

Isaac Lausell, Associate Professor of Music, Director of Jazz Studies & Coordinator of the Guitar Area

Rossana Cauti, Assistant professor of practice, Director of the SIU String Orchestra and the SIU Civic Orchestra

SIU Strings Project

The strings area is a centric unit to the School of Music. It comprises the core of both our symphony orchestras. With addition of the guitar in its various forms this family of instruments is deeply intertwined with our formal (classical, art), popular/commercial music, music education and the music business areas respectively.

Due to SIU's mission as a research university to innovate and provide the best and cutting edge methods of instruction we are guided by the notion of how to improve and how to expand in service of our community and the professionalization of our student body.

Given that the strings area is connected to most programs in the School of Music its development would have an immediate impact on the entire operation. We are proposing a project that will help develop and revitalize the area. This project will tend to the following:

- Research and publicizing of the SIU Strings Area – This includes performing, teaching master classes and presenting our research internationally. The main target activities for this component are Dr. Rossana Cauti and Dr. Isaac Lausell's master class/lecture and recital at UNICAMP State University of Campinas, São Paulo, Brazil and a subsequent artist residence/research trip by Dr. Cauti and Dr. Lausell at the same campus at a later date.
- Development opportunities – To establish a new Strings Festival in addition to supporting the already established guitar festival. These activities will allow us to provide master classes and chamber music concerts in which our students will study and perform side by side with seasoned veterans.
- On site training– Within the proposed festivals we will host lectures and research presentations for our students and faculty members taught by professionals at the helm of our field with the latest information on music performance, education and the development of music programs in rural and suburban areas.