

International Friendship Club Hosts One-offs

By

Peggy A. Nelson, IFC Vice President

My hopes for living post-retirement in Puerto Vallarta included listening to great music and making a meaningful contribution to the community. Vallarta is not only a foodie paradise, but a music paradise as well.

I learned that the International Friendship Club (IFC) supports two non-profits that enrich young people's lives with music. One is ALAS (Wings, School of Song), which provides a safe space for children and young people where they can take refuge in music and dance. Participants learn singing, vocalization, dance, body expression, musical theatre, rhythm, coordination, cooperation and teamwork.

Last year, I was introduced to the Salty Paw Jazz Orchestra, a youth ensemble that is part of the Instituto de Artes Musicales Puerto Vallarta (IAMPV). IAMPV also includes the Vallarta Symphony Orchestra (OSV), which I also had the pleasure of checking out last year. Who knew Vallarta has a symphony orchestra?

The Salty Paw teenagers and young adults are learning to play jazz. The Salty Paw program promotes not only musical education and awareness, but life skills such as working within a structure, being reliable and on time, being part of a team.

I am very much looking forward to the upcoming Salty Paw concert, which is also a benefit for IAMPV. The benefit will be hosted jointly by the IFC and IAMPV, on March 5th, at 4:00 p.m., at Oscar's, on Isla Cuale. Tickets can be purchased on the IFC website, ifcvallarta.org. The price includes appetizers and a beverage. I will be sure to be there again this year to see how this jazzy youth orchestra is improving from year to year. I'm happy to know that ticket proceeds will be used by IAMPV for music lessons, instrument repair and purchase, and other musical scholarship programs.

In addition, IAMPV and the Marina Association will host a free Salty Paw Jazz Orchestra concert on Thursday, March 23, at the Thursday evening Marina Market, a few days prior to the OSV classical concerts scheduled for Sunday, March 26, 2023, at 5 p.m., venue to be confirmed, and Monday, March 27, 2023, 5 p.m. at Salon Paraiso in Paradise Village.

When looking for things to do in Vallarta, I frequently check the IFC on-line calendar to see what new programs they may have. It turns out that the IFC often adds one-off programs in addition to the regular programming that includes Spanish classes, yoga & meditation, meet & greets, dine-arounds, playing bridge, bridge classes, etc. In addition to the IAMPV benefit concert, two one-time programs that are coming up soon:

End of Life Decisions in Banderas Bay with Pam Thompson, March 1 @ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
Local health care resource, Pam Thompson, will take questions and discuss details regarding end of life issues when one is living in Vallarta. Participants will learn what to do if someone dies in the home here, the involvement of consulates, and everything in between. It is a lot of

information and not a topic people readily like to discuss, but it is important. Donation: \$100 pesos IFC Members / \$150 pesos Non-members.

Oaxacan Rug and Mata Ortiz Pottery Showcase, March 6 @ 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Lovely Oaxacan rugs and elegant Mata Ortiz pottery will be displayed at the IFC Clubhouse, located behind the HSBC Bank, on Calles Insurgents and Iturbide just north of Rio Cuale. Speak with the designers, who have stores in the area. Items will be for sale with discounts for 2023 IFC Members.

Monday night movies at the IFC Clubhouse are also a lot of fun, with beverages and popcorn. A description of upcoming films is available on the IFC website.

Home Tours Update: IFC Home Tours are now in the top 10 Puerto Vallarta tours per

Trip Advisor! These weekly tours of 3-4 unique homes and villas support the charitable activities of the IFC. They are volunteer run by knowledgeable docents and guides who live in the area and love showing off these homes. Tickets must be purchased in advance on the IFC website, ifcvallarta.org. Good mobility is required because many of these bespoke homes entail climbs up hills or on cobblestone. Air-conditioned buses depart from Sea Monkey (on the Malecon at Aquiles Serdan every Tuesday and Wednesday at 10:15 a.m. Sea Monkey discounts breakfast for ticket holders. These tours compete with more than 100 other tours and yet IFC's is in the top 10!