



Maria Callas

December 2, 1923 - September 16, 1977

Paris, undefined

Maria Callas, New York-born Greek-American soprano and the defining dramatic voice of mid-century opera, died of a heart attack in Paris on September 16, 1977. She was fifty-three. Manhattan childhood, Greek conservatory years, and a career that made bel canto feel like theater rather than museum glass had already turned her into a global name; Paris was the quiet apartment ending after decades of stages that treated every entrance as an event.

Born Maria Anna Cecilia Sofia Kalogeropoulos in New York City on December 2, 1923, she trained in Athens and returned to international houses as a singer who yoked technique to temperament. Norma, Tosca, Lucia, Medea - roles that demanded both vocal architecture and acting risk - became Callas territory. Critics argued over weight of tone and late-career fragility; audiences remembered the absolute concentration of a performer who made tragedy look inevitable rather than ornamental. Recordings and filmed rehearsals keep the argument alive for listeners who never sat in La Scala or the Met.

Private life - Onassis headlines, the press's appetite - often threatened to crowd the music. The art survived the gossip: a century later, "Callas" still means the fusion of voice and drama that later singers measure themselves against whether they admit it or not.

She died in Paris on September 16, 1977. The discs and the legend remain the louder obituaries.

Callas's gift was total commitment - the refusal to separate beautiful sound from dangerous feeling. Notice Nearby records the death date so September 16 keeps a New York-born American-Greek diva on the calendar of

American exits, even though the final address was Paris.

Services

Died in Paris, France, September 16, 1977, of a heart attack. New York-born Greek-American operatic soprano; major bel canto and Verdi interpreter of the mid-twentieth century.

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