

The Florida Orchestra to offer 20 free
Instrument Petting Zoos in three counties



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[Click here for Instrument Petting Zoo photos](#)



ST. PETERSBURG, FL – The Florida Orchestra is teaming up with public libraries and other organizations to greatly expand its free Instrument Petting Zoos for kids during the summer. For the first time, TFO will offer 20 events June through August in three counties – Hillsborough, Pasco and Pinellas.

The popular Instrument Petting Zoo is a collection of orchestral instruments that kids can handle and try out, with TFO staffers and volunteers on hand to help. Sponsored by TFO's North Suncoast Associates, the zoo includes

violin, cello, trombone, trumpet, flute, various percussion and more.

The zoos will be provided in conjunction with summer reading programs at the libraries and are a great way for The Florida Orchestra to continue to serve kids during TFO's off-season and encourage them to explore their own musicality.

The Instrument Petting Zoo also will be a part of TFO's new full-orchestra Family Concerts debuting in the fall. The one-hour concerts, titled *One Giant Leap*, celebrate the 50th anniversary of the moon landing with live music and stunning visuals from NASA. The program includes selections from Holst's *The Planets*, John Williams' *E.T.*, and much more. Performances are geared for families with children ages 6-12 and are scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 27, at the Straz Center in Tampa at 2 pm, and Sunday, Nov. 3, at the Palladium Theater in St. Petersburg at 2 pm. General admission tickets for kids and adults will be \$8 in advance, \$10 day of show. They go on sale Aug. 12.

TFO's Instrument Petting Zoo Schedule for Summer 2019

Tuesday, June 11, 10 am: Hugh Embry Library, 14215 Fourth St., Dade City

Tuesday, June 11, 2 pm: New River Branch Library, 34043 SR 54, Wesley Chapel

Thursday, June 13, 2 pm: Bloomingdale Regional Library, 1906 Bloomingdale Ave., Valrico

Saturday, June 15, 4:30 pm: Uptown Music Festival, UACDC, 14013 N 22nd St., Tampa

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Saturday, June 22, 10 am: Healthy Living Community event at SouthShore Community Resource Center, 201 14th Ave. SE, Ruskin

Wednesday, July 10, 2 pm: Brandon Regional Library, 619 Vonderburg Drive, Brandon

Thursday, July 18, 10 am: Regency Park Branch Library, 9701 Little Road, New Port Richey

Thursday, July 18, 2 pm: Hudson Regional Library, 8012 Library Road, Hudson

Saturday, July 20, 10 am: Healthy Living Community event at Plant City Community Resource Center, 307 N Michigan Ave., Plant City

Wednesday, July 24, 2 pm: Arthenia L. Joyner University Area Community Library, 13619 N 22nd St., Tampa

Tuesday, July 30, 11 am: Lutz Branch Library, 101 W Lutz Lake Fern Road, Lutz

Wednesday, July 31, 11 am: South Holiday Library, 4649 Mile Stretch Drive, Holiday

Wednesday, July 31, 2 pm: Centennial Park Library, 5740 Moog Road, Holiday

Saturday, August 3, 2 pm: Land O'Lakes Branch Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, Land O'Lakes

Saturday, August 17, 10 am: Healthy Living Community event at Lee Davis Neighborhood Service Center, 3402 N 22nd St., Tampa

TFO also will provide the Instrument Petting Zoo at private camps at the Tampa Bay History Center, Metro Youth Camp, Jewish Community Camp in Clearwater, and Camp Banyan in Clearwater.

The Florida Orchestra's new season opens in September and celebrates 250 years of Beethoven and beyond, including Beethoven's *Fifth*, music of The Beatles, Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons*, Holiday Pops, and much more. Season tickets are on sale now at FloridaOrchestra.org; single tickets are available Aug. 12.

[About The Florida Orchestra](#)

The Florida Orchestra is recognized as Tampa Bay's leading performing arts institution, the largest professional symphony orchestra in Florida, and one of the most vibrant and innovative orchestras in America. Its 52nd season starts in September 2019. Under the leadership of Music Director Michael Francis, it performs more than 130 concerts a season, with series of classical, popular, and morning coffee concerts in Tampa, St. Petersburg and Clearwater, as well as free Pops in the Park concerts. Dedicated to bringing music to all people, connecting to the community is a priority, with pre-concert talks, family and youth concerts and other educational activities. To buy tickets: floridaorchestra.org and 727.892.3337 or 1.800.662.7286.