

CLAS Events – Lent Term 2026

Wednesday 18 February - 5:15pm | Talk / Singing
Room S1, First Floor, Alison Richard Building

A Chilean New Song

[Francisco Carrasco](#) (Luma Creations)

Chair: [Grace Livingstone](#) (University of Cambridge)

TALK:

A CHILEAN SONG

Francisco spent the first 11 years of his life in Chile, surrounded by a cultural energy which was ignited by the Chilean popular song movement, known as Nueva Canción Chilena, which emerged in the 1950s and 1960s. This movement blended folk traditions with socially engaged lyrics. Artists such as Violeta Parra, Víctor Jara, Inti-Illimani, and Quilapayún used music to address inequality, workers' rights, and cultural identity.

The Nueva Canción Chilena was closely linked to grassroots movements and Salvador Allende's Popular Unity government, it became a powerful tool of political expression. After the 1973 military coup, many musicians were censored, killed, or forced into exile, turning the movement into an enduring symbol of resistance, memory, and Latin American cultural solidarity worldwide, during decades of struggle and artistic influence.

When Francisco arrived in Leeds with his family in 1975, the music and culture of those years became their voice and soon he joined his parents as they performed at solidarity events, universities and festivals. This talk takes you on a journey of this powerful movement, incorporating live songs and visuals and a chance to have a conversation with him about his experiences and his deep knowledge of the subject.



FRANCISCO CARRASCO MA FRSA

Francisco is an International artist born in Chile. He is a storyteller, a world musician and a cultural activist creating fusions that begin from his love for his roots and the beauty and pain of world struggles. In 1975 at age eleven, he and his family were exiled and settled in Leeds, UK. In 1983 he moved to study in Liverpool and has lived there ever since.

He is the founder and Creative Director of LUMA CREATIONS and has been a University lecturer, mentor, coach, festival director and CEO since 1990. He has produced and directed many large scale

events including LA FERIA International Festival of Latin American Arts & Culture and the

Merseyside International Street Festival. Francisco believes in the power of art to break down barriers and give communities a platform to express themselves and tell their stories on their own terms.

He has delivered talks, lectures and workshops in Universities and many institutions in the UK, South Africa, Chile, Spain and Colombia. He edited a book describing the history of the Chilean community in the Liverpool City region and has a number of articles and poems. He aims to publish his poetry book, "Oceans of Exile" this year.

