

Performance Notes:

"I Want to Die Easy" is a traditional spiritual. The opening rubato solo has a traditional flavor, leading to a more contemporary, funky gospel rhythm. Pronunciation of the words should be in a southern, African-American style. "I" is pronounced closer to "ah," and should have a glottal accent. The word "easy" should sound more like "ee-zeh."

Phrases should not be sung literally, but with a bluesy scooping on such words as the "e" of easy (in all parts), "when I" in SAT parts, and whenever else it feels stylistically appropriate.

In the louder sections, the tone should be forward and brassy, with "attitude," and not a classical choral sound.

The notation of the solo parts is meant to be a guideline only, and soloists should be encouraged to make the part more improvisational and personal, both in the melody and the phrasing. Soloists may also add an improvisational part over the chorus as well.

Clapping on beats 2 and 4 may be added on the chorus at ms. 63 and again at ms. 95, with no clapping during the solo verses.

The djembe part as notated is intended as a guideline to the groove. The drummer should feel free to personalize the part while still keeping the basic groove. It works well to add a short "fill" leading into each chorus.

I Want to Die Easy When I Die

SATB chorus with soloist(s) and optional djembe accompaniment

Traditional Spiritual
Arr. by Brian Tate

Molto rubato, ad libitum, with soulfulness and yearning

In tempo ♩ = 136

B *mp* *with a pulse*

28 29 30 **S** *mp*

I wan-na die

when I die, eas - y when I die.

djembe continues throughout

31 32 33

eas - y when I die, when I die.

Eas - y when I die, eas - y

34 *mf* 35 36

I wan-na die eas - y when I die,

when I die, eas - y when I die,

37 38 *f* 39

when I die, I wan-na die eas - y when I die,

eas - y when I die, Eas - y when I die,

40 41 42 *mp*

shout sal - va - tion as I fly. I wan-na die

shout sal - va - tion as I fly.

43 44 45

eas - y when I die, when I die.

Eas - y when I die, eas - y

46 **Solo** *mp* 47 48

I wan-na see my moth - er when I die,

SA *p*

Oo

when I die.

49 50 *mf* 51

when I die, I wan-na see my moth -

(SA)

eas - y when I die, Oo

52 53 54 *f*

er when I die, when I die, I wan-na see my

mf

eas - y when I die.

55 *mf* 56 57
 moth - er when I die, ___ shout sal - va - tion as I fly, ___
 Oo

58 *mp* 59 60
 I wan-na see my moth - er when I die, ___
 Oo

61 62 63
 when I die, ___
 S *mf*
 eas - y. I wan-na die eas -
 A *Div.* *mp*
 eas - y when I die, ___ I wan-na die
 B *mf*
 Eas - y
 play djembe with open tone

64 65 66
 y when I die, ___ when I die, ___ I wan-na die
 eas - y when I die, ___ when I die, ___
 when I die, ___ eas - y when I die, ___

67 68 69
 eas - y when I die, ___ when I die, ___
 I wan-na die eas - y when I die, ___
 eas - y when I die, ___ eas - y

70 *f* 71 72
 I wan-na die eas - y when I die, ___ shout sal -
 when I die, ___ *f* Eas - y when I die, ___ shout sal -
 when I die, ___ *f* Eas - y when I die, ___ shout sal -

73 74 *mf* 75
 va - tion as I fly, ___ I wan-na die eas -
 va - tion as I fly, ___ *mp* I wan-na die
 va - tion as I fly, ___ *mp* Eas - y

76 77 78 *Solo mp*

I wan-na see my
 y when I die, when I die.
 eas - y when I die, when I die.
 when I die, eas - y when I die.

79 80 81

fa - ther when I die, when I die.
 heav - en when I die, when I die.

SA p
 Oo eas - y

TB p
 mute djembe

82 83 84 *mf*

I wan-na see my fa - ther when I die,
 I wan-na go to heav - en when I die.

when I die, Oo

85 86 87 *f*

when I die, I wan-na see my fa - ther when I die,
 when I die, I wan-na go to heav - en when I die.

mp
 eas - y when I die. Oo

88 89 90 *mp*

shout sal - va - tion as I fly. I wan-na see my
 shout sal - va - tion as I fly. I wan-na go to

91 92 93 94 *mf*

fa - ther when I die, when I die,
 heav - en when I die, when I die.

S
 Oo eas - y. I wan-na die

A
 Oo eas - y when I die.

TB
 Oo eas - y when I die.

S 95 96 97

A eas - y when I die, when I die, -

T I wan-na die eas - y when I die, -

B *mf* I wan-na die eas -

Eas - y when I die, eas - y
play djembe with open tone

98 99 100

- I wan-na die eas - y when I die, -

when I die, I wan-na die eas - y

y. I wan-na die

when I die, eas - y when I die, -

101 102 103 *f*

- when I die, I wan-na die eas - y when I die, -

when I die, when I die, Eas - y when I die, -

eas - y. Eas - y when I die, -

eas - y when I die, Eas - y when I die, -

104 105 106 *mf*

- shout sal - va - tion as I fly. I wan-na die

- shout sal - va - tion as I fly.

- shout sal - va - tion as I fly.

- shout sal - va - tion as I fly.

107 108 109

eas - y when I die, when I die, -

I wan-na die eas - y when I die, -

I wan-na die eas -

Eas - y when I die, eas - y

110 *Solo mp* 111 112 *soloist optional ad lib. al fine*

I wan-na go to

I wan-na die eas -

when I die, when I die, I wan-na die

y. y.

when I die, when I die, Eas - y

113 114 115 116

Music score for measures 113-116. It features a vocal line (Soprano) and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line has lyrics: "y when I die, when I die, I wan-na die eas -". The piano accompaniment includes a right-hand part with chords and a left-hand part with a bass line. The lyrics for the piano part are: "eas - y when I die, when I die, I wan-na die" and "I wan-na die eas - y."

S 117 118 119 120

Music score for measures 117-120. It features a vocal line (Soprano) and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line has lyrics: "y when I die, when I die, I wan-na die eas -". The piano accompaniment includes a right-hand part with chords and a left-hand part with a bass line. The lyrics for the piano part are: "eas - y when I die, when I die, I wan-na die" and "when I die, eas - y when I die, Eas - y"

S 121 122 123

Music score for measures 121-123. It features a vocal line (Soprano) and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line has lyrics: "y when I die, when I die, I wan-na die". The piano accompaniment includes a right-hand part with chords and a left-hand part with a bass line. The lyrics for the piano part are: "when I die, eas - y when I die."

S 124 rit. 125 126 127

Music score for measures 124-127. It features a vocal line (Soprano) and a djembe accompaniment. The vocal line has lyrics: "eas - y when I die, when I die, I wan-na die". The djembe part includes a right-hand part with a rhythmic pattern and a left-hand part with a bass line. The lyrics for the djembe part are: "eas - y when I die, when I die, I wan-na die". The score includes a "rit." marking and a "sfz" dynamic marking.

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