



# NCGCC

NATIONAL CONVENTION OF GOSPEL CHOIRS AND CHORUSES, INC.



Dr. Thomas A. Dorsey, Founder  
Dr. Marabeth E. Gentry, National President  
Rev. Dr. Albert Morgan, Chairman of the Board  
Tracy Jones, National Scholarship Coordinator  
ncgccincscholarship@gmail.com

## 2023 National Scholarship Contest Application

### Who may compete:

All contestants must be registered members and in good standing with a union or chapter of the NCGCC, Inc. Exceptions may be made for persons that are residents of the city in which the national convention is being hosted for the current year.

Each contestant planning to take part in the contest must go through the pre-registration process. In addition, they must be present and actively participate in the contest as it is presented on the scheduled date of Scholarship competition.

Contestants must be a high school senior who will be graduating this year or be currently enrolled at an institution of higher learning.

This year, the NCGCC, Inc. National Scholarship consisting of three (3) competitions. No more than one (1) contestant from any one (1) union or chapter will be permitted to compete in any more than one (1) competition, category, or contest. Each union or chapter may have only one (1) competitor in any one (1) contest at any time.

### Contestant Information

.Contestant Name \_\_\_\_\_

.Contest Entering (1 contest only) \_\_\_\_\_

.Performance/Contest Mode (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

### Union Information

.Union or Chapter Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

.City/State of Union/Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

.Union or Chapter President's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

\*Union or Chapter must be in good standing with NCGCC, Inc. as of July 30, 2023



## College/University Information

Name and address of College/University where you are currently enrolled or plan to attend in Fall 2023 or Winter/Spring 2024

.College/University Name \_\_\_\_\_

.Campus Location \*if applicable\* \_\_\_\_\_

.Address, City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

.Telephone Contact \_\_\_\_\_

\*Proof of enrollment must be provided with this application. (Ex: current semester class schedule, current year student I.D. or tuition bill for current semester)

## Contestant Contact Information

.Name \_\_\_\_\_

.Address, City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

.Telephone Contact \_\_\_\_\_

.Residential/Cell \_\_\_\_\_

.Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please upload applications and contest video/photograph/essay submissions along with supporting documents (class schedule, letter of acceptance, etc.) To:  
[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1JJ4jJpoGCclLgsD08umSck6iYe\\_vhso31?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1JJ4jJpoGCclLgsD08umSck6iYe_vhso31?usp=sharing)

Contest application and video/photograph/essay submissions must be uploaded or emailed by 11:59 p.m., July 15, 2023.

Only one winner will be selected for each contest.

Please note: no scholarship submission will be accepted without documents verifying current enrollment or letter of acceptance.

## Note:

Scholarship winners will be announced at the 2023 National Convention and will be notified by email on August 7, 2023.



## Joshua and Geneva Gentry Essay Contest

### **Biographical Sketch of Joshua E. Gentry**

Joshua Gentry was born in Cohoma, MS. to Walter and Mary Gentry on February 15, 1912. After the passing of his mother, his father and he moved to Helena, Arkansas. After residing in Helena for a while, they moved to East St. Louis, IL, where he matriculated in East St. Louis public school systems. It was during this time that Mrs. Daisy Westbrook, who began to train and tutor Brother Gentry, noticed his music interest and talent.

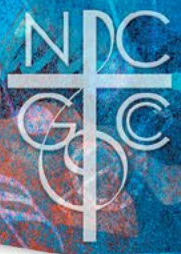
As a young lad, Gentry became acquainted with the Lord and focused his extraordinary gift toward religious music. As a teenager, he became a member of the True Light Baptist church, which was pastored by the Reverend J. A. Lampley. At True Light, he served as director of the youth choir. Moreover, for the next 25 years, he continued his call to serve as minister of music where he was known to have one of the finest music departments in the city of East St. Louis. After service at True Light, he continued his music ministry for 25 years at the West Side Baptist Church.

In 1939, Joshua Gentry became a member of the East St. Louis Gospel Choral Union, which soon thereafter established affiliation with the National Convention of Gospel Choirs and Choruses. Through this body of gospel singers, Gentry became acquainted with Dr. Thomas A. Dorsey who recognized his musical abilities. Together, they labored in the music ministry of the National Convention Gospel Choirs and Choruses. Additionally, Gentry served in many capacities throughout the convention. This includes the President of the Youth Department, member of the Returns Finance Committee, Secretary of the Board of Directors, and 3rd, 2nd, and 1st vice president. Without doubt, the NCGCC is an organization that he truly loved.

