The Hosanna Shout

R. A. Christmas

He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.
—Luke 8:8

When the Mormons asked sculptor Cyrus Dallin for a statue of their Angel Moroni to top the Salt Lake Temple, initially he refused by saying he didn't believe in angels.

Dallin was a Utahn, born in Springville—but he wasn't Mormon. His parents were converted from Mormonism to Presbyterianism by missionaries from the east.

Dallin's mother, however, urged him to take the commission, which he later said brought him "closer to God" than anything he ever did. The face on his angel was hers.

At noon, on April 6, 1892, when the capstone of the temple was placed, over 50,000 Mormons shouted, "Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna," three times at the top of their lungs.

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The effect, according to witnesses, was
deafening, electrifying, astounding—the ground
shook. A protestant missionary in the crowd
wrote this to her friends in the east:

"It made one realize, very strongly, that
Mormonism is yet a great force, that it is by
no means 'dying out.'" Dallin's twelve-foot,
gold-leafed Moroni was set later in the

day—but he died a Unitarian, one of America's
greatest sculptors. (Google him; then
re-read this poem, thoughtfully—prayerfully,
if you can. Imagine those shouts.)

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