

Drama - Opera

*Association for a National Opera House
and a "Maria Callas" Academy*



President's Message

THE EFFORTS OF THE COMPANY FOR THE OPERA

Building and the 'Maria Callas' Opera Academy, which was set up on 31 July 2000 on the personal initiative and with the support of well-known figures from the whole of the country's social fabric, have had as their vision the realisation of the major task of creating a suitable building for our Opera House, in parallel with the foundation of an Opera Academy which will bear the name of Maria Callas, a tribute to the greatest of musical artists.

Our Company, in the course of the eight years since its foundation, has held concerts and painting exhibitions, and has compiled studies and an approximate budget for the expenditure and designs required for the creation of the New National Opera House Building and the 'Maria Callas' Opera Academy. It has also held a unique exhibition entitled 'In the Maria Callas Constellation - the origins of a myth', with

objects, rare personal documents, and videos of the testimony of prominent figures and an interview with Callas herself.

All these important activities have had as their aim the sensitisation of public opinion and the exertion of pressure on the state, since such an undertaking cannot remain a private one.

It is within this philosophy that a series of contacts with figures in the world of politics and finance - among them the 'Stavros Niarchos' Foundation - should be seen.

Thus this Foundation's recent announcement that it is undertaking in full the building of the Opera in the Phaleron Delta and to deliver it to the Ministry of Culture, which is the official agency to which the National Opera belongs, brought the greatest satisfaction to the members of the Company,

given that this outcome constitutes the successful culmination of inexhaustible efforts over a whole decade.

As President of the Company, I am joined by the members of the Board, with the support of Partners and Friends, in continuing our task of making the Opera Academy which will bear the name of Maria Callas a reality. It is important that such an Academy of Music should be set up in this country, so that the quality of musical education should be re-defined and that study there should of equal status with that at the Academies and Schools of music of Europe, and should be recognised by them as such.

The Opera Academy cannot, unfortunately, for purely technical reasons, be established next to the Opera as we originally envisioned; for that reason, we have orientated

ourselves towards a building of great historical value, directly bound up with the life of Maria Callas.

The Opera Academy is intended to become a place for the acquisition of Experience and Knowledge, especially for the talented who are destined to achieve distinction at an international level, after being equipped for this in a way worthy of the Academies of Europe.

Let me conclude by adding that in this Academy an Archive will be created, with the collaboration of collectors of rare recordings and unpublished archival material concerned with Opera, and more especially with Maria Callas, to which students at the Academy will have access.

Vasso Papantoniou

The Opera Building

ATHENS IS THE ONLY CAPITAL OF A MEMBER-STATE of the European Union, and in the Balkans, which, though being a 'presence' in opera internationally, with Maria Callas as the outstanding figure in that presence, does not possess a building for the performances of the country's sole State Opera Company. The promotion of efforts to house the National Opera is not only a task of significance for the whole of Athens and the whole of Greece, but fills this regrettable gap at the centre of the Hellenic world.

The efforts of the Company for the Opera Building and the 'Maria Callas' Opera Academy have had as a vision the realisation of this major task.

It is within this philosophy that a series of contacts with figures in the world of politics and finance - among them the 'Stavros Niarchos' Foundation - should be seen.



The 'Maria Callas' Academy



THE AIM OF THE 'MARIA CALLAS' ACADEMY OF MUSIC is the training of talented young people who are destined to serve the Art of Music as performers. Their more thorough preparation will make it possible for them to

distinguish themselves and will permit them to lay claim to a place in the international firmament.

The Academy of Music will contribute to a re-definition of Musical Education and to the remediation of Music Studies throughout Greece, without being in competition with the Musicology and Theory Departments of the Greek Universities.

The Opera Academy has in principle an educational structure of Chairs, with a very specific and specialised subject in each case: Opera - Operetta - Master Classes - Direction and Production of Opera - Stage Sets / Costumes - Musical - Chorus Direction - Co-repetition.

