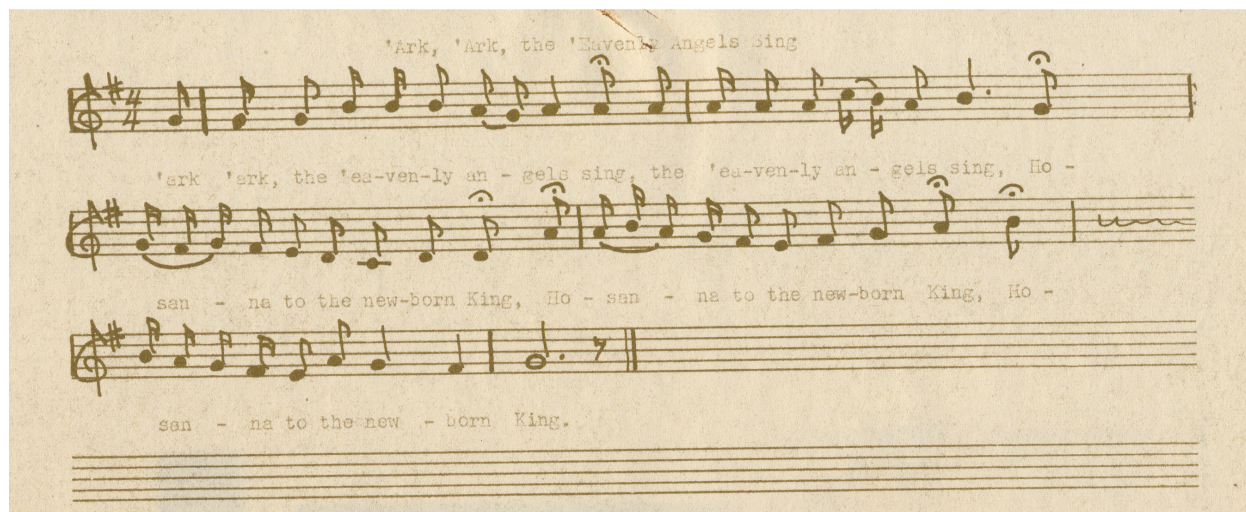


# 'Ark 'Ark! The 'Eavenly Angels Sing

As sung by  
**John Persons**  
08-02-1946 Madison, WI



'Ark 'ark the 'eavenly angels sing,  
The 'eavenly angels sing,  
Hosanna to the newborn King,  
Hosanna to the newborn King,  
Hosanna to the newborn King.

*Transcription and lyrics from the Helene Stratman-Thomas Collection.*

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## Critical Commentary

Transcriptions by Peters, p. 67, and HST.

### HST notes:

In the Professional Papers series:

*John Persons. A favorite carol around Dodgeville Wisconsin. This is all Mr. Persons could remember. This was probably one of the Redruth-Camborne part carols.*

### Editor's notes:

Ralph Dunstan writes that Cornish Carols “fall into four more or less distinct groups,” including what he names Variants of Mediaeval Carols, Folk-Carols, Redruth-Camborne Carols, and Miscellaneous. Redruth and Camborne are towns in Cornwall, England. He describes the Redruth-Camborne carols as the “true Cornish ‘Curl’ ” (HST refers to these songs as “Curls” in her fieldnotes as well), whose “golden age of production was from about 1790 to 1850, and it is this type of Carol which was carried during that period by Cornish miners to every part of the

world, and which is probably more sung at the present time in the ‘Cornish homes far away’ than in most parts of Cornwall itself” (Dunstan 83). Dunstan does not then distinguish between the carols he includes in his collection, although he does allude to Redruth-Camborne characteristics as melismatic, and contrapuntally imitative (Dunstan 83). Helene Stratman-Thomas’ examples of Cornish songs are mostly sung as solos, though, so an investigation of their harmony is impossible.

**Sources:**

Dunstan, Ralph. *Cornish Song Book (Lyver Canow Kernewek)*. London: Reid Bros. Ltd., n.d.  
(“ ‘Ark ‘ark!’” does not appear in this book.)

Peters, Harry B., ed. *Folk Songs out of Wisconsin: An Illustrated Compendium of Words and Music*. Madison, WI: The State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1977.

K.G.