

FOIA MARKER

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Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records

Subgroup/Office of Origin: Staff Secretary

Series/Staff Member: Sean Maloney

Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 14863

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Folder Title:

Wednesday, May 19, 1999

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Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
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001. letter	Anna Demovidova and Jason E. Jones to POTUS [partial] (1 page)	04/20/1999	b(6)
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COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Staff Secretary
Sean Maloney (Chron File (May 99))
OA/Box Number: 14863

FOLDER TITLE:

Wednesday, May 19, 1999

2016-0970-F

rs2987

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
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b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]



UNITED STATES SENATE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20510

HERB KOHL
WISCONSIN

May 12th, 1999

The Honorable Bill Clinton
President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear President Clinton:

After speaking with my good friend and former staff person, David Goodfriend, I am forwarding to you two requests from Mary Thurmaier of Stevens Point, Wisconsin.

As you may know, Mary (who has been recently widowed) was long time Vice-Chair of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin and a National Committee person.

Her first request is to have the enclosed picture autographed.

Her second request is for a review of the immigration case she explains and in which she is very involved.

Many, many thanks for your consideration of these requests. Mary is, indeed, a very good friend.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,


Herb Kohl, U.S.S.

enc.

5-19-99

To Leg. Affairs. for reply?

Yes ☒ No ☐

B.

(Carol is handling photo request).

Mary J. Thurmaier
1926 Center Street
Stevens Point, WI 54481

May 3, 1999

President Bill Clinton
White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Bill,

I met you in 1987 and again in Washington D.C. in February at the NSBA Federal Relations Network Conference. I was very shocked, but pleased, that you remembered me from our state convention in Stevens Point. The picture enclosed shows my surprise and delight. I would be very pleased if you would autograph this picture for me. My grandchildren think it's pretty special that I have met the President.

I also write to you with a concern. I am co-chair of our Rostov Veliky, Russia Sister City Committee and serve on the Stevens Point Area Public School District School Board. Our district and city have been involved with educational and cultural exchanges since 1990.

In 1990 a group from Stevens Point traveled to Rostov Veliky and invited Elena Demovidova to become an exchange teacher at our high school. Elena arrived with a J-1 Visa, taught Russian at the high school and attended the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point. She received her Master's Degree in 1994. She received an H-1B Visa in 1992 which enabled her to remain as a teacher. No other teacher from Rostov Veliky was prepared to come to Stevens Point and since we had started Russian classes at our high school, we needed to continue. I believe that in our world today we need to prepare students in many languages.

Elena continues to teach but has applied for a green card. She married a student from Japan in 1995 and they now have a 3-month old son who is an American citizen - born in Stevens Point.

My direct contact with Elena was limited until the summer of 1997. I knew her through her involvement in the school and community, but not on a personal level. In 1997, the school board sent me to Rostov Veliky as an administrative representative of our city and school system to reinforce the educational agreement made in 1990.

Since that trip I have audited Elena's Russian class at the Stevens Point Area Senior High School. She instilled in me the desire to be able to communicate with

Page 2 of 2
President Bill Clinton
May 3, 1999

Rostov Veliky citizens. She is an excellent teacher, well respected by her students and colleagues.

Elena's involvement in our community is also evident. For several years she has led the sister city participation in our annual Cultural Festival. Her students also participate in this event. When asked to attend various meetings in the community she is eager to talk about her country and city. With her assistance our city hosted a six-member delegation from Rostov Veliky in 1998. We were able to raise \$5,000 to send to Rostov Veliky to make much needed repairs to some of their schools. This would not have happened without her leadership.

Our desire is to continue this educational and cultural agreement as a city. We cannot do so without Elena's presence and leadership abilities. She is very intelligent, articulate and professional in any endeavor.

I don't know what you can do to help us secure her green card, but I believe you are a caring individual and concerned about education. Please consider this request for assistance. Should you need further information, please let me know.