Brother Gentry was an arranger and well-rounded musician who understood the importance of and appreciated church music. He believed that church music must not only have order but versatility. He and his wife Geneva, whom he married in 1942, formulated an annual music program, "When Singers Meet, Inc.," that focused on exposing their community to various music genres and artists. Some of the featured artists included Roberta Martin, Thomas Dorsey, Sarah Jordan Powell, Sally Powell, Sally Martin, Alex Bradford, Mahalia Jackson, The Barrett Sisters, Bobby Jones, and Bishop Kenneth H. Moales, Sr.

Gentry and his wife had two children, Joseph and Marabeth, who are quite accomplished. Joseph is a lieutenant Colonel. Marabeth is a teacher, musician and vocalist who became the 1st African American classical music graduate of Webster University. Both of their children are testaments of the positive and professional influence their parents have had in their upward mobility and career successes.

In 1986, Bro. Gentry brought to the attention of the convention that union presidents needed to be honored in some way for their initiative and hard work. That was something for which he strived until his passing in March 1990. He truly believed that they were the keys to the successful growth of the convention and the overall effective communication to unions. Thus, the Joshua Gentry Scholarship (since re-named the Joshua and Geneva Gentry Scholarship, in honor of his benevolent and supportive wife, Geneva) of the National Convention of Gospel Choirs was established by the president's council to honor his great soldier of Christ who labored endlessly to make a difference in the life of others.



## All Joshua and Geneva Gentry Essay Contest applicants must complete an essay to include the following information.

### Essay Prompt:

Joshua Gentry believed that church music must have order and versatility. How does what you believe and know about (gospel) church music compare to Joshua Gentry? In what ways have you or will you use your knowledge of church music (and music genres in general) to improve your community, as Joshua and Geneva Gentry did with the formation of their organization, When Singers Meet?

### Essay Requirements:

Your essay should be between 3 to 5 pages long, using Times New Roman font, 12-point font and double-spaced. Be sure you include in your essay the church, school, and community activities you are involved in and your role in each. What honors or awards have you received? Also, include who has been the greatest influence in your life and why? Include any other information that you think is important for the scholarship committee to know about you.

## Joshua And Geneva Gentry Essay Contest Scoring Criteria

Criteria	Description	Points
Content	The essay addresses the essay prompt with clear and relevant supporting information from the contestant.	10
Organization	The essay has a clear introduction, body, and conclusion, with a logical flow of ideas.	10
Clarity	The essay is easy to read and understand, with clear sentence structure and transitions.	10
Grammar and Mechanics	The essay has correct spelling, punctuation, and grammar, with no errors that interfere with comprehension.	10
Length	The essay is between 3-5 pages long, following the required format of Times Roman font, 12 font size, and double-spaced.	5
Total		45

### Essay checklist:

- Be sure to use correct grammar.
- Be sure your essay is easy to read.
- Be sure to use correct punctuation.
- Be sure to have an introduction, body, and conclusion in your essay.
- Complete all information requested.
- Upload one (1) Copy of your college or university acceptance letter.
- Upload letter of recommendation from two (2) Of the following individuals (pastor, teacher, counselor, or community leader).



## **Joshua and Geneva Gentry Scholarship Checklist:**

- I have completed the Joshua Gentry Scholarship application form.
- My union president has signed my application. (This signature verifies your active involvement with a union of the National Convention of Gospel Choirs and Choruses, Inc.).
- All letters of recommendation have been individually sealed and enclosed in the application packet.



## Magnolia Butts/Lucille Ellis Jones National Contest

**Contest Mode:** Performance

**Contest Genre:** piano/organ

**Competition Selection:** Jesus Joy of Mans Desiring

**Composer:** Johann Sebastian Bach

**Attire: Men**—dark colored dress slacks, buttoned down dress shirt, suits and tie are welcomed.

**Women**—dark colored knee length or longer skirt/dress, formal top or blouse if wearing skirt.

Contestants will be judged on appropriate dress, appropriate interpretation of the period and style, dynamics, pitch, rhythm, harmony, texture, timbre, rhythmic and melodic interpretation, tempo, and memorization.

