

A black and white portrait of Lena Mary Calhoun Horne. She is shown from the chest up, smiling warmly at the camera. Her dark hair is styled in a classic, wavy bob. She is wearing large, ornate earrings and a light-colored, possibly lace-trimmed dress. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light gray.

Lena Mary Calhoun Horne

(June 30, 1917 – May 9, 2010)

African-American singer, actress,
civil rights activist and dancer.

The Brooklyn-born entertainer was
the first black performer to be signed
to a long-term contract by a major
Hollywood studio and who went on to
achieve international fame as a singer.

Horne was a mantle of African-American beau-
ty who as a versatile and iconic
performer made her name from a variety
of entertainment platforms, particularly
touring extensively throughout Southern
night clubs, despite the racism that plagued
her era. She was awarded four Grammy
awards.