I am enclosing a letter written by Elena's sister, Anna. This will provide additional information on the kind of individual Elena is. Elena's address is as follows:

Elena Demovidova
1514 A Wyatt Avenue
Stevens Point, WI 54481

Keep up your good work and support of education for our students in public schools. I believe they are our future and as such are our most valuable asset. Thank you for your past and present support.

I look forward to receiving a response from you.

Sincerely,



Mary J. Thurmaier

MJT:ges

Enclosures

C: Senator Russ Feingold
Senator Herb Kohl

April 20, 1999

Anna Demovidova
Jason Everette Jones
1802 Lamont Street, NW
Washington, DC 20010
(202) 462-6637

Dear President Clinton:

I am writing on behalf of my sister, Elena Demovidova, who is in a desperate situation and needs help. We are Russian citizens but have lived in the United States for several years. My husband is an American and we live in Washington, DC. She teaches Russian in Stevens Point, Wisconsin. Her husband is Japanese, and they have a 2-month-old American-born son. Her H-1B Special Occupation visa expires in August 1999.

Elena came to the United States in 1990, soon after the dissolution of the Soviet Union. Stevens Point, Wisconsin had just established a sister-city program with our hometown, Rostov Veliky. A group of Americans came to Rostov looking for a Russian teacher for the Stevens Point school district. Elena at the time had just graduated from Yaroslavl Pedagogical University and was hired to work as an English teacher at Rostov high school. She was 23 years old, still living with our parents, since she didn't have the finances to support herself, as many young Russians. She was selected through interviews and invited to come and teach Russian in Stevens Point. At that time she received a J-1 visa and was enrolled full-time at the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point. She taught two classes of Russian at Stevens Point Area Senior High School; all of her salary went toward her tuition and living expenses, but she could not have survived without the support she received from the community. She studied hard and received her Masters Degree in Education in 1994 with Highest Honors. The H-1B Special Occupation Visa she received in August 1992 enabled her to continue her teaching and studies.

She worked very hard for the sister-city project, took her students to Russia, found host families for them, arranged their visas and tickets, and became their tour guide and foster mother during their stay in Russia. She also arranged many adult groups traveling to and from Russia, and attended many community clubs and other social events, where she showed slides and answered questions about Russia and Russians, and prepared Russian foods for the International Dinners. Elena also worked part-time for Marathon Travel Shops, tutored Russian at the University, provided childcare for an autistic child and assistance for disabled adults. She was not afraid of any kind of work, and was always most sincere and giving. Her students love her dearly and respect her enormously. She arranged for three of her students to study in Russia for a year and worked out the many problems they ran into. One of her former students is studying in Yaroslavl right now and is grateful to my sister for all her help. Many Russian exchange students come to Stevens Point through the sister-city program; she is always the first person they sought for help and advice. Although she was barely making it financially,

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

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she enjoyed her life and people she met and worked hard and tirelessly. At the university in Stevens Point, Elena met Fusaki Fujita, a student from Japan, whom she married in 1995. They desperately wanted me to get education, so they brought me to Wisconsin, where I first attended high school to learn English, then attended the University to continue my art studies, which I began at the Art Institute of Moscow.

(b)(6)

Elena's H-1B visa expires this August. Stevens Point school district filed papers for her permanent residency, but the process required advertising her position nationally to attract an American citizen. One has applied and will most likely be hired over her, even though the position, which is currently only part-time, was in effect established for her and no one else could possibly be as devoted. Furthermore, the sister-city project would be severely damaged in losing her. She is devastated. She has worked so very hard and now it's over. She has a 2-month-old son and a husband, who being a Japanese citizen with only a practical training visa, has no means of supporting the family or giving any stability. Their life is about to be destroyed.

They have no place to go; she doesn't agree with male-dominant Japanese culture and couldn't possibly live there. For obvious reasons they also cannot go to Russia. For the last year, her husband Fusaki has had to live in Chicago where he found a job with his practical training visa, which expires in May. He has a potential job offer with Honda, but the visa is an unresolved issue and would take at least until October, if ever. Elena is a wonderful person: honest, kind, and sincere. She is hard working and most reliable. She is fluent in English, Russian, and German languages, has a Masters degree in Education General, and is licensed to teach Russian and English as a Second Language. She is a very special and giving person, and loves her students and community. But she is very depressed and frustrated, because there seems to be no hope for her.