The ambition of the Academy of Music, where established teachers from Greece and abroad will work together, is that Music in Greece should acquire a place to gain Experience and Knowledge which will help talented young performers not to lose their way. The Opera Academy will provide teaching to the high standards of international Schools.

Diagram of the Company Plan

SETTING UP OF A COMPANY FOR THE
CREATION OF A NEW BUILDING FOR
THE NATIONAL OPERA AND OF A 'MARIA
CALLAS' ACADEMY

APPLICATION TO THE STATE
AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

RECRUITMENT OF SUPPORTERS

FINDING / STUDY OF SUITABLE SITES

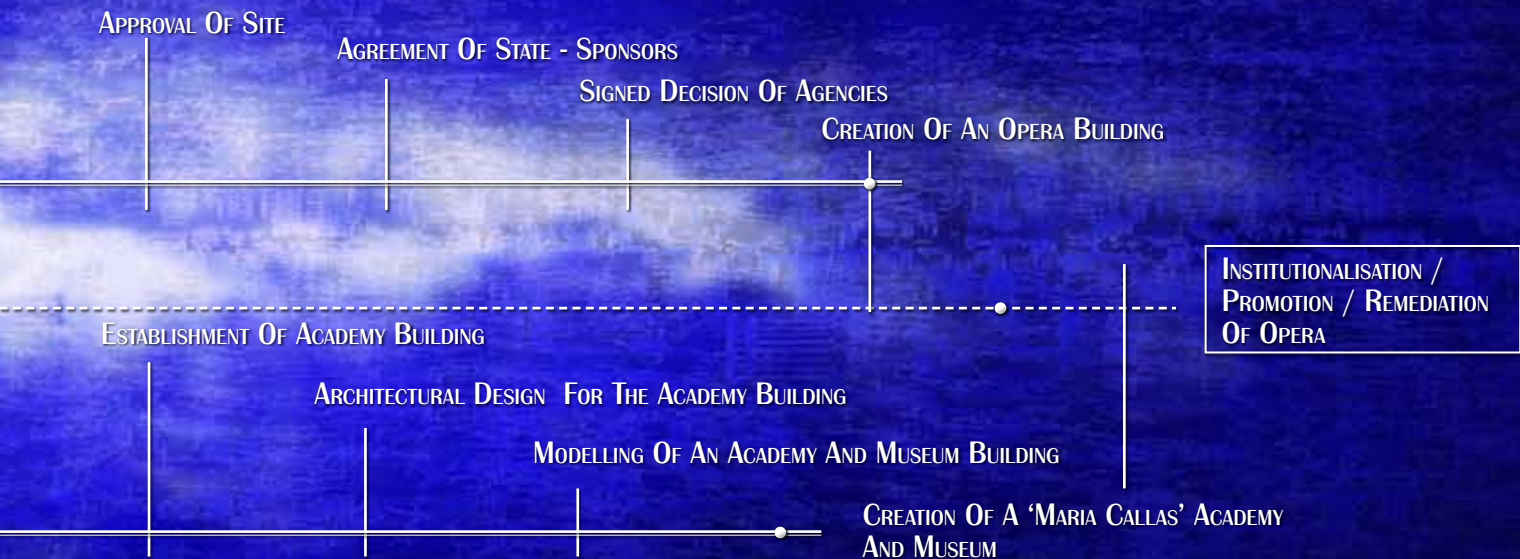
VISUAL PRESENTATION /
ORGANISATION OF PROPOSAL

PROPOSAL TO THE STATE AND
GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

CREATION OF A BODY OF
SUPPORTERS

PROMOTION OF OPERA

FINDING OF SPONSORS



History of the Company (Important Dates)

THE EFFORTS OF THE COMPANY'S PRESIDENT, Ms Vasso Papantoniou, and of the people who have taken to heart her vision and who form the founder members of the Company, the Partners and Friends for the Opera Building and the 'Maria Callas' Opera Academy, have followed an eventful but successful course, covering 11 years.

1997: First public statement of the President, as she dedicated her concert at the Opéra Comique marking the 20th anniversary of the death of Maria Callas to the need for the creation of a new building for the Hellenic Opera and an Opera Academy which would bear the name of Maria Callas.

