

Thomas A. Dorsey Collection
Papers, 1932-1982

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The Thomas A. Dorsey Collection numbers 12 manuscript boxes of biographical data; correspondence; sheet music; articles and clippings; records, tapes, and videotapes; programs; photographs; memorabilia; printed material; awards; material pertaining to Clayton Hannah.

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Thomas A. Dorsey
(1899-1993)

Thomas A. Dorsey was born in Villa Rica, Georgia in 1899. He was the son of Thomas M. Dorsey, Sr., a Baptist preacher and Etta Dorsey. As a child prodigy, Dorsey mastered several instruments in his childhood. Dorsey's early influence was blues great Bessie Smith.

In the late 1900's he joined the Ma Rainey Band, and a few years later became her musical director. As "Georgia Tom," he had an extensive blues career.

Dorsey was playing in wine rooms and buffet flats when he was converted at the National Baptist Convention in Chicago in 1921, after hearing the gospel song, "I Do, Don't You?." After his conversion, Dorsey became inspired to write gospel music. He published his first gospel song, "If You Were My Savior," in 1922. In 1938, he wrote his great masterpiece, "Precious Lord, Take My Hand." Considered the most widely sung gospel song in the world, it has been translated into more than twenty languages.

It is estimated that Dorsey has written over some 400 gospel songs. Considered the oldest pioneer of gospel music, Dorsey is known as the "Father of Gospel."

Dorsey, Thomas A., 1899-1993.
Papers, 1932-1982.

Box 1

f. 1--Biographical Data

Correspondence

2--Allen-Harell--1932-1982

3--Jackson-Ward--1932-1982

4--Unidentifiable--1932-1982

Sheet Music

5--"A Crown for Me"

6--"A Little Talk with Jesus"

7--"All Alone"

8--"An Angel Spoke to Me Last Night"

9--"Angels Keep Watching Over Me"

10--"Beautiful Tomorrow"

11--"Behold the Man of Galilee"

12--"Be Thou Near Me All the Way"

13--"Changes"

14--"Consideration"

15--"Come Unto Me"

16--"Come Ye That Love the Lord"

17--"Count Your Blessings From the Lord Each Day"

18--"Diamonds From the Crown of the Lord"

19--"Did It Happen to You Like It Happened to Me"

20--"Did You Ever Say to Yourself I Love Jesus"

21--"Does Anybody Here Know My Jesus"

22--"Does It Mean Anything To You?"

23--"Don't Forget the Name of the Lord"

24--"Don't You Need My Savior Too"

25--"Down By the Side of the River"

26--"Everyday Will Be Sunday By and By" (Original)

27--"Everyday Will Be Sunday By and By"

28--"Forgive Me Lord and Try Me One More Time"

29--"Forgive My Sins, Forget, and Make Me Whole"

30--"Get Ready and Serve the Lord"

31--"Give Me a Voice to Sing Thy Praise"

32--"Glory for Me"

33--"God Be With You"

34--"Gospel Medley"

35--"He is Risen for He's Living In My Soul"

36--"He is the Same Today"

37--"He Has Gone to Prepare a Place for Me"

38--"He'll Know Me Over Yonder"

39--"He's All I Need"

40--"He's the Joy of My Salvation"

41--"He Never Will Leave Me"

42--"Hide Me In Thy Bosom"

43--"Hold Me (Please Don't Let Me Go)"

44--"How About You?"

45--"How Many Times"

46--"How Much More of Life's Burden Can We Bear?"

47--"I am a Pilgrim, I am a Stranger"

48--"I am His and He is Mine"

49--"I Can Depend On Jesus, He Can Depend On Me"

50--"I Can't Forget It, Can You"

51--"I Claim Jesus First and That's Enough For Me"

52--"I Don't Know What I'd Do Without the Lord"

53--"I Don't Know What You Think of Jesus"

54--"I Don't Know What I Have To Cry Sometimes"

Box 1 (contd.)

