

## Press Release

It is late summer and once again time for the Southern Ozarks Community Orchestra to resume their practice schedule and prepare for the coming concert season! Since 2009, the orchestra has made Willow Springs home and been sponsored by the Willow Springs Arts Council and generous supporters. So, this will be the tenth season for SOCO and the orchestra has grown to over 30 volunteer musicians from southern Missouri and northern Arkansas!

Members include retirees, students, musical educators, professional and non-professional musicians with a love for presenting live concerts to this area. Ms. Jodie Forbes is the conductor and Nikki Dean is the associate conductor of the orchestra. Both are music educators. Ms. Forbes is retired from the Houston School District and has taught in public schools for over 30 years. She has been the conductor for SOCO since 2015. Ms. Dean is currently the band director at Mountain View High School.

This year's concert schedule includes a fun Halloween concert on Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup> at the historic Star Theater in Willow Springs and a lovely Christmas holiday concert on December 8<sup>th</sup>. Practices are held every Tuesday evening on the second floor of the Ferguson Building in Willow Springs from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. The first full orchestra practice will be on September 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The orchestra is currently in need of more string players such as violin, viola, cello, and string bass. All interested musicians are invited to attend a practice to see if their skills will fit the orchestra's need. Or, they can call Jodie Forbes at 417-217-0542, or Rebecca Cash at 417-962-0979 for more information.

For more information on the Southern Ozarks Community Orchestra, visit the Arts Council website at [www.willowspringsartscouncil.org](http://www.willowspringsartscouncil.org) or on Facebook.