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Composer Issues Blast At Gospel Choir Confab

CINCINNATI — "Performers of our gospel music are 'jazzing and swinging' it, Dr. Thomas A. Dorsey, America's foremost gospel song composer, charged at the 19th annual session of the National Convention of Gospel Choirs and Choruses here last week.

Dr. Dorsey, founder-president, was principal speaker at the convention which convened here July 30 to August 3, and was attended by nearly 500 choirs and 200 soloists from all over the country.

"If the words are not clearly heard, much of today's gospel music can be confused with the 'blues,'" the composer declared.

"We sincerely hope that this bad practice will cease now. Let us always, please, keep our gospel music as it was intended—a music of reverence and worship. Gospel music has had greater increase in usage than any other music during the last ten years," he said.

The convention met at Shiloh Baptist church, of which Rev. M. J. Mangham is pastor. The Cincinnati Gospel Choral union, headed by Mrs. Cora Jamison, was host. The convention was lead by Dr. Dorsey, assisted by Theodore R. Frye, co-founder, gospel author and head of a music publishing company. The Rev. W. Temple Richie, Huntington, W. Va., delivered the annual sermon.

Sallie Martin, organizer and famed gospel singer, and others, including Cincinnati's Cora Jamison, and Grace Bonner, headed the galaxy of gospel stars.

Prominent local citizens headed by Mayor Albert D. Cash and Mayor Arthur T. Shivers of Lincoln Heights, extended greetings to the convention.

Among local ministers on the program were Rev. Wilbur A. Page, Union Baptist church, Rev. G. W. Sangster, Revelation Baptist Church, Rev. Mangham, Shiloh Baptist church, Rev. Nina E. Robinson, St. James church, and Rev. A. L. Goodwin, Jerriel Baptist church.

Among the many local persons who worked hard in arranging the confab were:

Mrs. Emma L. Ford, Miss Grace Bonner, Mrs. H. Green, Mrs. A. L. Goodwin, Minnette Thomokins, Mrs. S. Hunter, Mrs. Marvel Bates, Mrs. C. Henford, Mrs. H. Mathis, Rev. N. E. Robinson, Rev.

A. L. Goodwin, Mrs. Elizabeth Stigall, Mrs. Peggy Flint, Mrs. M. L. Sangster.

The slate of national officers was re-elected.