Sheet Music

- f. 55--"I Got Heaven In My View"
- 56--"I Got Jesus In My Soul"
- 57--"I Have A Home"
- 58--"I Know Jesus"
- 59--"I Know My Redeemer Lives"

Box 2

Sheet Music

- f. 1--"I Know It Was the Blood"
- 2--"I May Never Pass This Way Again"
- 3--"I Thank God For My Song"
- 4--"I Thought of God"
- 5--"I Thought on My Way"
- 6--"I Want Jesus on the Road I Travel"
- 7--"I Want to Be More Like Jesus"
- 8--"I Want to Go There"
- 9--"I Want Two Wings to Veil My Face"
- 10--"I Will Arise and Go to Jesus"
- 11--"If I Don't Get There"
- 12--"If Jesus Bore His Cross So Can I"
- 13--"If We Never Needed the Lord Before We Sure Do Need Him Now"
- 14--"If You Meet God In the Morning"
- 15--"If You Sing A Gospel Song"
- 16--"If You Ring the Bell"
- 17--"If You See My Savior"
- 18--"I'll Be Waiting For You At the Beautiful Gate"
- 19--"I'll Never Turn Back"
- 20--"I'll Take Jesus for Mine"
- 21--"I'm a Stranger Don't Drive Me Away"
- 22--"I'm Climbing Up the Rough Side of the Mountain"
- 23--"I'm Getting More Like Jesus"
- 24--"I'm Going to Live the Life I Sing About In My Song"
- 25--"I'm Going to Walk Right in and Make Myself at Home"
- 26--"I'm Going to Follow Jesus All the Way"
- 27--"I'm Goin to Hold on Till Jesus Comes for Me"
- 28--"I'm Goin to Wait Until, My Change Shall Come"
- 29--"I'm Goin to Work Until the Day's Come"
- 30--"I'm In Your Care"
- 31--"I'm Just A Sinner Saved By Grace"
- 32--"I'm Satisfied With Jesus in My Heart"
- 33--"I'm Singing Everyday"
- 34--"I'm On the Battlefield for My Lord"
- 35--"I'm Talking About Jesus"
- 36--"I'm Waiting for Jesus He's Waiting for Me"
- 37--"In the Scheme of Things"
- 38--"Inside the Beautiful Gates"
- 39--"It Just Suits Me"
- 40--"It is Real With Me"
- 41--"It is Thy Servant's Prayer A-men"
- 42--"It's a Highway to Heaven"
- 43--"It's All In the Plan of Salvation"

Box 2 (contd.)

Sheet Music

- f. 44--"It's Jesus With You"
- 45--"It's Not A Shame to Cry Holy to the Lord"
- 46--"Jesus He Brought Me All the Way"
- 47--"Jesus is the Light"
- 48--"Jesus My Comforter"
- 49--"Jesus Never Does A Thing That's Wrong"
- 50--"Jesus Only"
- 51--"Just One Step"
- 52--"Jesus Remembers When Others Forget"
- 53--"Jesus Rose Again"
- 54--"Just A Little While"
- 55--"Keep Me Everyday"
- 56--"Lead Me to the Rock That's Higher Than I"
- 57--"Let Me Understand"
- 58--"Let the Savior Bless Your Soul Right Now"
- 59--"Let Us Go Back to God"
- 60--"Let Us Pray Together"
- 61--"Life Can Be Beautiful"
- 62--"Look on the Brighter Side"
- 63--"Look Up"
- 64--"Lord, Look Down On Me"
- 65--"Maybe It's You and Then It's Me"
- 66--"Makes Me Pray"
- 67--"Makes Me the Servant I Would Like to Be"
- 68--"Meet Me at the Pearly Gate"
- 69--"My Desire"
- 70--"My Faith I Place In Thee"
- 71--"My Mind On Jesus"
- 72--"My Soul Feels Better Right Now"
- 73--"My Soul Shall Live With Jesus"
- 74--"Never Leave Me Alone"
- 75--"Old Time Spirituals"

Box 3

Sheet Music

- f. 1--"O Lord Show Me The Way"
- 2--"Old Ship of Zion"
- 3--"O Who's Goin to Lead Me"
- 4--"Our Father Who Art in Heaven"
- 5--"Remember Me"
- 6--"Right Now"
- 7--"Save Me As I Am"
- 8--"Say A Little Prayer for Me"
- 9--"Search Me Lord"
- 10--"Shake My Mother's Hand for Me"
- 11--"Singing Every-where"
- 12--"Singing In My Soul"
- 13--"Singing My Way to Rest"
- 14--"Singing Tonight"
- 15--"Sleep On Mother"

Box 3 (contd.)

