

Inspired by "The *Tryphena's* Extra Hand" by C. Fox Smith

Tune: as arranged for singing by Bob Zentz as recorded on **Closehauled on the Wind of a Dream**, © 2007.

New words by Charles Ipcar, 10/19/09

Dedicated to Barry Finn (1951-2009)

Key: C (7/F)

The Press Room's Extra Voice

C-G--C-----G-----C

In the Press Room, just last eve-ning,

----F-----C

The crowd was gathered there,

F---G----F-----C

You could hear a con-cer-ti-na

-----D-----C--G

Tracing out a dole-ful air;

----C-----G-----C

And when the last verse end-ed,

-----F-----C

"Good-Bye My Riley-O"

F-G-F-----C

I-I-I heard a voice behind me say

-----G--C---G---C

These words so soft and low:

"I've sung these songs for many years,

And I've grown to love them well,

Now I've not much hopes of heaven

And I've not much use for hell:

But be so if they'll let me,

By the Great Hook-Block I swear,

When I hear you singing shanties,

My voice will be there."

"There'll be one more voice on the chorus,

One more voice on the refrain

Be it shanty or forebitter,

You'll hear my voice again;

We'll raise them old songs to the roof,

Like shellbacks used to shout,

As they hauled upon the halyards,

Or broke the mudhook out."

Was he standing in the shadows?

I thought I felt him near,

Kind o' saw him and didn't see him,

Kind o' heard him but did not hear,

And the funny thing about it

Was I somehow couldn't swear

Though I knew it sure as shooting

An Extra Voice was there.

There was one more voice on the chorus,

One more voice on the refrain

Be it shanty or forebitter,

We could hear his voice again;

We raised them old songs to the roof,

Like shellbacks used to shout,

As they hauled upon the halyards,

Or broke the mudhook out.

Notes:

"The *Tryphena's* Extra Hand" by C. Fox Smith, from **Full Sail: More Sea Songs and Ballads**, edited by Cicely Fox Smith, published by Houghton Mifflin Co., New York, US, © 1926, pp. 41-45.

"The Press Room" is a tavern in Portsmouth, NH, where Barry Finn and friends would gather every month for a sea music session.

"The Great Hook-Block" was an exclamation term used by Rudyard Kipling in **Captain Courageous**.