Please, would you look into possibilities for granting her a residency in the United States; she really deserves it and the community of Stevens Point would only benefit. Both Elena and Fusaki have lived in the United States for almost 10 years; this is the only life they've known and losing it at this point would destroy both of them as well as their 2-month-old son, an American by birthright. Neither of them would stay in this country illegally, for they both are honest and responsible people, wanting to work honestly. Please find some way to help them.

Sincerely,

Anna Demovidova

Anna Demovidova

Jason Everette Jones

Jason & Jones

c: Senator Herb Kohl
Senator Russ Feingold

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 19, 1999

TELEPHONE CALL TO STUDENTS INJURED DURING THE COLUMBINE HIGH SCHOOL SHOOTINGS

RICHARD CASTALDO

TO: Richard Castaldo (17)

DATE: May 19, 1999

RECOMMENDED BY: Thurgood Marshall, Jr.
Kris M. Balderston

PURPOSE: To talk with students injured during the Columbine High School shootings who are still recovering from their wounds at local hospitals in Colorado.

BACKGROUND: On April 20, two suspects opened fire on the student body at Columbine High School killing 12 students and one faculty member. Of the 23 injured students, five are still recuperating from their injuries in local hospitals.

Make a copy of this one for me & bring it back

Will be at school - want to see her and her husband - want to help on guns and spiritual counseling - [BC]

Richard will be joined by his father Rick Castaldo, his mother Connie Michalik (MEH-HALL-ICK), and stepfather Rick Michalik (MEH-HALL-LIK). Richard was scheduled to attend the Regis University PeaceJam Youth Conference workshops on May 15, focused on anger management, suicide prevention, stress reduction, and depression. Although Richard could not attend, he received e-mail messages from nearly 100 other youths in attendance. The PeaceJam Youth Conference links Nobel Peace laureates with teenagers to teach skills, community service, tolerance, and nonviolence. Richard is paralyzed from the chest down as a result of multiple gunshot wounds and remains in serious pain.

copied
Herrnreich
Currie
Streets
Paderster
Marshall
Balderston

CONTACT PERSON AND
TELEPHONE NUMBERS: Richard Castaldo, 303-788-7007
Swedish Hospital

Note: This is Richard's direct line. Ask for Connie Michalik (mother) who is a big supporter of YOU; she attended the Arkansas Ball.

DATE OF SUBMISSION: May 19, 1999

ACTION:

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 19, 1999

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TELEPHONE NUMBERS: Swedish Hospital

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DATE OF SUBMISSION: May 19, 1999

ACTION:

will be at school-lunch to see her and her husband - want to help on gun and spirit coordination -

BC

 *** TX REPORT ***

TRANSMISSION OK

TX/RX NO 2795
 CONNECTION TEL 66208
 CONNECTION ID The White House
 ST. TIME 05/19 20:19
 USAGE T 00'45
 PGS. SENT 2
 RESULT OK

THE PRESIDENT WAS SEEN
 5-19-99

THE WHITE HOUSE
 WASHINGTON

May 19, 1999

TELEPHONE CALL TO STUDENTS INJURED DURING THE COLUMBINE HIGH
 SCHOOL SHOOTINGS

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*Make a full
 copy of me &
 one for me &
 back*

*Will be at
 School - lunch
 to see her and her
 husband -
 wants to help on
 guns and spirit
 conference*

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*copied
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 Currie
 Streett
 Padesta
 Marshall
 Balderston*

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 TELEPHONE NUMBERS: Swedish Hospital

Note: This is Richard's direct line. Ask for Connie Michalik (mother) who is a big supporter of YOU; she attended the Arkansas Ball.

