursue a professional career as a violinist.

Each winter, musicians from age 6 to 18 compete for cash awards and an opportunity to perform with the orchestra in the orchestra's Young Artists'


Competition, now in its 34th year. You can hear winners of the Piano Division of the 2018 competition at the "Pops at Quail Creek" concert on Sunday, April 29. A special Concert and Silent Auction on February 6, 2018, at the Tucson Jewish Community Center raises funds to benefit this important program that encourages young musicians.

The Civic Orchestra of Tucson has been performing free concerts throughout the greater Tucson area for 42 years. The orchestra per-

forms at the University of Arizona's Crowder Hall, in Green Valley, in Oro Valley, and even travels to play an occasional performance in Sells. The concert season is supported in part by the Arizona Commission on the Arts, which receives support from the State of Arizona and the National Endowment for the Arts. Additional support comes from individual and corporate donations.

For more information about the free October 8 concert in Sahuarita and all the orchestra's events, please visit [www.cotmusic.org](http://www.cotmusic.org) or call 520-730-3371.





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