1999: First visit of Ms Vasso Papantoniou to the 'Stavros

Niarchos' Foundation.

2000: The 'Company for the Creation of a New Building for the Hellenic Opera and of a 'Maria Callas' Academy', civil non-profit company, is set up, consisting initially of 30 partners, who were also the founder members of the Company. Athens is nominated as the place of its registered headquarters, with its offices at 21 Lykavettou St, Kolonaki..

2004: Although the Company started out with the choice of the Cerameicus as a site, on the proposal of the Ministry of Culture it finally adopted the choice of the former Race Course in the Phaleron Delta as the best possible solution. The Cerameicus option was judged to be time and money-consuming.

Visit of the President to the 'Stavros Niarchos' Foundation and submission of the specific designs drawn up by the Company, so that the Foundation's great decision could be taken. This was announced in November 2006.

2005: Visit to the Company's offices, by invitation, of the Mayor of Kallithea, Mr Askounis, to discuss issues of the site.

2006: 2 February. Fresh contacts of Ms Vasso Papantoniou with the 'Stavros Niarchos' Foundation at which her proposal that the Foundation should undertake the funding of the Hellenic Opera and the 'Maria Callas' Opera Academy is discussed and examined. Official announcement of the intentions of the 'Stavros Niarchos' Foundation to finance the

new building of the National Opera together with the National Library.

2007: Tele-conference of the Prime Minister with the representative of the 'Stavros Niarchos' Foundation, which has its headquarters in New York, Andreas Drakopoulos, and signing of a memorandum on the construction of the Opera building.

The vision becomes a reality.

The Company continues towards its second objective, the 'Maria Callas' Opera Academy.

Events



WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF OUR EFFORTS TO DISSEMINATE THE IDEALS of Opera, our Company holds musical events with the motto 'Let's make the Vision Opera'.

20 November 1997: OPÉRA COMIQUE, soprano Vasso Papantoniou with the Cologne Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Alexander Myrat.

14 March 2000: KENSINGTON PALACE, soprano Vasso Papantoniou with harp accompaniment (Maria Bildea), in the presence of Princess Michael of Kent, London.

6 February 2001: ATHENS OPERA, soprano Vasso Papantoniou with the Orchestra of the Hungarian State Opera under the direction of Hans Richter, Athens.

10 July 2002: PRODRAMOS & LENA EMFIETZOGLLOU GALLERY, soprano Vasso Papantoniou with harp accompaniment (Maria Bildea), Athens.

9 December 2003: GALA. On the occasion of the 'Mirrors of Music - Awareness of History' exhibition, the Company gave a dinner in the Ballroom of the Grande

Bretagne Hotel. The Ex Silentio musical ensemble graced the evening.

2 December 2004: ATTIKO METRO. Presentation of the Calendar - Album for 2005 'In the Constellation of Maria Callas - The



origins of a Myth', Concert by the Artis Piano Trio (Multi-Purpose Hall of the Syntagma station, Attiko Metro).

13 May 2006: GALA CONCERT ('LET'S MAKE THE VISION OPERA'). Holding of an important gala concert in the hall of the ETHNIKI INSURANCE Conference Centre (103 - 105 Syngrou Ave, Athens). Appearance of distinguished young Greek opera artists with the Orchestra of Colours under the direction of the conductor Miltos Logiadis, with extracts from works by Italian and French composers (Rossini, Bellini, Verdi, Saint-Saens, etc.).

15 November 2006: CONCERT - DINNER AT THE PIRAEUS YACHT CLUB. Flute and Harp Recital and giving of a Dinner for the Members of the Company at the Piraeus Yacht Club. Appearance of Maria Bildea (harp), Marilena Dori (flute).

25 September 2007: CONCERT IN THE HERODES ATTICUS THEATRE. Our Company held a major cultural event for Maria Callas Year: Gala Concert 'In the Constellation of Maria Callas' at the Herodes Atticus Theatre with artists with an international reputation: Vesselina KASAROVA, Simone KERMES, under the conductor Theodor KOURENTZIS.