DATE OF SUBMISSION: May 19, 1999

ACTION:

Carolyn Cleveland

99 MAY 19 PM 6:16

Amb. Mel French would like a letter sent to Col Majali, thanking him
for all he did while POTUS was in Jordan for King Hussein's funeral..

She is aware that the letter has to be cleared by NSC. Thanks


Betty

5-19-99

5-19-99

To NSC for reply?

Yes ☒ No ☐

B.



His Majesty's Special Security

COL. HUSSEIN ~~MAJALI~~
MAJALI

Commander of His Majesty's Special
Security

ROYAL - PALACE
AMMAN - JORDAN

Shant



THE NATIONAL CONVENTION OF GOSPEL CHOIRS & CHORUSES, INC.
DR. THOMAS A. DORSEY, FOUNDER
BISHOP KENNETH H. MOALES, Sr., NATIONAL PRESIDENT
Bro. DERRICK ROBERTS, CHAIRMAN CONVENTION PLANNING

18 AM 6:00

May 17, 1999

SECOND REMITTANCE

THE HONORABLE WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
1600 PENNSYLVANIA AVE
WASHINGTON, DC 20500

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT,

It is with great honor that we humbly request your presence at the 66th Annual Session of the Thomas A. Dorsey National Convention of Gospel Choirs & Choruses, Inc. The convention is the oldest Inter-Denominational convention in our nation; whose focus is preserving sacred Gospel Music by teaching its legacy to church musicians, singers, ministers and scholars throughout our country and abroad. The convention was founded by the late Dr. Thomas A. Dorsey; the composer of the international hymn "Precious Lord Take My Hand". We anticipate 2000+ annual convention members along with invited local and state guests beginning at three years of age; coming from across the States and the Virgin Islands.

The Greater Orlando Choral Chapter and the Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church, of EATONVILLE, FLORIDA located in THE OLDEST BLACK incorporated township in the United States, where the Rev. Willie C Barnes serves as pastor & chapter president; is proud to host this memorable event in the "City Beautiful". The convention will convene the entire week of August 1-7, 1999 at the Clarion Hotel, 9700 International Drive in Orlando.

On Monday August 2, 1999, beginning at 7:00 pm, we will introduce Central Florida's talent in the field of gospel music. As a part of our opening celebration, we invite you and Mrs. Clinton to make a guest appearance at the opening ceremonies. Mr. President, if you are unable to attend on Monday, we are willing to accomodate your schedule as needed. We hope you or your representative will be able to attend.

A Proclamation from your office declaring August 1-7, 1999 as Dr. Thomas A. Dorsey "The Father Of Gospel Music" week in our nation would be a highlight for our convention.

Mr. President, on April 17, 1998, we sent a proposal to the United States Postal Service requesting that Dr. Dorsey be considered for the Black Heritage Commemorative Stamp Collection. Congresswoman Corrine Brown of the 3rd District, Florida, along with other members of congress are lending their support. We would be grateful for any assistance your office can lend to this project.

Please RSVP by telephone or by letter no later than June 15, 1999. We thank you for your cooperation and participation. If you have any questions, please contact the Convention Coordinators, Jude McKnight or Paulette Rhodes at (407) 647-4423 or Toll Free 1-877-647-4423, Monday- Friday from 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM.

Yours in Christ;

5-18-99

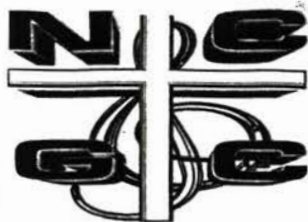
To Burkhardt for reply?
Yes — No ✓

Rev. Willie C Barnes
Rev. Willie C. Barnes, Host Pastor & Chapter President

HOST FOR THE 66TH ANNUAL SESSION ~AUG
THE GREATER ORLANDO CHORAL CHAPTER & MACEDONIA
P.O. BOX 940515 ~ MAITLAND, FLORIDA
PHONE (407) 647-4423 ~ FAX (407) 647-4181 ~ TOLL F
REV. WILLIE C BARNES, PASTOR & CHAPTE

cc: *Schedulife?*
Yes ✓ No —

B.



