MARIA CALLAS - Lesson Plan

1. CADRE

Title	LESSON PLAN
Subject	Maria Callas - A Greek Woman Who Breathed Life into Opera
Grade Level	Upper Primary - Lower Secondary School, ages 12-14 (our project suggests 11-15)
Duration	1 or 2 teaching periods
Subject area	History, Music, Theatre, Skills Workshops / Cross-curricular approach: Music -Theatre - History

Subsections:

• **Opera, Ancient Tragedy, and Callas's Dramatic Reinvention**
(how she transformed opera performance by bringing the emotional depth of ancient Greek tragedy into modern staging)

• **A Powerful Female Persona: Influence on Greek and Global Culture**
(how her strong, complex personality reshaped ideas about women in art and public life)

• **Discipline, Passion, and Artistic Innovation**
(how her intense character and work ethic led to new standards in both vocal performance and acting in opera)

2. OBJECTIVES

Cognitive Objectives	Emotional Objectives	Social Objectives
• Students will be able to: • learn about the history of opera and its relationship with ancient tragedy • understand the importance of Maria Callas in the development of opera	• recognize and express emotions through art • understand the concepts of sacrifice, love, and loneliness	• develop cooperation through group activities • strengthen empathy through identification with heroines

Skills

• creativity
• dramatization
• character comparison

MARIA CALLAS - Lesson Plan

3. TEACHING ORGANIZATION

METHODS

- cooperative learning
- inquiry-based learning
- dramatization
- creative expression: diary, interviews, podcast, role play

4. LESSON STRUCTURE

TOPIC

What is opera? Who is Maria Kallas

Introduction / Starting Point

The teacher can choose one of these videos to introduce the beginning of opera and its relation to ancient theatre

Video (the students will attend ten minutes video)

- Βίντεο Bing
- Η γέννηση της όπερας – OperaBox
- A Quick History of Opera (In 10 minutes!)

Discussion with students - Exploring their knowledge (2 minutes)

- What does this remind you of? Theatre or music?
- Do you know anything about ancient Greek Theatre?
- Do you know any opera play?
- Do you want to watch a scene of an opera performance?

Watching a real Opera (3 minutes)

- La Traviata: "Libiamo, ne' lieti calici"

Questions - discussion (2 minutes)

- What did you feel while listening to the music
- What do you imagine is happening

MARIA CALLAS - Lesson Plan

4. LESSON STRUCTURE

Further Discussion - Connection with ancient tragedy (3 minutes), optional video(6 minutes) :

Topics you can discuss...
- the idea of storytelling through music
- the role of emotion
- tragic heroes in ancient theatre
- An Introduction to Greek Tragedy | National Theatre

5. ACTIVITIES

1. What I see - what I hear - what I feel

This activity is based on the opera excerpt.
Students complete three columns (we can give this in photocopies - 2 minutes):
- What I see: stage, costumes
- What I hear: voice, music
- What I feel: emotion

2. Short experiment: Speak vs Sing (5 minutes)

Two students say the same phrase:
- normally, as spoken speech (for example I feel alone, disappointed and desparate)
- in a singing voice (we use the orchestra piece of la traviata La Traviata, Act I: Brindisi (Instrumental Version)

Feedback:
- Which version touched you more? Why?

Connection: Camerata and ancient tragedy, based on the excerpt from ancient theatre and the notes on opera.

3. Become an ancient tragedian (5 minutes)

In small groups, students will take a simple sentence, such as “I love you” or “I am leaving” and perform it:
- as ancient drama (narration, acting)
- as opera (we use the orchestra piece of la traviata La Traviata, Act I: Brindisi (Instrumental Version)

❖ **Aim:** Experiential understanding of the birth of opera. First contact with the idea of “emotion in opera.”

MARIA CALLAS - Lesson Plan

5. ACTIVITIES

Presentation of The story of Maria Callas (5 minutes)

- Powerpoint presentation /The Eternal Voice of La Divina - NotebookLM
- Observation: images of Callas in different roles

Questions - Discussion - Deeper Exploration (3 minutes)

- What do you see in her face?
- Is she only a singer or is she also an actress?

Connection: Callas as a "tragic heroine." - podcast (10 minutes)

- The Eternal Voice of La Divina - NotebookLM

6. OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Quiz

The Evolution of Opera: History, Performance, and Architecture - NotebookLM

Mindmap

The Evolution of Opera: History, Performance, and Architecture - NotebookLM





