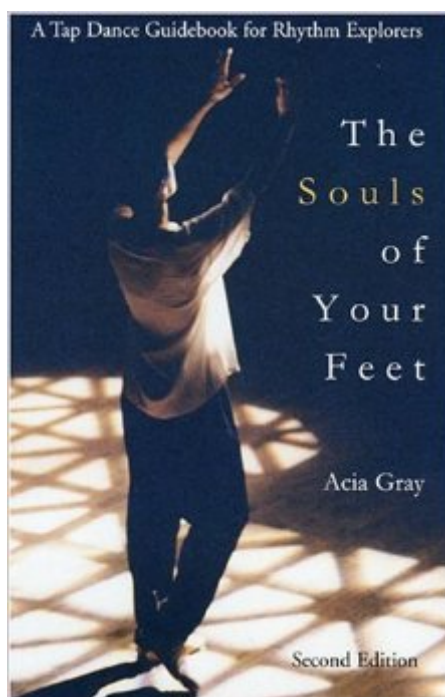


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# The Souls Of Your Feet: A Tap Dance Guidebook For Rhythm Explorers



## Synopsis

The Souls of Your Feet is a comprehensive guide to the art and language of tap dance. Complete with basic technique and creative variations, this guidebook shows the beginning dancer how to build a strong foundation in this wonderful American artform as well as expand the experienced dancer's choreographic and improvisational creativity. Traditional tap dance figures and choruses to include The B.S. Chorus and The Shim Sham Shimmy are some of many basic structures covered in this guidebook. Numerous references are made to the legends of tap dance including Charles "Honi" Coles, Brenda Bufalino, Jimmy Slyde, Sarah Petonio, Savion Glover and many others securing the artform to its historical roots.

## Book Information

Paperback: 192 pages

Publisher: Grand Weaver's Publishing; 1 edition (December 31, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0966744500

ISBN-13: 978-0966744507

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.6 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (11 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #309,290 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #8 in Â Books > Arts & Photography > Performing Arts > Dance > Popular #8 in Â Books > Arts & Photography > Performing Arts > Dance > Tap #340 in Â Books > Humor & Entertainment > Humor > Comedy

## Customer Reviews

"The Souls of Your Feet" is a great reference for anyone interested in tap dance. I researched a lot of tap terminology for my book "The Tap Dance Dictionary" and I thought I had covered most of it, but Ms. Gray has surprised me with many new and unusual steps (along with the more common.) I've thoroughly enjoyed studying her book. Besides all of the information on tap steps and rhythms, her tips on floors, shoes, teachers, videos, and books will be especially helpful to both those starting out, as well as those who have tapped a long time. I highly recommend this wonderful resource of tap information.

This book is a must for beginners. Ms. Gray's definitions make sense. The concepts if taught from the beginning, carry the dancer easily into the advanced levels. Those who do not like the book are

struggling with their own closed minds not any shortcomings on Ms. Gray's part. If we all had learned tap with these unique concepts so many bad habits would not have to be "re-learned." I have taught tap for 19 years and all my students have adapted the curriculum provided in "The Souls of Your Feet." The historical descriptions and resource information have proven invaluable as well. 2013 - Just required my dancers to buy for summer study. This book continues to inspire. Thanks Acia for sharing your love of tap.

Thanks to Acia M. Gray for writing a book that's not just somebody else's steps! I was so excited to see that this book gives tools to make up your own stuff. I will say that some of the terminology is different than I'm used to but it clarifies tap dance in a way that makes sense and lays down a foundation on which to play! An intelligent guide to the "language" of rhythm with your feet.

This book takes the simplest of tap steps and words it so strangely that it takes you 20 minutes to figure out that she's trying to say "flap heel heel brush heel toe heel". The index of terms are listed by number of sounds rather than alphabetically, so as your referring back to the index, which you must do often because her terminology is so different, it can be hard to find what your looking for. I feel certain, if a beginner picked up this book to learn a little more about the art of tap dance, they would most certainly become so frustrated, they'd probably decide to forget about tapping all together. I did, however, require my students to read this book for their college advanced tap class, because I do think that they should be exposed to different teaching styles. After reading it, they were asked to review it. It was definitely the least favorite book of the semester (They were required to read four books). Not one single student gave it a good review.

This book is a gift to the tap community and the community at large. It explores rhythm, musicality, the body, and the passion behind tap dancing in an extremely meaningful way. The steps and explanations are laid out in a very organized way so that each lesson builds on the previous. This book provides new insight on traditional steps and techniques while inspiring the dancer, no matter what level. It discusses many aspects of tap that had previously gone undocumented and is a treasure for any teacher, student or (as the book says) rhythm explorer.

This book helped me a LOT, I have to admit to that. But experienced tap dancers beware: looking at words that describe steps can be extremely frustrating when you can't visually see them done. Acia has written some wonderful pearls of wisdom within this book, and I highly recommend it to any

serious tap dancer

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