WELCOME

TO THE 66TH SESSION OF THE THOMAS A. DORSEY, NATIONAL CONVENTION OF GOSPEL CHOIRS & CHORUSES, INC.

**DR. THOMAS A. DORSEY, FOUNDER,
BISHOP KENNETH H. MOALES, PRESIDENT
DR. DERRICK ROBERTS, CHAIRMAN CONVENTION PLANNING**

AUGUST 1- 7, 1999

**CLARION HOTEL
9700 INTERNATIONAL DRIVE
ORLANDO, FL. 32819-8114
(407) 352-9700 FAX (407) 351-9111
HOTEL CONTACT: LANNELL TANNER**

HOST CHURCH :	THE GREATER ORLANDO CHORAL CHAPTER & MACEDONIA MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
STREET ADDRESS	412 EAST KENNEDY BLVD EATONVILLE, FL. 32751
MAILING ADDRESS	P.O. BOX 940515 MAITLAND, FL. 32794-0515
TELEPHONE:	(407) 647-4423 or TOLL FREE 1-877-647-4423
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS:	1-800-854-0027
HOST PASTOR AND PRESIDENT:	REV. WILLIE C BARNES
CONVENTION COORDINATORS:	JUDITHANN C. MCKNIGHT & PAULETTE M. RHODES

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

THE NATIONAL CONVENTION OF GOSPEL CHOIRS & CHORUSES, INC.

DR. THOMAS A. DORSEY, FOUNDER

BISHOP KENNETH MOALES, Sr., NATIONAL PRESIDENT

DR. DERRICK ROBERTS, CHAIRMAN CONVENTION PLANNING

APRIL 1999

PRESS RELEASE

THE 66TH ANNUAL SESSION OF THE THOMAS A. DORSEY NATIONAL CONVENTION OF GOSPEL CHOIRS & CHORUSES, INC.; WILL BE HELD IN THE "CITY BEAUTIFUL" DURING THE WEEK OF AUGUST 1-7, 1999 AT THE CLARION HOTEL 9700 INTERNATIONAL DRIVE, ORLANDO.

THE CONVENTION IS THE OLDEST INTER-DENOMINATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOUNDED BY THE "FATHER OF GOSPEL MUSIC", THE LATE Dr. THOMAS ANDREW DORSEY. IN 1930's Dr. DORSEY INTRODUCED TO THE CHURCH AN ALTERATIVE TO ANTHEMS AND SPIRITUAL SONGS KNOWN TODAY AS "GOSPEL MUSIC". HE IS THE COMPOSER OF MANY GOSPEL SONGS, BUT HIS MOST FAMOUS SONG, WHICH HAS BEEN SUNG, AND TRANSLATED BY MANY NATIONS IS "PRECIOUS LORD TAKE MY HAND".

DR. DORSEY'S DREAM WAS TO EDUCATE THE WORLD ABOUT "GOSPEL MUSIC AND ITS CONTRIBUTION TO ENHANCE THE WORSHIP SERVICE. OVER 2000 DELEGATES FROM ACROSS THE UNITED STATES AND VIRGIN ISLANDS, STARTING AT AGE THREE YEARS OLD; CONVENE THE FIRST WEEK OF AUGUST EACH YEAR TO CONTINUE DR.DORSEY'S DREAM BY TEACHING MINISTERS, MUSICIANS, SINGERS AND SCHOLARS.

THE NATION HAS TRULY TAKEN GOSPEL MUSIC AND CONTINUES TO ELEVATE IT TO HEIGHTS UNKNOWN. BUT LET US NEVER FORGET THE PIONEERS WHO OPENED THE DOORS THAT WE WALK THROUGH TODAY.

THE HOST FOR THE 66TH SESSION, IS THE GREATER ORLANDO CHORAL CHAPTER AND THE CONGREGATION OF THE MACEDONIA MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, EATONVILLE, FLORIDA, WHERE THE REV. WILLIE C BARNES SERVES AS PASTOR AND PRESIDENT OF THE CHORAL CHAPTER.

