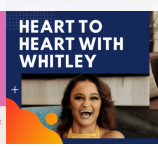


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# Rising Stars: Meet Gregory Hawkins of Severn, Maryland



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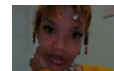


Today we'd like to introduce you to Gregory Hawkins

**Gregory, we appreciate you taking the time to share your story with us today. Where does your story begin?**

Growing up, I was not only influenced by my older brother's singing but also by the powerful sounds of gospel music. I'd sit in church, captivated by the way the drums and organ would fill the room, creating an atmosphere that moved people, physically and spiritually. The choir's harmonies would hit something deep inside of me, and I knew then that music had a unique power to

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But despite these strong influences, I found myself wandering down the wrong paths for a while. I got distracted and lost sight of the music that was always there, waiting for me. Every time I felt disconnected, though, it was the sound of a song, the rhythm of drums, or the hum of an organ that reminded me where I belonged. No matter how far I strayed, I always came back to music.

By 2016, I had found my way back for good, releasing my debut single, "The Swallows." The excitement from my DMV fan base reassured me that I was finally on the right path. Performing at venues like the Apollo and opening for Harold Melvin's Bluenotes in 2018 felt like the culmination of everything I had been influenced by—my brother, gospel music, and the soulful sounds I grew up with.

Music became my way of sharing my observations, hopes, and trials, blending neo-soul, jazz, pop, R&B, and gospel into a sound that spoke to my experiences. I feel that every note I sing is a testament to the journey that started with listening to my brother and sitting in church, immersed in the beauty of sound.

**Would you say it's been a smooth road, and if not what are some of the biggest challenges you've faced along the way?**

Life became full of distractions as I juggled multiple responsibilities. I was working a full-time job in the construction industry while also barbering in the evenings and on weekends, trying to make ends meet and provide for myself and my future. The demands of everyday life took over, leaving little room for my passion. I lost focus, caught up in the grind of working long hours and the constant hustle to make life happen. My dreams took a backseat, and I felt like I was drifting off course, unsure of how to get back on track. But as life would have it, God stepped in and sent me a beautiful wife and a wonderful family who became my greatest source of support. They saw potential in me even when I was too distracted to see it myself. My wife, especially, creates an atmosphere of love and encouragement that allows me to carve out time for my music, helping me reconnect with my purpose. Her belief in me inspires me to let the world see my talent, and for that, I am truly grateful.

**Alright, so let's switch gears a bit and talk business. What should we know about your work?**

I love the way R&B allows me to express deep emotions and connect with people on a personal level. There's something special about blending smooth sounds with heartfelt lyrics, and when I perform, I feel like I'm sharing a piece of myself with the audience. It's not just about the music, but about the stories and emotions behind it, and how it resonates with everyone listening.

My music stands out because I write, produce, and perform every part of it. It's an authentic expression of who I am. The

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My uniqueness comes from the distinct tones and rhythms I create, which give my songs a unique sound. My lyrics are also deeply personal, crafted to tell a story or convey a message that speaks to everyone, no matter their background.

I'm incredibly proud of the journey my music has taken and how it continues to grow. One of my proudest moments is releasing my first video for my original song, Get Personal. It's a song that truly captures my style and the message I want to share with the world, and seeing it come to life on screen has been a milestone for me.

I have a huge opportunity coming up on January 4, 2025, where I'll be performing at the Bowie Center for Performing Arts. It's an exciting moment for me, and I'm looking forward to sharing my music with a wider audience. It's a chance to show people what sets my sound apart and how my music can inspire and connect with everyone.

I want people to know that there's always a message in my music. Whether it's about love, life, or the struggles we all face, my songs aim to inspire and uplift. I believe music should speak to the soul, and my goal is to create something that resonates with each person, letting them know they're not alone in their journey.

### What do you like best about our city? What do you like least?

What I Like Best About Baltimore:

I love Baltimore for its vibrant arts scene, amazing restaurants, and the deep, soulful people who live here. The city is full of creativity—there are beautiful murals, lively performances, and galleries featuring local artists.

The food scene is also fantastic, with a wide variety of dishes that show off the city's unique culture. From delicious crab cakes to innovative new flavors, there's something for everyone to enjoy, and it often brings people together.

What really stands out are the people. They are warm and resilient, with rich stories to tell. Talking to locals often reveals their wisdom and passion, making the city feel like a close-knit community.

What I Like Least About Baltimore:

On the downside, I feel that not everyone sees the potential in Baltimore. Some people focus on the city's problems instead of its possibilities. This can make it hard for those of us who want to help the city grow and improve.

I believe we need to change this way of thinking. By working together and believing in Baltimore, we can unlock its true potential. The city has so much to offer, and with a little more hope and teamwork, it can really shine.

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- Tickets for the up-coming show at the Bowie Center for Performing Arts range in price from \$30-\$55

**Contact Info:**

- Website: <https://www.sirgreggo.com>