Day Conferences - Exhibitions



It HAS BEEN THE INITIATIVE AND INSPIRATION OF THE Company, in its effort to inform the public of the necessity of the creation of a building for the Opera and the setting up of an Academy of Music, to hold significant cultural events, day conferences, exhibitions with primary archival and photographic material on the myth of Maria Callas, exhibitions and auctions of works by some of the most important contemporary Greek and non-Greek creative artists, to produce documentaries, to hold galas, and to draw up designs.

From the Company's multi-faceted activities, we would select, by way of indication, the following:

Day Conferences:

'THE CREATION OF A NEW BUILDING FOR THE HELLENIC OPERA AND OF A 'MARIA CALLAS' ACADEMY OF MUSIC' - Day Conference - National Research Centre, 10 May 2004.

'THE NEED FOR THE SETTING UP OF AN ACADEMY OF MUSIC AND THE LACK OF UNIVERSITY-LEVEL MUSICAL EDUCATION IN GREECE' - Day Conference - National Research Centre, 12 May 2004.

Exhibitions:

'IN THE CONSTELLATION OF MARIA CALLAS - THE ORIGIN OF A MYTH' - exhibition of photographs and personal possessions. 28 April to 20 May 2004, National Research Centre.



'IN THE CONSTELLATION OF MARIA CALLAS - THE ORIGINS OF A MYTH' - exhibition of photographs and personal possessions. 18 May - end of June 2005, Municipal Gallery, Thessaloniki.

EXHIBITION OF COSTUMES - SCULPTURES. The Company, to honour the memory of the world-famous Greek soprano, on the occasion of 'Maria Callas Year', 30 years after her death, held in 2007 a major cultural event, unique in Greece. The exhibition by the renowned Costume Art Designer Nikos Floros was hosted in the Melas Megaron of the National Bank of Greece from 19 September to 19 October 2007.

Art:

'MIRRORS OF MUSIC - AWARENESS OF HISTORY' - Exhibition of Painting and Sculpture by Greek and Non-Greek Artists. 2 December 2003 to 10 January 2004, Sarantopoulos Rolling Mills.

'GREEK ART OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY' - Exhibition. 7 to 13 December 2004, National Research Foundation.

Day Conferences - Exhibitions

In THE EXHIBITION - AUCTION 'MIRRORS OF MUSIC - AWARENESS OF HISTORY' ON 'GREEK ART OF THE TWENTIETH Century', prominent contemporary Greek artists - and a considerable number of non-Greeks - made by their works their own contribution to the Vision of the National Opera building and of the Academy of Music. Among them were Valerio Adami, Yorgos Gyparakis, Vlassis Kaniaris, Nikos Kanarelis, Christos Karas, Racid Khimoune, Yannis Kounellis, Vasilis Kypraios, Pastra, Pavlos, Yorgos Rorris, Takis, Costas Tsoklis, Yannis Phokas, and Pantelis Handris - artists who have played a leading and militant part in the European avant-garde and artists who have shaped the art of today. In parallel with the exhibition at the Sarantopoulos Rolling Mills, an Auction was held, with Manos Stephanidis as curator, at the National Research Foundation (2-12-2003 to 10-1-2004).



Work by Takis

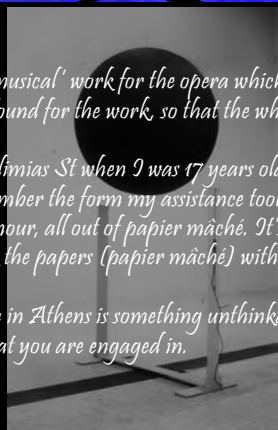
20 - 10 - 2003

My dear Vasso,

I shall be pleased to donate a 'musical' work for the opera which you are endeavouring to create. I hope a buyer will be found for the work, so that the whole sum will be a substantive gift for this opera.