WE INVITE YOU AND YOUR FAMILY TO JOIN IN THE WEEK LONG CELEBRATION. IF YOU HAVE NEVER WITNESSED SUCH AN EVENT, PLAN TO JOIN US. THERE IS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PRE-REGISTER FOR THE CONVENTION BEFORE JUNE 1, 1999 OR NEED MORE INFORMATION; CONTACT CONVENTION COORDINATORS, JUDE McKNIGHT OR PAULETTE RHODES AT (407) 647-4423 OR TOLL FREE 1-877-647-4423. MONDAY - FRIDAY FROM 10AM - 6PM. A BROCHURE OF THE WEEKS ACTIVITIES WILL BE MAILED UPON REQUEST. VENDOR SPACE IS LIMITED & AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.

WE HOPE THAT ALL FORMS OF MEDIA WILL WANT TO INCLUDE A FEATURE ARTICLE OF THE CONVENTION ONE OR TWO MONTHS PRIOR TO AUGUST, SO WE CAN PREPARE OUR CITY. YOUR COOPERATION IS GREATLY APPRECIATED. A VIDEO OF THE CONVENTION'S HISTORY WAS PRODUCED IN 1980 TITLED "SAY AMEN SOMEBODY". THE STORY HAS BEEN AIRED ON PUBLIC BROADCASTING NETWORK SEVERAL TIMES. PLEASE CALL FOR DETAILS.

**HOST CHURCH FOR THE 66TH ANNUAL SESSION ~AUGUST 1-7, 1999
THE GREATER ORLANDO CHORAL CHAPTER
C/O MACEDONIA MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
REV. WILLE C BARNES, PASTOR & PRESIDENT
P.O. BOX 940515 MAITLAND, FLORIDA 32794
PHONE (407) 647-4423 ~ FAX (407) 647-4181 ~ TOLL FREE 1-877-647-4423
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS: 1-800-354-0027**

Take My Hand, Precious Lord

A DORSEY SONG

Words and Arr. by
THOMAS A. DORSEY

Writer of "Waiting and Waiting"

Slow with spirit



'FATHER OF GOSPEL MUSIC'



1996-1997

BOARD AND OFFICERS

NATIONAL CONVENTION OF GOSPEL CHOIRS AND CHORUSES, INC.

Dr. Thomas A. Dorsey, Founder
Bishop Kenneth H. Moales, Sr., President

- Board of Directors -

Dr. Earl Preston, Jr.,
Chairman of the Board
Donyel B. Barber
Dan S. Boone
Vivian Brown-Carman
Wilma Clayborn
Rev. Michael Cummings
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Randy Kenner
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Bishop Kenneth H. Moales, Sr.
Bessie Palmer
Mary Ellen Penn
Robyn Rease
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Dr. Quincy Fielding, Sr.
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THE DORSEY STORY

Dr. Thomas Andrew Dorsey, born July 1, 1899 in Villa Rica, Georgia is the eldest of five children born to the Reverend and Mrs. Thomas Dorsey, SR. Dr. Dorsey began his musical career by playing piano at the age of twelve. His love for Jazz music would found him leaving church and playing in brothels, wine rooms and buffet flats. For his style of playing, he was nicknamed "Georgia Tom".

In early 1920's, he moved to Chicago, Illinois to attend Chicago Music College. On a Sunday morning while listening to a group of five people on the Southside of Chicago, he coined the phrase "Gospel Songs" other wise known as Evangelistic songs. After dedicating his life to writing Gospel Songs, you could still find him playing his first love (Jazz) for money to assist him while at school.

In 1926, after being ill for a year, Dr. Dorsey wrote the songs, **"SOMEDAY SOMEWHERE"** and **"IF YOU SEE MY SAVIOR"**. Dr. Dorsey borrowed \$5.00 to purchase 500 stamps to mail his music to churches throughout the country.