### Magnolia Butts/Lucille Ellis Jones Contest Scoring Criteria

Criteria	Description	Points
Appropriate Dress	The contestant's attire is appropriate to the genre and enhances the overall presentation of the performance.	10
Interpretation	The contestant's interpretation of the piece is appropriate to the style and demonstrates a deep understanding of the music of Johann Sebastian Bach.	15
Dynamics	The contestant demonstrates skill and mastery of dynamics, creating appropriate changes in volume and intensity throughout the performance.	10
Pitch	The contestant demonstrates skill and mastery of pitch, playing with appropriate intonation and accuracy.	10
Rhythm	The contestant demonstrates skill and mastery of rhythm, playing with appropriate tempo and rhythmic accuracy.	10
Harmony	The contestant demonstrates skill and mastery of harmony, playing with appropriate chords and chord progressions.	10
Texture	The contestant demonstrates skill and mastery of texture, playing with appropriate balance and blending of musical elements.	10
Timbre	The contestant demonstrates skill and mastery of timbre, producing appropriate tonal qualities and colors.	10
Rhythmic and Melodic Interpretation	The contestant demonstrates skill and mastery of rhythmic and melodic interpretation, playing with appropriate phrasing, articulation, and ornamentation.	10
Tempo	The contestant demonstrates skill and mastery of tempo, playing with appropriate speed and pacing throughout the performance.	5
Memorization	The contestant demonstrates skill and mastery of the piece by performing from memory.	10
Total		100



## Dr. Thomas A. Dorsey/Sallie Martin National Contest

**Performance Mode:** Open (any type of visual or performing art that allows the realization of a Dorsey musical score)

**Example:** Vocal, Dance, Mime, Artwork, Film, Instrumental

The following Dorsey composition is the selection for 2023: If you see my Savior (1926).

Contestants will be judged on the following (as applicable to chosen performance mode):

Technique, execution, presentation, creativity, originality, transitions/effects/editing, cinematography, sound, lighting, design, image quality, appropriateness of style (interpretation), attire, dynamics, pitch, rhythm, harmony, texture, form, timbre, rhythmic interpretation, melodic interpretation

To enhance your understanding of music of this genre/period, please reference materials on Dr. Thomas A. Dorsey i.e. “Georgia Tom” and Sallie Martin.

### Contest Submission Criteria:

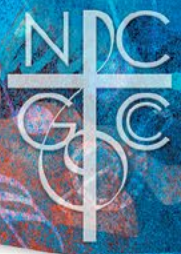
- Title and description of your submission (75 words or fewer).
- Record and submit an original video of your performance of Dorsey composition listed above (contestants submitting artwork, may upload high quality photographs of artwork).
- A color headshot (Ex: cap and gown, yearbook photo, etc.).
- Video should be no longer than 5 minutes.
- By submitting your work to NCGCC, Inc., you are giving NCGCC, Inc. and the NCGCC, Inc. Scholarship Committee, the non-exclusive right to publish your work in any format, including print, electronic, and online media.

### Thomas A. Dorsey/Sallie Martin Competition-2023 Scoring Criteria

Criteria	Description	Points
Technique	The contestant demonstrates mastery of the chosen performance mode with proper technique and execution.	10
Execution	The contestant delivers a polished and professional performance with attention to detail and accuracy.	10
Presentation	The contestant presents themselves and their performance in a professional and engaging manner.	10
Creativity	The contestant demonstrates original and innovative ideas in their performance.	10
Originality	The contestant demonstrates a unique perspective or approach in their performance.	10
Transitions/ Effects/Editing	The transitions, effects, and editing in the performance are executed skillfully and enhance the overall quality of the performance.	5



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Criteria	Description	Points
Cinematography	The cinematography of the video is visually engaging, and the shots are well-framed and edited.	5
Sound	The sound quality is clear, balanced, and appropriate to the performance.	5
Lighting/Design/ Image Quality	The lighting, design, and image quality of the video are visually appealing and support the performance.	5
Interpretation	The contestant's interpretation of the song is appropriate to the style and demonstrates a deep understanding of the music of Dr. Thomas A. Dorsey.	10
Musical Elements	The contestant demonstrates skill and mastery of musical elements such as dynamics, pitch, rhythm, harmony, texture, form, timbre, rhythmic interpretation, and melodic interpretation.	10
Attire	The contestant's attire is appropriate to the style and enhances the overall presentation of the performance.	5
	Total	95