

Year four

Resources and links January 2021

The sounds of space

This term we will be learning about music written about Space, including a very famous group of pieces called The Planet Suite by Gustav Holst.

This link will take you to the BBC Ten Pieces website, where you can watch an introduction by Dick & Dom to the first piece, Mars, and a video of an orchestra playing it too. There is also a video to show you how to make a digital art work which looks like brilliant fun!

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/14ZjT5yjnKQRdKVsqLzK1x/mars-from-the-planets-by-gustav-holst>

Some of you might like to look at this video, which shows the written music for Mars on the screen as it is played by the orchestra.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1rLaEIKOM2w> - Orchestral Score

Here you can watch two videos with a keyboard version, where the music is represented visually, without using musical notes. This is called a Graphic Score. You might like to try making your own as you listen.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oNM9Y18t2tk> - Graphic score with keyboard (CIRCLES)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zKjqGICUHv0> - Graphic score with keyboard (LINES)

Here is a CBeebies concert called Off to the Moon which includes many space-inspired pieces of music and animations

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/mooo8lvt/cbeebies-presents-proms-off-to-the-moon>

IAL about a famous composer's life

- Gustav Holst was an English composer and music teacher for over 20 years.
- Most of the music he composed was original, but he had influences from Hindu spiritualism and English folk tunes.



IAL about a famous composer's life

As a child, Gustav was taught the piano and violin.



This is Holst's piano. You can see it in the Holst Birthplace Museum. He composed *The Planets* on this piano.

This is Holst playing the violin.



IAL about a famous composer's life

Unfortunately, Holst also had pain in his hands, so it made practising the piano very difficult and painful.

After leaving school, he got his first job as an organist and choirmaster.

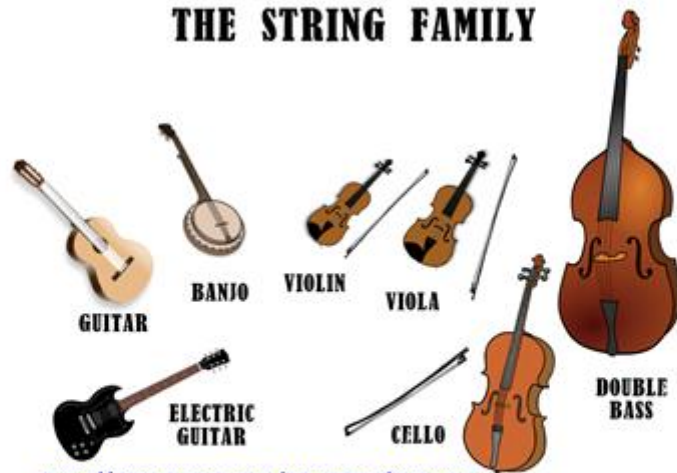


IAL about a famous composer's life

- Holst wrote The Planets Suite between 1914 and 1916.
- Each of the seven movements is named after a planet of the Solar System and its corresponding astrological character.



THE STRING FAMILY



<http://datadragon.com/education/instruments/strings.shtml>



IAL how a stringed instrument works

Holst gave an instruction for the instrumentalists to strike the string with their bow, rather than draw it across the strings. This gave the string instruments a more percussive sound.

[See a demonstration of col legno here](#)



IAL about a famous composer's life

1. Mars - the Bringer of War
2. Venus - the Bringer of Peace
3. Mercury - the Winged Messenger
4. Jupiter - the Bringer of Jollity
5. Saturn - the Bringer of Old Age
6. Uranus - the Magician
7. Neptune - the Mystic



IAL about a famous composer's life

Holst did not compose a piece of music about Pluto, as Pluto was not discovered until 1930.

Colin Matthews, a recent composer created a piece of music called Pluto: the Renewer. This is sometimes played alongside Holst's Planet Suite in concerts.

