

Knowledge Organiser – Holst Planets – Year 5, Unit 2

1 – Listen & Appraise: Holst Planets Suite

Questions: *Is the tempo fast or slow? Is the pitch high or low? Is the dynamic soft or loud? Can you identify the metre? What instruments can you hear? Which instruments carry the main melody? Can you identify any rhythmic ostinati? Is the piece atmospheric? What film/tv show could it accompany?*

Mars, the Bringer of War: In 5 time (5 beats in a bar) throughout with three epic climaxes. This movement greatly inspired the original music of Star Wars by John Williams

Jupiter, the Bringer of Jollity The emotional centre of the suite with a very famous tune that has been set as a hymn and a rugby anthem!

Venus, the Bringer of Peace

Serene and beautiful with many orchestral solos and gentle accompaniment

Saturn, the Bringer of Old Age

Holst's favourite. Two spooky chords alternating back and forth like plodding footsteps. Mysterious and gloomy

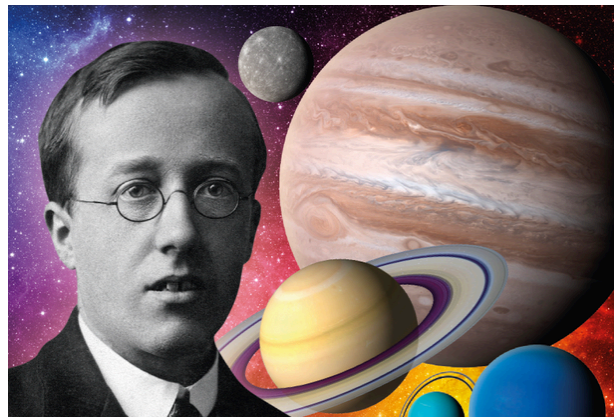
2 – Musical Activities

Compose

Compose your own planets suite using music software: Chrome Music Lab: Songmaker, GarageBand. How could you create the atmosphere to match your planet? How can you build up instruments? Can you vary the tempo to create different effects? Can you vary the volume and number of instruments to vary the dynamics?

3 – Perform & Share

Present your final pieces and evaluate each others.
Tell your audience how you composed this piece and why.



About this unit

Theme: Atmospheric music to evoke a chosen mood

Facts: Gustav Holst was inspired to write The Planets because he was inspired by astrology as well as the work of Stravinsky and Debussy. Gustav Holst lived 1874-1934. The Suite was written 1914-1916 and debuted in 1918.

Vocabulary: Tempo, dynamics, ostinato, atmosphere, metre, pitch, chords, melody,

Reflection

What did you like best about this Unit? Why? Was there anything you didn't enjoy about it? Why?

Did you have any strong feelings about it? Were you proud of yourself, happy or annoyed?

What are the 'style indicators' of orchestral music?

How do you know this is orchestral music? Can you find out more about orchestral music?