

HoustonGrandOpera



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MARIA CALLAS EXHIBIT AT THE WORTHAM

MORE THAN 100 PHOTOGRAPHIC ITEMS ON DISPLAY

HOUSTON– The **Hellenic Parliament Foundation for Parliamentarism and Democracy**, The **General Consulate of Greece, Houston** and The **General Consulate of Italy, Houston** in cooperation with **Houston Grand Opera** present a tribute to one of the most renowned opera singers of the twentieth century- **Maria Callas**, beginning April 11, 2009 and closing on May 11 in the lobby of the Wortham Theater Center in Houston, Texas.

Maria Callas, who died in 1977, was an American-born Greek soprano and one of the most renowned opera singers of the twentieth century. She combined an impressive bel canto technique with great dramatic gifts. An extremely versatile singer, her repertoire ranged from classical opera seria to the bel canto operas of Donizetti, Bellini, and Rossini; further, to the works of Verdi and Puccini; and, in her early career, the music dramas of Wagner. Her remarkable musical and dramatic talents led to her being hailed as *La Divina*.

The exhibition was first presented in Athens in 2007 on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the singer's death under the title **Maria Callas: Thirty Years Later**. Since then it became the traveling exhibition titled **Maria Callas: A Tribute**, has been shown in the United States in Washington D.C. and most recently Boston.

The exhibit presents a selection of photographs from the archives of the Teatro alla Scala in Milan, the Greek National Theater, the Associated Press, the Hellenistic Literary and Historical Archives, the Benaki Museum in Athens, EMI Classics, the Greek Radio and Television (ERT) Historical Archives, the Arena Theater in Verona, as well as from private collections. The photographs are complemented by small works by Greek Artist Karolos Kambelopoulos and Aspasia Papadoperaki.

The exhibit will be available for viewing when the Wortham Theater Center is open for performances.

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THE HELLENIC PARLIAMENT FOUNDATION
FOR PARLIAMENTARISM AND DEMOCRACY



Consulate General of the
Hellenic Republic



Consolato Generale d'Italia,
Houston

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Since its inception in 1955, Houston Grand Opera has swiftly grown from a small regional organization into an internationally renowned opera company. The company has a reputation for commissioning and producing new works, including 38 world premieres and six American premieres since 1973. In addition to producing and performing world-class opera, HGO contributes to the cultural enrichment of Houston and the nation through a diverse, innovative and balanced program of performances, events, community and education projects that reaches the widest possible public. HGO has toured extensively, including trips to Europe and Asia, and it is the only opera company to have won a Tony, two Grammy awards, and two Emmy awards. HGO's performances are broadcast nationally and internationally over National Public Radio's World of Opera, the WFMT Radio Network, New York City's WQXR, the European Broadcasting Union, and the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.