



## **MARIA ANTONAKOS** **OPUS Philanthropic Strategies Incorporated**

Maria Antonakos is the founder and chief strategist for OPUS Philanthropic Strategies, a boutique consulting firm dedicated to advancing best practices in philanthropy for individuals, families, foundations and organizations.

Prior to establishing OPUS, Maria was the Senior Director of Philanthropic Services for The Canadian Women's Foundation where she led the foundation's philanthropic and major gifts programmes and helped established Women Play BIG, an ongoing national think-tank for women philanthropists. In 2008 Women Play BIG will feature Doris Buffett as the keynote speaker.

From 1999-2002, she was the Capital Campaign Manager for the \$20 million project to renovate Roy Thomson Hall. In her early career, Maria worked with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Orchestras Canada and The Boris Brott Festival. She has led workshops for City of Toronto cultural organizations in fundraising, strategic planning, board governance and marketing and has taught fundraising at Humber College.

In September 2008 will be launching a course in strategic philanthropy for senior commerce students at the DeGroote School of Business.

Maria is also a singer and composer. She has produced two CDs, **four corners no walls** and **Mystras, Siren Songs of the Mediterranean** both released by Marquis/EMI Music in Canada, the US and Europe, She has several music videos and was featured in the documentary series Women in Music on Bravo! A graduate from the University of Toronto's Faculty of Music, Maria continued post-graduate work at New York University and The Juilliard School.

In addition to her passion for philanthropy, business, the arts and languages, Maria has run the Marine Corp Marathon in Washington DC twice - the ultimate test in persistence, she is proud to have crossed the finish line at mile 26.2 each time!

Maria lives in Dundas, Ontario with her husband Dr. Harald Stover, a professor of chemistry at McMaster University.