

## THE LAST PERFORMANCE

"I am playing my oldest tunes," declared she,  
"All the old tunes I know, -  
Those I learnt ever so long ago."  
- Why she should think just then she'd play them  
Silence cloaks like snow.

When I returned from the town at nightfall  
Notes continued to pour  
As when I had left two hours before:  
It's the very last time," she said in closing;  
"From now I play no more."

A few morns onward found her fading,  
And, as her life outflew,  
I thought of her playing her tunes right through;  
And I felt she had known of what was coming,  
And wondered how she knew.

1912.