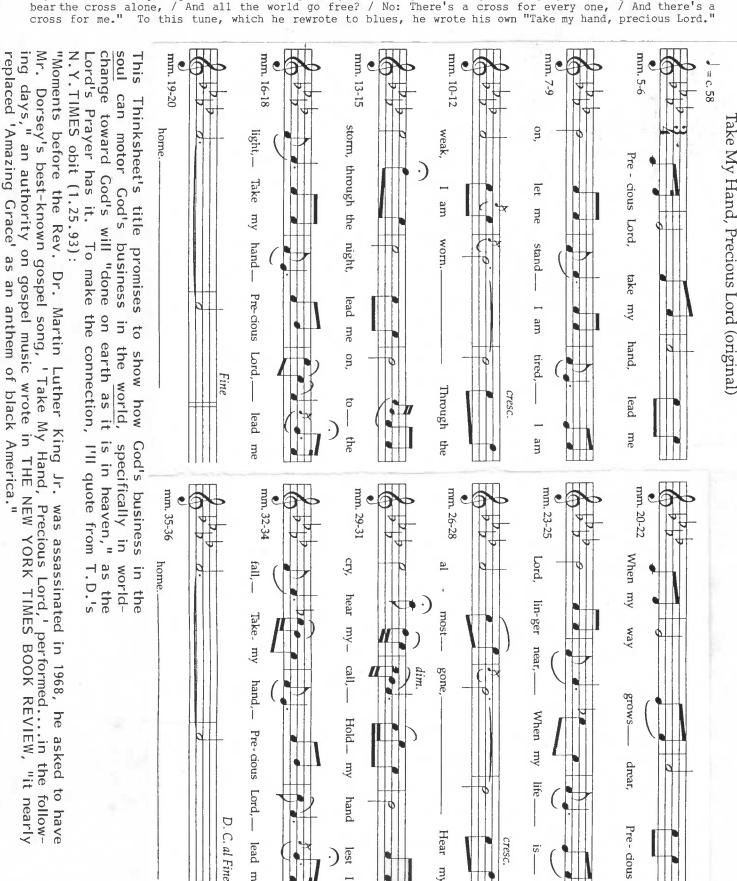
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Personal grief / people grief: Tommy Dorsey (no, not the white one) wrote this gospel blues song (he'd married gospel & blues, it's what we remember him for)

soon after the deaths of his wife & child (she in childbirth, their son the next day [1932]). He "fumbled" at a school piano (& here I quote from p228 of Michael W. Harris' publication of his Harvard PhD dissertation on T.D., THE RISE OF GOSPEL BLUES: The Music of Thomas Andrew Dorsey in the Urban Church [Ox.UP/92]) & "clearly was seeking out the soothing effect of religious song, in this instance traditional Anglo-Protestant hymnody." His "meandering" fingers came upon the English Congregational hymn "Must Jesus bear the cross alone, / And all the world go free? / No: There's a cross for every one, / And there's a cross for me." To this tune, which he rewrote to blues, he wrote his own "Take my hand, precious Lord."



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