I worked at the Opera in Akadimias St when I was 17 years old as an assistant to the sculptor Kakoulidis. It's funny to remember the form my assistance took. That is, I made artificial shields, swords, and suits of armour, all out of papier mâché. It's even more funny that I didn't even make them; I stuck the papers (papier mâché) with flour paste in Kakoulidis's moulds.

Naturally, the lack of an opera in Athens is something unthinkable. I wish you every success in this important endeavour that you are engaged in.



Yours,
Takis



Work by Yannis Kounellis

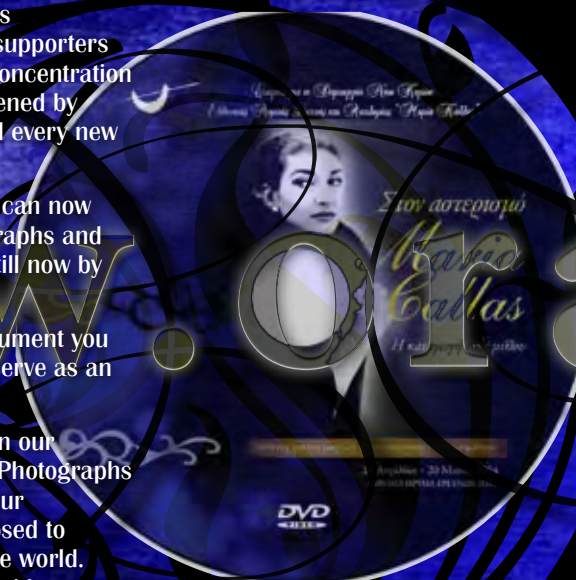
Web-Site

THE MOST IMPORTANT STEP TAKEN BY OUR COMPANY towards the achievement of its objectives has undoubtedly been our communication with supporters of the idea which we serve and the consequent concentration of these. Public opinion in our favour is strengthened by every new acquaintance, every new member, and every new form of support.

Taking advantage of digital technology, everyone can now find extensive information, detailed data, photographs and multi-media on the activities of the Company up till now by simply visiting our web-site.

Here everything not contained in the printed document you hold in your hands, whose purpose is simply to serve as an introduction, can be found.

Names of our partners and of those taking part in our events. Material from our advertising campaign. Photographs and videos of our events. Electronic versions of our publications. Designs for the sites we have proposed to the government. Links with operas throughout the world. The Company's latest news. Developments to do with our objectives. Our forthcoming events.



Oram

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The Company - Board of Management

THE CIVIL NON-PROFIT COMPANY FOR THE OPERA Building and the 'Maria Callas' Opera Academy was set up on 31 July 2000, and consisted initially of 30 partners, who were also the Company's founder members. Athens is nominated as the registered headquarters of the Company, and its offices are situated at 21 Lykavettou St, Kolonaki.

The Company consists, apart from the 30 founder members, of 150 Partners and Friends, who constitute the Body of Regular Members.

At the same time, the endeavours of the Society are supported by Senior Academic Institutions, the Association of Greek Composers, the National Music Council, and leading Greek soloists.

In addition, the Company has collected more than 6,500 signatures of those who support the efforts of the Company in aid of the Opera Building and the 'Maria Callas' Opera Academy.

The composition of the Board, at the time of the present publication, is as follows:

President	VASSO PAPANTONIOU
Vice-President A'	GEORGIOS STEPHANAKIS
Vice-President B'	MARIANNA VARDINOYANNIS
Secretary	VASSILIS VASSILIKOS
Members	ELISAVET PAPAZOI DIMITRIOS TSITOURAS TRIANTAPHYLLOS LYSIMACHOU YANNIS METAXAS

INTERNATIONAL PERSONALITIES / AGENCIES

ARWHEILER HELLENE
DIERBERGER BRUNO
GIUSEPPE DI STEFANO - GIUSEPPE E MONICA
MADALENA GRIPPA
NAAB FRANK
PETER STEIN
TEATRO DI SAN CARLO - PROF. GIOACCHINO LANZA TOMAZI
INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR OPERA & POETRY
DR. GIAFRANCO DE BOSIO

