

## 2026 Report from the Flamenco de la Isla Society Board of Directors

The FDLI Society has had an exciting year! Last year's summer flamenco music workshops were a huge success. More than 50 people enjoyed workshops with local and guest teachers for an introduction to flamenco guitar, an introduction to cante and flamenco culture, advanced cante, open and advanced level cajón, compás and fiesta skills, and soniquete palmas. We are grateful to the City of Victoria and the Capital Regional District for their support that made it possible to bring Vicente Griego, Davide Sampaolo and Carmen Romero for our workshops and shows.

The Board has held steady with our vision of making flamenco accessible for all. The FDLI Society provided subsidized tickets for all festival shows this past year - Flamenco Guitar Night, two Tablao shows, and the Lara Wong/Melon Jimenez show - and we have streamlined processes to make becoming a member very, very easy! We developed accessible pricing to maximize participation and inclusion with a sliding-scale membership fee of \$0 to \$20, with the option to sign up for an automatic annual renewal of membership which can be cancelled at any time. The Board also made the decision to increase the FDLI Society annual scholarship by 60%, bringing the value to \$800, to keep pace with rising costs of education. And last but certainly not least, the Society helped to disseminate surveys to all members and friends in the flamenco community on Vancouver Island. We look forward to hearing the results of this UBC survey at the AGM!

With your support, and the support of the whole flamenco community, we were able to raise over \$8,000 to support Gareth's trip to Spain. In large part this was made possible with the generous donation of a hand-made flamenco guitar by Nicholas Economou, and by Veronica Maguire, who opened up her costume trunk for dancers and teachers to support our biggest-ever costume sale. Other donations were collected at the Society's year end show at the Coda, with 25 performers and a sold-out audience.

Plans for this coming year include support for a fundraising show for Jake Lee, another of Victoria's incredible flamenco guitarists; the return of Flamenco Guitar Night plus the annual Society fundraiser in mid-November with local students and professional dancers, singers, and guitarists; a silent auction; and refreshments. Funds raised in the community will help support the Society's educational and performance projects, including the annual flamenco scholarship and providing professional musicians to support emerging artists throughout the year.

We hope you will continue supporting accessible flamenco in Victoria and on Vancouver island!

With much gratitude,

Jan Bate, Chair

on behalf of the Flamenco de la Isla Society Board of Directors

