

# MARIOFRANGOULIS

## Biographical Note



Mario Frangoulis is a Classical Crossover artist and tenor known in throughout the globe for his powerhouse vocals as well as his charismatic live performances. Billboard calls him, *“Daring and inspiring!”* while Porter Anderson on CNN.com says, *“His world is distilled to pure sound, all voice.”*

Born in Africa and raised in Greece, he studied at London’s Guildhall School of Music and Drama where he was discovered by Sir Cameron Mackintosh who immediately cast him to play Marius in *Les Misérables* in London’s West End and soon after, he was invited by Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber to play the role of Raoul in *Phantom of the Opera* to great critical acclaim.

Mario also in London, in 1996 played the romantic lead Lun Tha in ‘The King and I’ by Rodger’s and Hammerstein and also recorded this incredible musical with legendary American soprano Barbara Cook with the BBC concert orchestra conducted by Wally Harper.

It was during this time, that Mario discovered the operatic side of his voice. As a winner of the Maria Callas scholarship and Pavarotti competition, he found himself on a path to Italy to study with the late tenor Carlo Bergonzi.

Upon the recommendation of one of his mentors, the legendary American mezzo-soprano Marilyn Horne, Mario went to Rome to audition for the acclaimed tenor Alfredo Kraus who was performing with Nicola Rescigno (Maria Callas' favourite conductor). Both were impressed. Mario then became the only private student the late Kraus ever accepted. They traveled throughout the world, with Frangoulis studying and learning while Kraus performed. This intensive training cultivated Mario's solid vocal technique and good high notes, both hallmarks of Kraus' style. He continued to cultivate his vocal skill at the Juilliard School of Music in New York, studying with soprano Dodi Protero, under the guidance of Marilyn Horne.

Mario has performed in a wide range of roles in his career that have utilized his broad and deep skill-set and talent – both as a singer and actor. In the New Millennium he won (out of thousands) the role of Tony in *West Side Story* and performed at Milan's La Scala. He has played a variety of roles like Alfred Drake from Cole Porter's musical *Kiss Me Kate* in the film *De Lovely*, performing the song *So In Love* with international pop icon Lara Fabian, to lead roles in ancient Greek tragedies such as *The Birds* by Aristophanes and epic roles such as Dionysus, Achilles, during the Olympic games held in Athens in 2004 as well as Prometheus in 'Prometheus Bound' performing thus in the legendary theatres such as the ancient theatre of Epidaurus in Greece, Ancient Theatre of Pergamon in Turkey.

His recording career launched when he was discovered by Peter Gelb, the head of Sony Classical, who is now the artistic director of the Metropolitan Opera in New York. Since that time, he has completed over 19 personal recordings and sold over 7 million albums worldwide.

His debut as an international Classical Crossover artist launched in 2002 with the release of *Sometimes I Dream* with a second album *Follow Your Heart* fast on its heels (2002, 2006). Both international albums solidified Mario as a top 3 Classical Crossover Artist on Billboard where he held the #2 and #3 positions with Andrea Bocelli and Josh Groban for over 50 weeks. He is consistently ranked in the top 10 on international charts, and in 2011 was voted *Best Male Classical Crossover Artist* globally, recognizing him as one of the most important artists in the genre.

Mario Frangoulis is known for his refined vocal interpretations, and unique ability to sing in over 5 languages. He combines the classical and contemporary and loves to blend multiple styles (opera, pop, rock, folk, soul/R&B, world). He has performed with world-class artists Sarah Brightman, Placido Domingo, Montserrat Caballé, José Carreras, Liu Huan, Huang Ying, Lara Fabian, Justin Hayward, Klaus Meine and most recently with world renowned soprano Angela Gheorghiu. Mario performed with major orchestras such as the Boston Pops, Chicago Symphony, Dallas Symphony, St.Louis Symphony, Orlando Philharmonic, Tokyo Philharmonic, Novaya Opera of Moscow, Royal Symphony Orchestra and the Philharmonia Orchestra of London and lately the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra.

Theatre Jones said, "*Frangoulis has a simply beautiful voice. But he has more than this. His ability to rivet the adoration of the audience to his every motion was stunning.*"

In late 2012, Mario was invited by Robin Gibb to record the last song he ever wrote, ***Daybreak***, from his epic composition *The Titanic Requiem* recorded in *Air Studios in London with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra*.

In honor of Gibb, Mario performed it for the first time in an emotional concert recorded for public television in the USA with the historic Boston Pops at Symphony Hall with the acclaimed Keith Lockhart conducting. *Mario Frangoulis Live With The Boston Pops*, his 3<sup>rd</sup> Public Television special after *Sometimes I Dream* and *Music Of The Night*, aired in late 2012/early 2013 and has reached over 50M households throughout the USA and Canada airing in prime time in the Top 10 television markets.

In 2015, Mario teamed up with two times oscar nominee and 6-time Grammy winning maestro/arranger and producer Jorge Calandrelli to respond to his fans' plea for a holiday album. The result is a world-class spiritual album – *Tales of Christmas* –recorded at Abbey Road studios, in London with the Philharmonia Orchestra released worldwide in October, 2015 charting in the top 10 of Billboard's Classical charts. Mario's very special guest on his album was his mentor and friend Marilyn Horne.

During the creation and recording of the album, Mario enjoyed over 30 major performances with highlights at New York's Jazz at Lincoln Center, a special piano-voice recital with maestro and pianist Eugene Kohn (Placido Domingo, Andrea Bocelli and Maria Callas' accompanist in her famous "Master Classes" at Juilliard in New York) at the foot of the Acropolis at the Herod Atticus Theatre. From Dallas's sold out performance at Winspear Opera House to a ten thousand seat arena in Budapest and Moscow at the Kremlin Palace, to a charity event for the Homeless Veterans in the USA, where Frangoulis shared the stage with iconic Motown legend Smokey Robinson in St. Louis, where Frangoulis frequently performing.