The Company - Founder Members

FOUNDER MEMBERS:

ANGLOS, Yannis
DAVID, Georgios
DELIVORIAS, Angelos
EMFIETZOGLU, Prodomos
FRANGISTA, Marili
GOULANDRI, Niki
KANELLOPOULOS, Andreas
KARAMANGIOLIS, Menelaos
KARATZAS, Constantinos
KARRAS, Christos

KASTANIOTIS, Thanasis
KONTARATOS, Savvas
KOTAMANIDOU, Eva
KOUMANTAREAS, Menis
KOUNTOUROS, Nikos
KYRIAKOPOULOS, Odysseas
KYRIAKOPOULOU, Kaiti
LIVANIS, Ilias
LYSIMACHOU, Triantaphyllos
MAMANGAKIS, Nikos

NIARCHOS, Thanasis
PAPANTONIOU, Vasso
PAPAVASILEIOU, Vassilis
RESVANIS, Leonidas
THEOCHARAKIS, Vassilis
TSOKLIS, Costas
VARDINOYANNIS, Marianna
VASSILIKOS, Vassilis
VERNIKOS, Nikos
VOVOLINI-LASKARIDI, Alexandra

The Company consists, apart from its **30 Founder Members**, of **150 Partners and Friends**, who form the **Body of Regular Members**.

SENIOR ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS WHICH SUPPORT THE ENDEAVOUR

ACADEMY OF ATHENS
NATIONAL TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF FINE ARTS
PANTEIO UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY OF THE AEGEAN
DEMOCRITUS UNIVERSITY OF THRACE

UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS
UNIVERSITY OF CRETE
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS, UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS
ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY OF THESSALONIKI
UNIVERSITY OF PATRA
UNIVERSITY OF IOANNINA

CONSERVATOIRES / INSTITUTIONS

NATIONAL MUSIC COUNCIL, MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL
MUSIC COUNCIL / UNESCO
UNION OF GREEK COMPOSERS

VIGNANELLI SCHOOL, ATHENS
MUSICAL HORIZONS CONSERVATOIRE
NIKOLAOS MANTZAROS CONSERVATOIRE

The Company - Partners

COMITE D'HONNEUR (1997)

pour la création du nouvel Opéra National d'Athènes

Monsieur Dimitris Avramopoulos,
Maire d'Athènes

Monsieur Maurice Bejart

Monsieur Hector Bianciotti,
de l'Académie Française

Monsieur Roland Dumas,
Président du Conseil Constitutionnel

Monsieur Hugues Gall,
Directeur de l'Opéra National de Paris

Monsieur Costa Gavras

Madame Basile Goulandris,

Présidente de la Fondation Basile et Elisa
Goulandris

Monsieur John A. Hadjipateras,
O.B.E. Chairman Greek Shipping Co-
operation Committee-London

Dame Gwyneth Jones

Monsieur Theodoros Karatzas,
Président de l'Association Hellénique de
Banques Gouverneur de la Banque Nationale
de Grèce

Monsieur Yannis Kokkos

Monsieur Jack Lang,

Président de la Commission des Affaires
Étrangères auprès de l'Assemblée

Madame Christa Ludwig

Monsieur Federico Mayor,
Directeur Général de l'Unesco

Monsieur Jean d'Ormesson,
de l'Académie Française

Monsieur Nicola Rescigno

Madame Renata Scotto

Madame Catherine Trautmann,
Ministre de la Culture et de la Communication

PARTNERS

ALOGOSKOUFIS, Yorgos
ARFANIS, Efsthios
CONSTANTINIDIS, Petros
DAVID, Haris & Nadia
KAKOYANNIS, Michalis
KALOMIRI, Domna
KAPIOTOU, Eleni

KESTEKIDOU, Viki
KILAITIS, Dimitrios
KLI, Ersi
KONTOMINAS, Dimitris
KOSKINA, Katerina
KOUMENTAKIS, Yorgos
LASKARIDI, Marilena

LAVIDAS, Thanasis & Vana
LOUKAIDIS, Nikos & Alkistis
LOUKAKOS, Kyriakos
LYKOUREZOS, Alexandros & Zoi
MANIAS, Panos
VASILOUDIS, Ioannis & Antonia
VIDALIS, Efthymios & Maria

Publications



CALENDAR 2004
The Operas of the World, collectors' publication, texts by Katerina Schina, art editing by Vasso Avramopoulou, Livanis Publications.



