

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Old Zion Heritage Museum of Marietta GA

presents

*The Lord Will Make A Way Somehow!*

*The Life and Legacy of Thomas A. Dorsey, The Father of Gospel Music*

(Marietta, GA, May 21, 2013) - The Old Zion Heritage Museum will host the Marietta premier of *The Lord Will Make A Way Somehow!* June 28 - 29 at the Marietta Middle School Auditorium located at 121 Winn Street, Marietta, Georgia. The play is brought to the metropolitan Atlanta area in celebration of Black Music Month and the anniversary of the birth of Thomas A. Dorsey. Dorsey is regarded as the Father of Gospel Music.

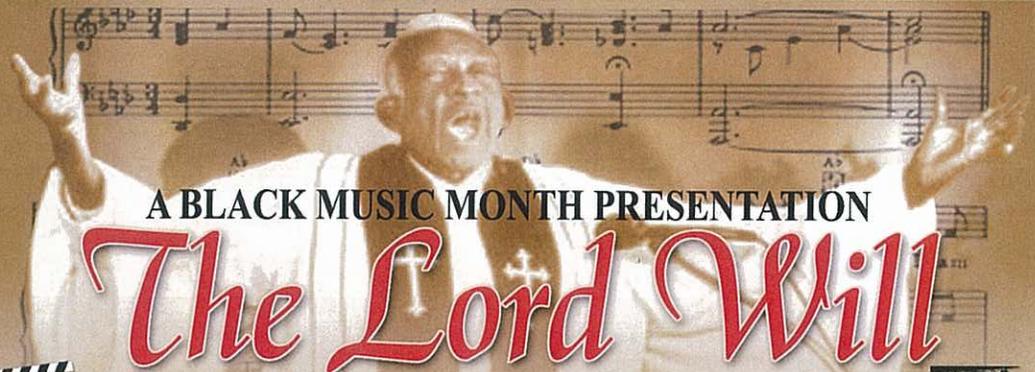
Dorsey began his musical career performing professionally under the moniker Georgia Tom. He was the bandleader of Ma Rainey's Wild Cats Jazz Band. Dorsey had a "conversion experience" after attending a Baptist Church Convention in Chicago in 1922. This is when he coined the term, "Gospel Music" and wrote his very first gospel song all within a week. In 1932, his wife and newborn son had died in childbirth. In his grief, he turned to the piano for comfort and wrote the song "Take My Hand, Precious Lord." Dorsey composed over 1,000 songs and worked with prominent gospel artists such as Mahalia Jackson, the O'Neal Twins, the Sallie Martin Singers, and James Cleveland. Dorsey became the first independent publisher of Black Gospel music with the establishment of the Dorsey House of Music in Chicago in 1932. In September 1981, he was elected to the Georgia Music Hall of Fame.

The play chronicles the life of Dorsey and has been well received since its inception in the fall of 2012. The Marietta production is cosponsored by The National Association of Christian Theatre (NACT) and The Educational Cultural Company (ECC). It was written by Bettye Favors-Palmer. The play features Houston based Gospel recording artist, Chester D. T. Baldwin, who also serves as executive producer and director. He has recorded Gospel hits such as "God Is Good" and "I Still Hear Mama Praying." Local featured talent includes JoAnn Jackson of Zion Baptist Church; Gregg Robinson of Allen Temple AME Church; Kenneth Lowe of Lindsey Street Baptist Church; and Robert Terrell of New Mercies Christian Church.

Theatre showtimes are as follows: Friday June 28th at 7:27 pm or Saturday June 29th at 2:07 pm. Tickets prices are \$30 for VIP, \$25 for General Admission, or \$20 for groups of 20 or more. They can be purchased online at [www.DorseyPlayATL.com](http://www.DorseyPlayATL.com). Or you can purchase tickets after Sunday services at Zion Baptist Church, 165 Lemon St, Marietta GA 30060. Proceeds benefit the Old Zion Heritage Museum, which was placed on the National Registry of Historic Place in 1990. For additional information, please call (706) 408-7529.

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Friday, June 28 at 7:27 pm and Saturday, June 29 at 2:07 pm  
Marietta Middle School - Auditorium, 121 Winn Street, Marietta, GA 30064



A BLACK MUSIC MONTH PRESENTATION

# *The Lord Will*



**Make A Way Somehow!**



*The Life Of Thomas A. Dorsey, The Father of Gospel Music*

Tickets are \$30 - VIP; \$25 General Adm; \$20 - group of 20 or more

Available online at <http://www.DorseyPlayATL.com>