

I want to be ready

Negro Spiritual
Arranged by Harry Thacker Burleigh
(1866-1949)

5

V. I want to be read - y, I want to be read - y, I want to be read - y,

Pno.

The musical score is written in 2/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The vocal line (V.) is on a single staff, and the piano accompaniment (Pno.) is on a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The piano part features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the bass and chords in the treble. The lyrics are: 'I want to be read - y, I want to be read - y, I want to be read - y,'. The score ends with a fermata over the final note of the vocal line.

Harry Thacker Burleigh (1866-1949) was a Black American singer, composer, arranger, and music editor renowned for his five-decade career as a soloist in New York City. He studied composition with Antonín Dvořák, toured with Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, was a staff editor at G. Ricordi, and was a charter member of ASCAP. His compositions include solo and choral settings of spirituals and art songs.