MIRRORS OF MUSIC - AWARENESS OF HISTORY
Catalogue of the exhibition held by our Company at the Sarantopoulos Rolling Mills, curated by Manos Stephanidis (December 2003 - January 2004), publ. Ephesos, 2003.



OPERA BUILDING AND 'MARIA CALLAS' MUSIC ACADEMY
Proceedings of the Day Conferences organised by the Company at the National Research Foundation, Athens, May 2004.



GREEK ART OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY
Catalogue of works in the Auction held by the Company in December 2004 at the National Research Foundation, Athens, December 2004.



CALENDAR 2005
In the Constellation of Maria Callas - The origins of a myth, with rare photographic and archival material from the life and work of Maria Callas.



IN THE CONSTELLATION OF MARIA CALLAS - THE ORIGINS OF A MYTH
Catalogue of the exhibition of photographs and personal possessions held by our Company in Athens and Thessaloniki, 2004 and 2008, respectively.



'IN THE CONSTELLATION OF MARIA CALLAS' Programme of a Gala Concert for the Maria Callas Year at the Herodes Atticus Theatre on 25 September 2007.



NIKOS FLOROS, SCULPTURED OPERA COSTUMES
Catalogue of the Exhibition / Tribute of our Company in Maria Callas Year, at the Melas Megaron of the National Bank of Greece from 19 September to 19 October 2007.



CALENDAR 2008
In the Constellation of Maria Callas - Sculptured Opera Costumes, publication with the works of Nikos Floros from the Exhibition / Tribute of our Company in Maria Callas Year.

Giuseppe di Stefano Message

S. Maria Hoè, 18 luglio 2003

Dear Vasso Papantoniou

Gentile Vasso Papantoniou,

I have read your letter with great interest and admiration for the will and enthusiasm with which you are attempting to achieve an objective which has my entire support.

First of all because it is necessary today more than ever before that the world of Opera should be preserved, and your efforts to make the Athens Opera a reality can only call forth the acceptance and solidarity of all who love Opera.

And, as you yourself point out, the city where Callas 'was born' has not recognised her by means of some institution, which it ought to do in the case of an astonishing artist who gave so much to the world of music and Bel-Canto. This is an omission which requires correction.

Please accept, nevertheless, these lines as an expression of my participation, and as encouragement for you to continue your admirable initiative.

Cordially

cordialmente

Giuseppe di Stefano

WE BELIEVE THAT YOU WILL AGREE WITH THIS DOCUMENT WHICH YOU HOLD IN YOUR HANDS AND THAT YOU WILL SHARE a vision of the achievement of our aims. In order to achieve the birth of a new era in musical education for Opera in Greece, which has produced so many worthy artists, and to honour the foremost among them, Maria Callas, whose Opera Academy will bear her name, we need your moral and financial support.

Let's make the Academy a vision, now!

Deposit account:

IBAN: GR42 0140 1030 1030 0232 0004 792

SWIFT: CRBAGRAAXX

ALPHA BANK, VENIZELOU 103 Branch

Account Holder: 'Maria Callas' Company for the Creation of a New Building for Greek Opera

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Contents

- 2. PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
- 4. THE OPERA BUILDING
- 5. THE 'MARIA CALLAS' ACADEMY
- 6. DIAGRAM OF THE COMPANY PLAN
- 8. HISTORY OF THE COMPANY
- 10. EVENTS
- 12. DAY CONFERENCES - EXHIBITIONS
- 16. WEB-SITE
- 18. THE COMPANY TODAY
- 21. PUBLICATIONS
- 22. DI STEFANO MESSAGE
- 23. SUPPORT

