Awake, awake the lofty song







Thomas Merritt, 1862-1908.

Son of an Illogan, Cornwall, tin miner, Thomas Merritt was too frail for mining and became a self-taught musician. He was organist at Chili Road Chapel and later at Fore Street Chapel, both at Illogan Highway, Redruth, Cornwall. He started composing hymns, oratorios and cantatas for his Methodist Chapels, but he also wrote brass band music and was a locally renowned conductor. His carols have been taken in oral tradition throughout the world by migrant Cornish miners.