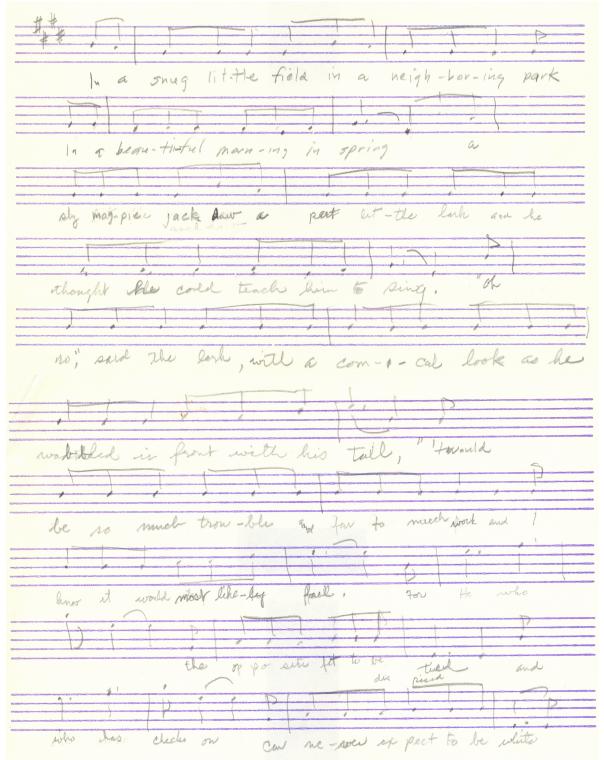
# Magpie and the Lark



In a snug little field in a neighboring park In a beautiful morning in spring A sly magpie jack saw a pert little lark And he though he could teach him to sing. "Oh no," said the lark with a comical look As he wobbled in front with his tail, " 'Twould be so much trouble and far too much work And I know it would most likely fail. For he who would be the opposite ...... And who has checks on, can never expect to be white."

Transcription and lyrics from the Helene Stratman-Thomas Collection.

## **Critical Commentary**

Transcription by Peters, p. 269

## HST notes:

In the Professional Papers series:

Eryl Levers. A pert little magpie inquires of a lark if he thought he could teach him to sing. Oh no, said the lark with a comical look as he warbled and waggled his tail. It would be too much trouble and sorrow for I know I most surely would fail. For he won't listen [thewart...?] of a teacher defies, and birds who chatter can never expect to be wise.

### Editor's notes:

Peters notes that this is often sung as a round.

#### Sources:

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.

