

StringFest 2020

One of the Sedalia Symphony Society's missions is to endeavor to provide student outreach opportunities to encourage and enhance the learning of musical skills. For the past several years, the November StringFest has helped to meet this goal.

Covid-19 will not stop this activity, but is changing its format. Instead of the usual Saturday activity featuring sectional instruction concluding with a mini-concert, StringFest will be a two-day event held at Smith-Cotton Junior High School and Smith-Cotton High School on November 19-20. This will involve grades 7-8 and high school orchestra students with instruction during regular classroom schedules. Michael Moellman is orchestra instructor at the S-C Junior High School and Grant Maledy at Smith-Cotton High School.

Mr. Moellman, has arranged for a very well-qualified clinician, Dr. Christopher Kelts, Director of Orchestral Studies and Associate Professor of Music at Missouri State University. Concurrently, Dr. Kelts is the music director of the Kansas City Civic Orchestra, Kinnor Philharmonic and co-founder of the ensemble *Project Musica*. He completed his advanced conducting training at Illinois State University and University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music and Dance. Not limited to his studies in orchestral conducting, Dr. Kelts formally trained as violist where he studied at Missouri State University and Illinois State University. He performs in various chamber and orchestral ensembles and has served as clinician for many school districts throughout the United States.

The two days of instruction will conclude with a mini-concert which will be available on the Sedalia Symphony's Website and Facebook page.

The Sedalia Symphony Society's Board of Directors is grateful to Mr. Moellman for organizing and making arrangements for this event and to the Sedalia School District. This will be a great learning opportunity for the approximately 140 students involved.