

# Gregory Hines

FEATURING A 1988 PHOTOGRAPH by Jack Mitchell, the 42nd stamp in the Black Heritage series honors Gregory Hines (1946–2003), whose unique style of tap dancing injected new artistry and excitement into a traditional American form.

Through his award-winning performances on Broadway, Hines evolved his own distinctive, improvisational style of dance. He broke with tap tradition by performing in casual clothing, emphasizing strength over old-fashioned elegance, and smiling only if the tone of the dance made him feel like smiling. He performed riffs much like a jazz drummer, staggering and breaking up the rhythm, changing the tempo in the middle of a dance, or abruptly altering the emotion or mood.

A versatile artist who was never afraid of new challenges, Hines appeared in numerous movies, including comedies, dramas, and horror films. He also recorded a duet that reached number one on the R&B charts, hosted an Emmy-winning television special about tap dancing, and starred in his own sitcom.

Today the legacy of Gregory Hines is most evident in the increasing popularity of tap dancing as an art form. Combining an appreciation for tradition with fearless innovation, Hines gave new generations of dancers their own opportunities to experiment with tap and contribute to its continued evolution.



background: Photo by Jack Mitchell/Getty Images

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# BLACK HERITAGE

*Celebrating Gregory Hines*





FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

**GREGORY  
HINES**

JANUARY 28, 2019 • NEW YORK, NY 10199

# GREGORY HINES

## COMMEMORATIVE FOREVER® STAMP

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE DEDICATION CEREMONY

42<sup>nd</sup> Stamp in the Black Heritage® series

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### PETER NORTON SYMPHONY SPACE

**Peter Jay Sharp Theater**

2537 Broadway at 95<sup>th</sup> Street

New York, NY 10025-6990

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**Barbara Duffy & Tap Dancers**

#### MASTER OF CEREMONIES

**Tony Waag**

Executive / Artistic Director

American Tap Dance Foundation

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New York City Police Department

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Tap Dancer / Actor / Choreographer

#### REMARKS / PERFORMANCE

**Chloe & Maud Arnold**

Tap Dancers / Choreographers /

Actresses / Producers / Directors

#### REMARKS

**Jason Samuels Smith**

Jazz Tap Dancer /

Choreographer

**Dianne Walker**

Tap Dancer / Actress

**Maurice Hines**

Tap Dancer / Choreographer /

Singer / Actor / Director

**Daria Hines**

Daughter of Gregory Hines





# GREGORY

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## THE 42<sup>ND</sup> STAMP IN THE BLACK HERITAGE<sup>®</sup> SERIES

A versatile performer who danced, acted, and sang on Broadway, on television, and in movies, Gregory Hines (1946–2003) was known above all for reviving and even revolutionizing tap dancing. With his intense, offbeat style, which he liked to call “improvography,” Hines modernized tap by giving it newly expanded physical and emotional freedoms that would allow it to thrive in the new millennium.

Hines was nominated for Tony Awards in the 1970s for his performances in three Broadway musicals—*Eubie!*, *Comin’ Uptown*, and *Sophisticated Ladies*—and won a Tony Award in 1992 for Best Actor in a Musical, *Jelly’s Last Jam*. In the 1980s, he danced in movies such as *The Cotton Club*, *White Nights*, and *Tap*. Combining an appreciation for tradition with fearless innovation, Hines gave new generations of dancers their own opportunities to experiment with tap and to contribute to its continued evolution.

The stamp, designed by art director, Derry Noyes, features a 1988 photograph of Hines by Jack Mitchell.



