



## Seeking The Best String Players in Excellent Music Program

### Why UTRGV - Brownsville?

- World Class Faculty
- Excellent Scholarship Opportunities
- One of Lowest Tuition for In/Out of State
- Teaching Opportunities at UTRGV and Brownsville Music Academies
- In campus "Casa Bella" Dorms
- Professional performance opportunities with Symphony Orchestras
- World Music and Mariachi Programs
- State of the arts new campus with world class Performing Art Center
- For Music Minors Excellent Teaching, Engineering and Planned Medical School

### University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

You have the talent. The potential. The intellect and Drive. Now is the time



to unleash it and begin your powerful journey. You know what it takes –a world-class university with an innovative spirit, cutting edge technology, exceptional teaching and students, like you, who want to make a difference in their communities and the world. With more than 120 programs for 29,000 students at the bachelor's, master's, and doctoral levels, we are driven by visionary

thinking, the most modern technology, internationally acclaimed faculty, and offerings necessary for students to achieve career success and make a difference. The Rio Grande Valley is known as one of the most affordable cost of living areas in the entire country. On-campus housing is available at our campuses in Brownsville and Edinburg, with an abundance of support services for U.S. and international students. Here, you'll be a part of a truly welcoming, friendly community.

### Tailored Program in an Amazing Environment

The Department of Music at the University of Texas at Brownsville offers Bachelor and Master degrees. Our faculty of internationally recognized



scholars and performers is fully committed to the academic and musical development of our students. Our student receive superior training in music so that they have the opportunity to become highly successful professionals and artists. Students study in applied lessons, music theory classes, music history classes, and technique classes to

prepare them to become music educators and performers. The Department of Music offers more than 100 public performances each year, as well as master classes and lectures by visiting scholars and artists. A wide range of performance opportunities are available to students, including participation in the Wind Ensemble, Guitar Orchestra, Master Chorale, Symphony Orchestra, Bravo Opera, and numerous other small ensembles and chamber groups. Our students are trained for success as teachers and performers. UTB Music students: perform around the world, are state and regional prize winners as solo musicians, are hired as teachers at a very high rate.

**For Other Information  
Click Below:**

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Dept.  
*Brownsville Music  
Department*

UTRGV-International  
Students  
*International Students*

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*The beautiful dormitories of  
Brownsville Campus*

Arts in Brownsville.org  
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Performances*

Betul Soykan  
*Betul Soykan Performances*

**Contact us:**

Katherine Decker

Betul Soykan

A low faculty-to-student ratio and extensive individual instruction allows students the opportunity to achieve their highest potential. Graduates of our programs can be found in some of the country's top graduate programs and in successful professional careers as music educators and performers.

## World Class Strings Faculty



**Dr. Katherine Decker** is the Assistant Professor of Cello and Double Bass at the University of Texas - Rio Grande Valley. She is also a member of the award-winning contemporary chamber ensemble, *enhakē* and the Brownsville Faculty Piano Trio. She made her solo debut with the Valparaiso University Symphony Orchestra in 2001 and since then, has performed extensively as a solo and chamber artist throughout the US. She will be touring Greece and Turkey this coming year with the Brownsville Faculty Piano Trio. Before her time with *enhakē*, Dr. Decker was a member of the Eppes String Quartet with whom she performed

throughout the United States and as a part of the Promising Artists of the 21st Century series in Costa Rica. Additionally she has performed with numerous orchestras including the Valley Symphony Orchestra, Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra, the Columbus Symphony, and the Elgin Symphony. She served as principal cellist and chamber artist in residence with the Albany Symphony Orchestra for the past three years. She has performed in masterclasses with Zuill Bailey, Thomas Landschoot, the Miami String Quartet, and Wesley Baldwin. Dr. Decker received her MM and DMA from the Florida State University. She also does extensive research in the field of unknown 19th century cello repertoire and published her treatise on Georg Goltermann's cello music in 2011.



**Dr. Betul Soykan**, Violin and Viola Professor and Director of the Brownsville Sinfonia at the University of Texas Rio Grand Valley. Being trained one of the best conservatories of Europe, she holds four degrees in violin performance and string pedagogy. She received a special distinction award for her Concert Diploma recital as well as first prize of Concerto Competition in Switzerland, where she was chosen to perform Samuel Barber's violin concerto with the Bern Symphony Orchestra.

During her studies in Europe, Betul has taken active part in master classes and seminars with world-renowned musicians performed in Austria, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Germany, France, Holland, Italy, Greece, Switzerland, Spain, Portugal, Turkey and many States in the US.

She has her doctoral studies completed in 2015 at University of Georgia with the dissertation title of "The Complete Violin Sonatas and Selective Violin Works of Joaquín Turina" along with the 2016 released CD recording of Turina's violin works. Betul's recording of Cesar Frank's Sonata and other pieces by Swiss composers is available through Eroica Records. In this

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recording the Sonata by Melchior Ulrich was dedicated to her and had its premier in Switzerland in 1995. Her second album "Complete Sonatas and Selective Violin Works of Joaquin Turina" with pianist Anatoly Sheludyakov is released in July 2015, with Centaur Records.

Dr. Soykan pedagogical approach is dedicated to the strings education and promotion of string music, styled after European Conservatories. She always gives the students the prospect of expanding their own individuality and interpretation while developing a solid technical foundation for each student, which will secure technical control over the instrument and allow them to have the freedom to focus on the music and its interpretation. As a mentor she has produced exceptional musicians and served as a judge in many competitions and as a clinician for master classes and summer courses.

She had served as a faculty member and artist in residence at Gordon State College, Clayton State University, Seminole College, Bilkent University, AIMA; Ayvalik International Music Academy, Hochschule der Künste Bern, Schwyz Music Conservatory, Suzuki Institute of Orlando, and other public school institutions in various States. Betül Soykan performs on a violin made by; Antonio Gagliano II, circa 1840.

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