2016 marked an Asian tour with Sarah Brightman with over 24 concerts in Japan, S. Korea, China and Taiwan and continues with shows in Mexico and his own personal concerts in the US.

In 2017 Frangoulis releases a new Greek duets album "Ark" with George Perris and tours in over 25 cities in Greece and Cyprus as well as Bangkok, Turkey

Tenor Mario Frangoulis completes the summer season with a unique concert "My World" below the Acropolis with one of the worlds most favorable sopranos Angela Gheorghiu and Maestro Eugene Kohn.

Mario then goes on to perform his concerts in Sydney, Australia and a tour in the US and Canada and then Mexico to support the Horatio Alger Association and to present songs from his vast recording repertoire.

Mario Frangoulis is engaged to perform 24 Performance Dates around Europe with Sarah Brightman Christmas Spectacular Show together with famous Group 'Gregorian', bring him to the filming of a Cinema and PBS special "Hymn" with Sarah Brightman which aired in November and December 2018 after a massive success with Brightman on their South American Tour, 16 dates, until till the end of 2018.

2019 Mario Frangoulis released a NEW CD named 'Turquoise Waters- Galazia Limni' where he composed most of the songs and has collaborated with the legendary lyricists Lina Nikolakopoulou and Aris Davarakis. The album is an instant 'hit' and loved by all his audiences across the world.

In April 2019 Mario Frangoulis made his debut at the historic and very prestigious Carnegie Hall where he performed Classical Songs from 'The Land of Smiles' by Franz Lehár as well as Granada by Augustín Lara as well as other songs by Francesco Paolo Tosti. Mario made one of his dreams come true by performing in this incredible space and made a grand tribute to his mentor, the great American mezzo-soprano Marilyn Horne.

In April 2019, tenor Mario Frangoulis is engaged to perform his first solo concert at Sala Palatuloui in Bucharest, Romania with the Bucharest Symphony Orchestra. His guest was Romanian star soprano Cellia Costea.

ROLEX in collaboration with Rolex Awards for Enterprise 2019 selected Mario Frangoulis to be their ambassador and main presenter of all major international documentaries that have been selected and awarded in 2019.

2019-2020 Presentation of duets with Mario Frangoulis and Sarah Brightman in an HD presentation of a film shooting in Füssen in Bavaria, performing duets which include Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber's The Phantom Of The Opera.

September 2019 Mario Frangoulis released his NEW CD based on the American Songbook Repertoire called 'P.S. I Love You', a great live recording from the Athens Megaron Concert Hall together with a Big Band.

October 2020 Mario Frangoulis performed with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra on a tribute to great Hollywood producer and composer Jorge Calandrelli, in which performance he conducted. This was a major concert of importance, since this concert presented the 100 years of the VSO.

2021 DVD & CD NEW Release 'BLUE SKIES- An American Songbook'. A 20 minute documentary will be released on Comcast.TV in New York and Canada plus Amazon Prime.

Frangoulis is beloved by his supporters and fans not only because of his vocal talent, but also because of who he is as a human being. Throughout his 25+ years on stage, he has been unwavering in his life-long commitment to humanitarian causes, especially those that pertain to the protection of children. He is an International Ambassador for the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans in the United States and Canada, and Ambassador of Peace for Nobel Peace Prize Winner Betty Williams' World Centers of Compassion for Children International in Europe.

The list of charities and philanthropic initiatives he has supported over the years is long, and include the Jose Carreras Leukemia Foundation, Give US Your Poor, The Jericho Project, the Dalai Lama Center for Peace, Prince Charles of England's Charities, UNESCO and many more.

Mario Frangoulis is a Goodwill Ambassador for UNESCO in Greece and also an International Ambassador for the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans to promote Education in the United States and Canada.

As Mario says, *"Ultimately, I believe that our lives and purpose should be about preserving what is good in this world – striving for peace and compassion – and doing this through music and an undying commitment to love. You have to show your personality, your character, and most of all your truth. You have to express the hopes of your soul, and that's what my music is about. It's simply about what it means to be human... I of course want to be remembered as a talented artist, but most of all, I want to be remembered as a human being who did his part to make this world a better place."*

[www.mariofrangoulis.com](http://www.mariofrangoulis.com) / [www.facebook.com/mariofrangoulis/](https://www.facebook.com/mariofrangoulis/) Instagram: @mariofrangoulis

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#### PRESS ON MARIO FRANGOULIS

*Billboard* calls him *"Daring and Inspiring"*

*"Can he sing his way to that mountaintop? Yes... You bask in the glistening dynamics and tonal control he brings to his vocals."*

*Porter Anderson, CNN.com*

*"His world is distilled to pure sound, all voice."*

Columnist [Liz Smith in 'DAILY NEWS'](#) hailed Mario Frangoulis album 'Sometimes I Dream' as "a dream trip," adding, "Move over, Andrea Bocelli!"

*CNN.com*

*"Frangoulis has a simply beautiful voice. But he has more than this. His ability to rivet the adoration of the audience to his every motion was stunning."*

*Theatre Jones*

*All Music Guide*

*"A veteran stage performer well versed in everything from classical opera to popular musical theater...an extraordinary artist."*

[Broadwayworld.com](#) (review for Jazz @ Lincoln Center concert:

*"It is Difficult to categorize Mario Frangouli, but his powerful voice, musical intelligence and extraordinary range are truly remarkable,*

*and his infectious charm and energy make his performance something magical"*