Musical Instrument Petting Zoos

In 1995, the Civic Orchestra of Tucson introduced the Musical Instrument Petting Zoos at special events around the community. The program was so well received, it was expanded to include schools, children's programs, daycare/after-school care, city-sponsored events, art festivals, Rancho Sahuarita, Marana Parks and Recreation and the Children's Museum of Tucson.

Here's how it works:
Several musicians bring a selection of string and percussion instruments to the Instrument Petting Zoo event. Our musicians volunteer their time at the Zoos, helping participants hold the instruments correctly to make a musical sound. Many children—and even some adults-–have been inspired to learn a musical instrument after their first introduction at the Musical Instrument Petting Zoo!

Depending on the needs of the participants, the Musical Instrument Petting Zoo may include:

- A short presentation
- A musical performance
- A movement-oriented lesson

Prior to Concerts:
The orchestra holds Musical Instrument Petting Zoos prior to specific concerts. Please check our Season Schedule at cotmusic.org to locate a pre-concert Petting Zoo.

A donation to the orchestra of $250–$500 is recommended for each Petting Zoo. For more information or to schedule a Musical Instrument Petting Zoo at your organization's event, please call 520-730-3371 or email info@cotmusic.org.