Sheet Music

- f. 16--"Somebody's Knocking At Your Door"
- 17--"Someday I'll Be At Rest"
- 18--"Someday I'm Going Home"
- 19--"Someday, Somewhere"
- 20--"Someday"
- 21--"Some Day I'm Goin to See My Jesus"
- 22--"Something Has Happened to Me"
- 23--"Something New Burning in My Soul"
- 24--"Sometime My Burdens So Hard to Bear"
- 25--"Someway, Somehow, Sometime, Somewhere"
- 26--"Somewhere"
- 27--"Standing Here Wondering Which Way to Go"
- 28--Song Book--"Songs of the Kingdom"
- 29--Song Book--"Songs With a Message"
- 30--"Surely My Jesus Must Be True"
- 31--"Take Me Through, Lord"
- 32--"Take My Hand Precious Lord"
- 33--"Tell Jesus Everything"
- 34--"Thank You All the Days of My Life"
- 35--"That's All That I Can Do"
- 36--"That's Good News"
- 37--"The Day is Past and Gone"
- 38--"The Flag for You and Me"
- 39--"The Lord Is My Sheperd"
- 40--"The Lord Knows Just What I Need"
- 41--"The Little Wooden Church on the Hill"
- 42--"The Lord Will Make a Way Somehow"
- 43--"The Old Ship of Zion"
- 44--"The Savior is Born"
- 45--"There is Something About the Lord Mighty Sweet"
- 46--"There Isn't But One Way to Make It In"
- 47--"There'll Be Peace In the Valley for Me"
- 48--"There's a Better Day Coming Right Here"
- 49--"There's God Some-where"
- 50--"There's An Empty Chair at the Table"
- 51--"This Man, Jesus"
- 52--"Thy Kingdom Come"
- 53--"Today (Evening Song)"
- 54--"Traveling On"
- 55--"Treasures in Heaven"
- 56--"Troubled About My Soul"
- 57--"Use My Heart, Use My Mind, Use My Hands"
- 58--"Walk Close to Me Lord"
- 59--"Walking Up the King's Highway"
- 60--"Want to Go to Heaven When I Die"
- 61--"We Must Work Together"
- 62--"What Could I Do If It Wasn't for the Lord"
- 63--"What the Good Lord's Done for Me"
- 64--"What the World Needs is Jesus Most of All"
- 65--"What Then?"
- 66--"When Day Is Done"
- 67--"When I Can Read Me Title Clear"
- 68--"When I've Done My Best"
- 69--"When I've Sung My Last Song"

Box 3 (contd.)

Sheet Music

- f. 70--"When the Gates Swing Open, Let Me In"
- 71--"When the Last Mile is Finished"
- 72--"When They Crown Him Lord of All"
- 73--"When You Bow in the Evening at the Altar"
- 74--"While He's Passing By"
- 75--"Who Is Willing to Take a Stand for the Lord"
- 76--"Wings Over Jordan"
- 77--"Windows of Heaven"
- 78--"Won't You Come and Go Along"
- 79--"You Can't Go Through This World By Yourself"
- 80--"Your Sins Will Find You Out"

Box 4

Articles & Clippings and Printed Material About

- f. 1--Articles & Clippings About--1932-1982
- 2--Articles & Clippings About--1932-1982
- 3--Printed Material About

Box 5

Records, Tapes, and Videotapes

- f. 1--Cassette Tape--Generally Speaking
- 2--Cassette Tape--Thomas Dorsey (Self-Recording)
- 3--Videotape--Gospel Music Demo
- 4--Videotape--Gospel Music
- 5--Videotape--20/20 Program--"A Joyful Noise"
- 6--Videotape--Thomas Dorsey Interview
- 7--Film--Miscellaneous
- 8--Record--Dr. Thomas Dorsey Delivers Masterpiece to Houston Choral Union
with Precious Lord
- 9--Record--One More Time Together--Live in Washington, D.C. (Thomas A. Dorsey,
Clayton Hannah)
- 10--" " " "

Box 6

Programs

- f. 1--Programs--1961-1981
- 2--Programs--1981-1982
- 3--Programs--1982
- 4--Programs--Miscellaneous

Box 7

Photographs and Memorabilia

- f. 1--Photographs
- 2--Memorabilia

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Box 8

Awards

Box 9

Collection--Miscellaneous Awards

Box 10

Collection--Miscellaneous Awards

Box 11

Collection--Books, Magazines, Brochures, Records, Form Letters, Programs, Etc.

- f. 1--Books, Magazines, Brochures
- 2--Books, Magazines, Brochures
- 3--Form Letters
- 4--Programs
- 5--Records
- 6--Newspaper Clippings and Articles--1977-1982
- 7--Miscellaneous Photographs
- 8--Miscellaneous Material
- 9--Miscellaneous Material

Box 12

- f. Clayton Hannah Correspondence and Miscellaneous Material
 - 1--Correspondence Regarding Dorsey--1979-1982--A-G
 - 2--Correspondence Regarding Dorsey--1979-1982--H-W
 - 3--Photographs
 - 4--Miscellaneous Material