In 1930, while attending the National Baptist Convention, he heard a young lady singing his song "IF YOU SEE MY SAVIOR". This opened the door for Dorsey to establish the sale of Gospel music at Five cents per copy.

In August 1931, he was attending a revival in St. Louis, Dr. Dorsey received a telegram stating that his wife had died giving birth to his son. Dr. Dorsey drove home and upon his arrival, he was met at the door with the news that his son had died also. After burying his wife and son in the same casket, Dorsey felt that God had done him an injustice so he vowed not to write Gospel Music again. Knowing God's plan was not his, Dorsey's grief produced the famous hymn, **"PRECIOUS LORD TAKE MY HAND"**. His song quickly spread over this country and the world by most renowned entertainers. In 1940, Dr. Dorsey married Kathryn Mosely, their union was blessed with two children, Thomas A. Dorsey III and Doris M. Dorsey.

But in 1932, having the need to meet the Gospel Singers of this country, Dr. Dorsey along with the late Sallie Martin and Theodore Frye organized the first Black Gospel Music Convention. **The NATIONAL CONVENTION OF GOSPEL CHOIRS AND CHORUSES, INC.** at PILGRIM BAPTIST CHURCH in CHICAGO, ILLINOIS where he served as minister of music for more than sixty-five years.

Presently the NATIONAL CONVENTION OF GOSPEL CHOIRS AND CHORUSES, INC., convenes the first full week in August of each year with more than 12,000 delegates coming from forty-nine states and the Virgin Islands.

The goal of this convention, is to Proclaim the Name of Jesus, to educate young people in the need to continue the traditional Gospel music by keeping it alive in song and teaching others the GOOD NEWS.

Dr. Thomas Andrew Dorsey, has written countless songs, some of which has never been published. Some of his compositions have been printed in hymnals of every Denomination, Race and Creed.

Such songs has:

1. " PEACE IN THE VALLEY"
2. " THE LORD WILL MAKE AWAY SOMEHOW"
3. " I'M ON THE BATTLE FIELD FOR MY LORD"
4. " WHEN I'VE DONE THE BEST I CAN"
5. " MY DESIRE"
6. " OLD SHIP OF ZION"

The most famous of his songs, "PRECIOUS LORD TAKE MY HAND", has been translated into thirty-two languages and republished in many foreign countries. World renown artist have included his songs in their repertoire. ie: Tennessee Erin Ford, Carmen Lambardo, Morton Downey, Eddie Arnold, Roy Rogers and Dale Evans, Elvis Presly, Mahalia Jackson, Jesse Dixon, Mattie Moss Clark, Sam Cooke, James Cleveland and many other performers who have contributed to the music field regardless of category.

His crossing of every barrier, has given Dr. Dorsey honors, citations and awards spanning for more than eighty years. His work can be found in the Smithsonian Institute, Nashville Hall of Fame, Who's Who of Music and major Motion Pictures. Dr. Dorsey's legacy was recorded in a documentary film entitled "SAY AMEN SOMEBODY" produced for television in 1982. In 1992, he was honored with the National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences National Trustees Award.

On January 23, 1993, Dr. Thomas Andrew Dorsey, he heeded the call of his master and entered life eternal at the age of 93. He is survived by his wife Kathryn, a son, Thomas Dorsey III, a daughter Doris Dorsey and several grandchildren. But most of all, a world that will remember how he continues to enhance their worship services with words of salvation improbably joined to the rhythms of blues and stride piano to create the sound he called GOSPEL.

Unquestionably, Dr. Thomas Andrew Dorsey commands a special place in the history of Black America as the "FATHER OF GOSPEL MUSIC" for he has and continues to touch our lives. If we are to know ourselves, then we must know the person who has contributed to the world of music for over three decades.

EVENTS OF THE CONVENTION

Every evening is filled with uplifting gospel music which showcases different departments. The NCGCC begins with a tribute to our Founders. We salute such pioneer's as Dr. Thomas A. Dorsey, Sallie Martin, Willia Mae Ford Smith, Theodore R. Frye and others on Sunday afternoon. Following that evening is a concert highlighting our Supervisor's Guild Department.

