

Lena Horne

THE 41ST STAMP IN THE Black Heritage series honors legendary performer and civil rights activist Lena Horne (1917–2010).

Horne began her career as a dancer at Harlem's Cotton Club and later was a featured vocalist with touring orchestras. Racial discrimination from audiences, hotel and venue managers, and others was so rampant that she stopped touring and, in 1941, moved to Hollywood. A year later, she signed a contract with MGM—the first black actress to sign a long-term contract with a film studio since 1915. Her most famous movie roles were in *Cabin in the Sky* and *Stormy Weather*, both released in 1943.

After World War II, Horne worked on behalf of Japanese Americans who were facing discriminatory housing policies and joined in efforts to pass anti-lynching legislation. During the 1960s, Horne continued her high-profile work for civil rights, performing at rallies in the South, supporting the work of the National Council for Negro Women, and participating in the 1963 March on Washington.

Horne's honors include a Tony Award for her one-woman Broadway show, *Lena Horne: The Lady and Her Music*; three Grammy Awards; the NAACP Spingarn Medal; and the Actors Equity Paul Robeson Award. She was a Kennedy Center Honors recipient in 1984, and her name is on the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame at the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site.

Art director Ethel Kessler designed the stamp with an original black-and-white photograph taken by Christian Steiner in the 1980s. Kristen Monthei colorized the photo.



background: NBC/NBCU Photo Bank via Getty Images

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BLACK HERITAGE

Celebrating Lena Horne



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE
Lena Horne
JANUARY 30, 2018 • NEW YORK, NY 10199





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Christian Steiner

Stamp Photographer

CLOSING REMARKS

Gail Lumet Buckley

Author and Daughter of Lena Horne

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THE 41ST STAMP IN THE BLACK HERITAGE® SERIES

**THE 41ST STAMP IN THE
BLACK HERITAGE SERIES
HONORS LEGENDARY
PERFORMER AND CIVIL
RIGHTS ACTIVIST
LENA HORNE (1917-2010).**

After performing as a vocalist for touring orchestras, Horne headed for Hollywood, signing a long-term contract with MGM in 1942—the first for a black actress since 1915—stipulating that she would not be asked to play stereotypical roles then available to black actors.

In the 1960s, her high-profile work for civil rights included performing at rallies in the South, supporting the work of the National Council for Negro Women, and participating in the 1963 March on Washington.

Horne's honors include a Tony Award for her one-woman Broadway show, *Lena Horne: The Lady and Her Music*; three Grammy Awards; and the NAACP Spingarn Medal. She was a Kennedy Center Honors recipient in 1984, and her name is among those on the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame at the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site.



Tuesday, January 30, 2018
10:30 A.M.

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