



# Smyrneika: Songs of the Greek Asia Minor Refugees

*featuring*

**Sophia Bilides**

on vocals, santouri, zilia

**Mal Barsamian**

on outi, kythara

**Mike Gregian**

on doumbeleki

**Saturday March 24, 2012**

8:00 p.m. at the

Park Visitor Center Theatre



Sophia Bilides. Photo credit: Susan Wilson

Join us as we celebrate Women's Month and Greek Independence Day with a concert on March 24th. Sophia Bilides is considered "the foremost practitioner of the Greek singing style known as *Smyrneika*" (Boston Globe), the cabaret song tradition of the Greek Asia Minor refugees of the 1930s and '40s. She provides translations and song contexts to help bring audiences into the intimate atmosphere of an Anatolian cafe-aman, where song lyrics, set to richly intricate melodies, Middle Eastern modes, and sensual rhythms, voice the universal themes of nostalgia for lost homelands, endurance, love in all its guises, and the celebration of life.

**FREE  
EVENT!**

Program is part of the *Lowell Folklife Series* sponsored by Lowell National Historical Park

For more info visit [www.nps/lowe](http://www.nps/lowe) or Call Maggie Holtzberg at 978-275-1719

