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I Want to Die While You Love Me

for low voice and piano

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Jonathan Santore

Performance Notes

- 1) The *sostenuto* pedal should sustain the opening note throughout the song.
- 2) Mm. 1-10 and 20-31 should alternate between the singer's *rallentandi* and the pianist's carrying forward in time, as marked at the beginning of each section.
- 3) The pedal markings in the piano should be strictly observed; the somewhat blurred effect thus produced is just what the composer had in mind!

I Want to Die While You Love Me

I want to die while you love me,
While yet you hold me fair,
While laughter lies upon my lips
And lights are in my hair.

I want to die while you love me
And bear to that still bed
Your kisses -- turbulent, unspent,
To warm me when I'm dead.

I want to die while you love me
Oh, who would care to live,
'Til love has nothing more to ask
And nothing more to give.

—Georgia Douglas Johnson

From Johnson's *An Autumn Love Cycle* (Boston: Cornhill Publishing Company, 1928; reprinted Freeport, NY: Books for Libraries Press, 1971)

Commissioned by Susan Smith
I Want to Die While You Love Me
(Georgia Douglas Johnson)

Jonathan Santore

Languorously; freely ($\text{♩} = c. 60$)

rall. *mp* sempre

pp *p* sempre

(sustain with *sostenuto* pedal throughout)
Ped. |

In time ($\text{♩} = 60$) *sim.*

me, While yet you hold me fair,

While laugh-ter lies up-on my lips And lights are in my

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