

AMST 430
SONGS OF PROTEST SONGS OF PRAISE
ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY
GHH 208
M, TH 2:00 -3:20
Spring, 2013

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Week of February 25

For *Monday, February 25*

Read, in *Heilbut*

Part One: Building the Gospel Highway

1. "Sallie Martin's Outta Sight" pp 3-19
2. "I Get These Special Vibrations," Thomas A. Dorsey 21-35

Though they did not get much mention by name, you've seen both [Sallie Martin](#) and [Thomas A. Dorsey](#) in the BBC special we watched Wednesday and Thursday. There are several points of focus in these chapters. First, is the connection between Gospel and Popular Music, and also the tension between them. Second, as we saw, Gospel Music is not quite the same a folk music, though it certainly stems from folk traditions. Gospel is also a segment of the music industry--a segment which thrived partly through the work of entrepreneurs like Sallie Martin. Be aware of the importance of Chicago as a center of this kind of music (also a center of the closely related "soul" music), and independent "entrepreneurial" Churches like [First Church of Deliverance](#) on Chicago's South Side.

I'm glad this book is illustrated, though I'm less happy with the fact that the illustrations are bunched together in sections. Do take a little time to look at them. The quality is not great--but that's the price we pay in order to have the book cost less.

Read, in Weissman,

Birth and Evolution of the Blues

78-97

You won't have much trouble picking out the important sections here. Pay special attention to *The Blues as Protest Music*, *The Blues and the Preacher*, *Authenticity*, and of course, *Gospel Music*. Note that Weissman creates two lists of "subjects" for Blues Music. Do you think the subject "Poor Me" is quite fair? Why or why not?

WITH A LITTLE LUCK WEDNESDAY

. . .I'm going to show the first of our Wednesday Films, "Say Amen, Somebody," a musical biography of Thomas A. Dorsey. It is out of print,

alas, but we were fortunate that the library was able to pick up a used copy. I'll announce where and starting when on Monday, as I'm still negotiating for a place to watch the film. IF this falls through we'll watch at least parts of it in class on Thursday. (We may, anyhow--stay tuned).

For *Thursday, February 28*
Read, in Heilbut,

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| 3. "The Head of the House, Ira Tucker" | 37 - 56 |
| 4. "Mahalia the Queen" | pp. 57 - 73 |

The first of these chapters will introduce us to one of the earliest and most enduring type of Gospel group--the male Gospel Quartet. The second will introduce us to someone who by now should need not too much introduction.

I'd also like to have you thumb through the indices in the back. There are three of them, one a "discography" the second, names (divided into two lists) and the third a list of song titles. These may prove quite helpful to you as you investigate things throughout the course. I'll be bringing some examples for us to listen to and discuss.