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# GREGORY HINES

COMMEMORATIVE FOREVER<sup>®</sup> STAMP

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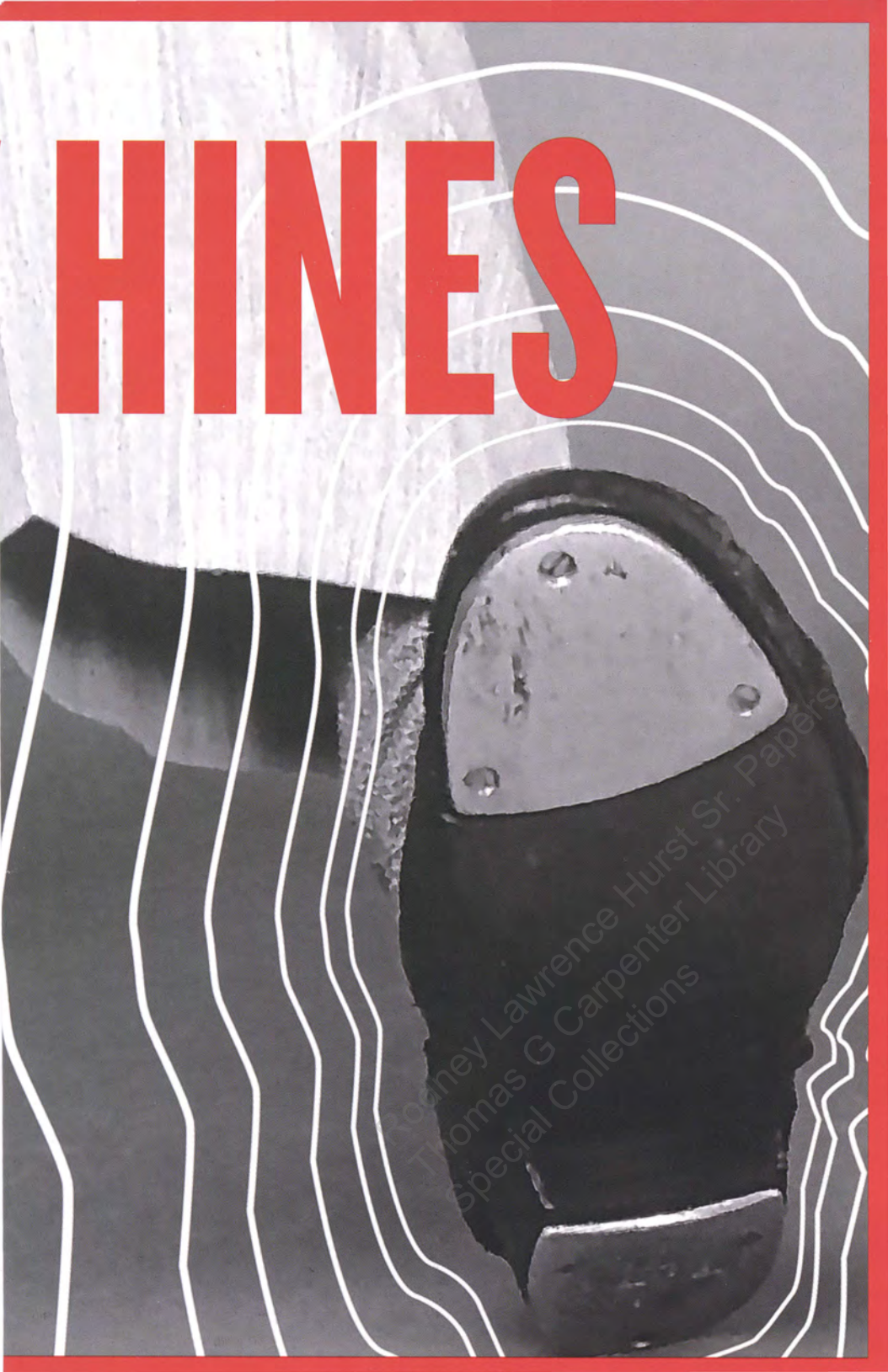
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COMMEMORATIVE FOREVER® STAMP, 42<sup>ND</sup> IN THE BLACK HERITAGE® SERIES

MONDAY, JANUARY 28, 2019 | 11 A.M.

PETER NORTON SYMPHONY SPACE

2537 BROADWAY AT 95<sup>TH</sup> STREET

NEW YORK, NY 10025-6990

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