On Monday morning is a Consecration Service which features a local minister of the city as the speaker. A Pre-Convention Musical featuring a national artist is scheduled for Monday evening. Tuesday is President's Day, Bishop Kenneth H. Moales, Sr. will give his Presidential Address along with a New Artist Showcase displaying new talent from around the city, surrounding areas and throughout the country. Wednesday is Alumni Chorale Day featuring the Alumni Chorale in concert. Thursday is the All-Star Subteens and Youth and Young Adult Department Gospel Extravaganza featuring over 1,000 youth and young adults from all over the country. The Climax of the week features the Thomas A. Dorsey Mass Choir, delegates from near and far singing praises to the Lord.

During the morning the NCGCC is filled with learning at the Artelia Hutchins Leadership Training Institute and afternoon sessions have singing from various Unions and Chapters throughout the country. Additional highlights consist of a scholarship program for convention participants and a Soloist Bureau Concert.

Departments

Subteen Department consist of children between the ages of 3-12. The primary focus is to train the children how to follow directorship, learn music as well as Christian behavior in the Church. Subteens learn how to direct the choir, have soloist and present a play featuring their own talents. Subteens also participate in a bible study/quiz and fashion show. An outing is scheduled for the subteens at various sightseeing places. Thursday evening the Subteens will have a musical production showcasing actors, actresses, directors and soloist form within the Department.

Youth and Young Adult Department are for ages 13-25. The primary focus is to training an encourage the song writers, directors, musicians and singers to utilize their God given talents to his Glory. Additional activities include a bible quiz, banquet with a fashion show, debutantes and an Outing. Trophies are also given for Song of the Year, Director of the Year. Thursday is the Youth and Young Adult Department's evening. It begins with the Debutantes walk following a concert featuring original compositions from within the Department.

Alumni Choral ages are between 26-45. The Alumni Chorale focuses on Praise and worship. Many song writers, musicians, soloist, and singers come together to uplift and glorify God. Wednesday is Alumni Chorale day featuring the Alumni Chorale in full concert that evening.

Thomas A. Dorsey Mass Choir includes all delegates that wish to participate climaxing the week with the grand finale concert. Songwriters, singers and composers from all over the country unite as one living Dr. Dorsey's dream.

ARTELIA HUTCHINS TRAINING INSTITUTE

The Artelia Hutchins Leadership Training Institute is just as it's name implies, a training area for those who attend the National Convention of Gospel Choirs and Choruses. Its purpose is to expand upon the practical application of the many activities which take place during our convention by offering specific academic instructions to coincide with these activities. Each class is designed for the improvement of the quality of the total church program with special emphasis given to the Music Ministry. Approximately 4 hours of instruction is provided during each convention. These classes meet from 8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Tuesday through Friday of the convention. In addition to regular classes, we offer seminars in areas of special interest to convention participants. Upon completion of the prescribed course work, a certificate is awarded to each participant.

CLASSES INCLUDE:

- An Introduction to Music
- Children's Music
- Choir Decorum
- Choral Directing I, II
- Choral Union Administration
- Composition
- Creative Praise Movements
- Ear Training
- Evangelism
- Empowerment for Living
- Minister's Class
- Medical Assistance
- Ministry of Music
- Miracles of the Bible
- Orchestra
- Orchestration I
- Organ I, II
- Piano I, II, III
- Sight Singing
- Style, Charm - Getting It Together
- The Business of Music
- Voice I, II

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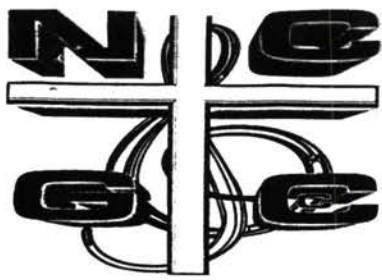
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