# Lesson 4 – Gustav Holst – Planets made him a star

**Lesson 4: Gustav Holst : 'The Planets made him a star'**

| Knowledge Objective/goal | Task | Lesson Detail | Vocabulary |
|---|---|---|---|
| To listen and respond to Holst's composition on the planet Venus. | Task:<br><br>Children to work in groups using percussion instruments to create their own interpretation of Venus. | Begin lesson listening to a sample of: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZR2JlDnTZI8 'The Lark ascending' by Vaughn Williams. This piece of music has ascending notes similar to that of 'Venus.' Ask children to listen to the piece and think about how the musical changes/ thinking of music terminology.<br><br>Prior Learning: Gustav's first movement of the planet suite 'Mars.'<br><br>Teach :- Introduce the piece 'Venus' by Gustav Holst. character name 'The Bringer of Peace.'<br>The cool blue Venus follows angry red Mars. The music is slower and beautifully eerie, complete with relaxing tunes played on harps and flutes, shimmering strings, and ethereal solo violin passages to call to mind the Roman goddess.<br>Play children the piece of music 'Venus' by Gustav Holst. Explain to the children that the character is 'The Bringer of Peace.'<br><br>Explain that this is the second movement of the Planets Suite and ask the children to think about the following things while listening to it:<br><br>• The rhythm you can hear. How does this compare to Mars?<br>• What instruments can you hear? Do they differ to the instruments used in Mars?<br>• How does the music make you feel?<br>• What are the similarities and differences between Venus and Mars?<br><br>Task – Children to work in groups using percussion instruments to create their own interpretation of Venus.<br><br>Plenary:<br><br>Children to share ideas to the rest of the class and explain that in the next lesson we will be looking at the planet Jupiter. | Gustav Holst – British Composer, arranger and teacher.<br><br>Composer – Author of music<br><br>Venus – The second planet from the sun and closest in size to earth.<br><br>Ascending – To rise/go up<br><br>Eerie – Strange, mysterious and frightening<br><br>Vaughn Williams – English composer.<br><br>Relevant Musicians:<br><br>Gustav Holst<br><br>Vaughn Williams |

Suggested Resources:

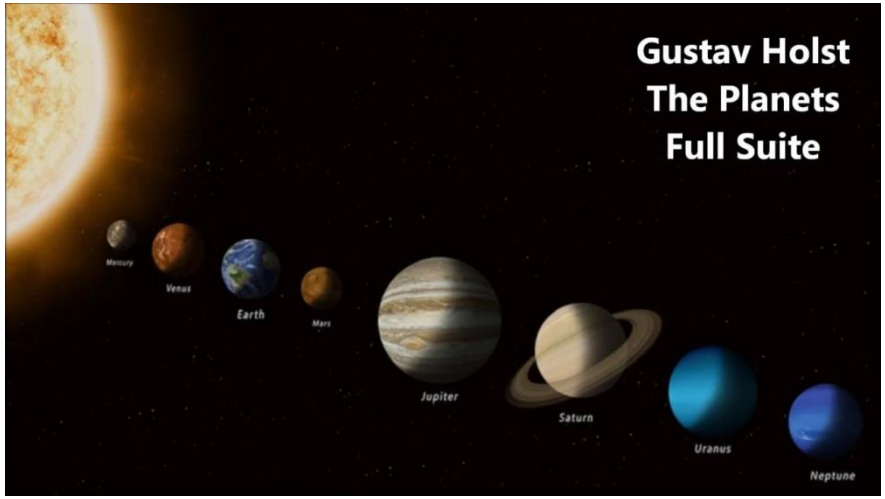
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Hqb2gp4mtc 'Venus' by Gustav Holst.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZR2JlDnTZI8 'The Lark ascending' by Vaughn Williams.

Year 4
Spring 1
Lesson 4

# Gustav Holst 'The Planets made him a star.'








Let's listen - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZR2JlDnT2I8



What instrumental families can you hear in this piece of music?

Where do you think this piece might be played?

How does the music make you feel? Why?

What are the dynamics?

Were there lots of instruments playing or just one?

What is the tempo?

What style of music do you think this is?

What is the general texture of the piece?

Have you heard it before?

# Prior Learning

Think back to last weeks lesson when we looked at Gustav's first movement of the planet suite; 'Mars'.



# Our Knowledge Organiser




Written between 1914-1916
by British composer Gustav Holst

Within the music of the planets, planet Earth was not included because we live on planet earth and Gustav was focusing on planets that are in outer space. Pluto was not discovered until 1930 and so this was not included in the suite, however in 2000 the British composer Collin Matthews was asked to write a piece of music which is known as Pluto the Renewer.

## Gustav Holst
## 21 September 1874 – 25 May 1934



Composer Gustav Holst who was born in 1874 in Cheltenham where his Father was a music teacher which was a big inspiration for Gustav. From a young boy Gustav was always interested in music and learnt to play the violin and piano but due to the family being so poor Gustav's Father had to borrow money to send him to the Royal College of London to study music. He eventually started to play the Trombone instead of the piano as due to cramp in his hands playing the piano was extremely painful. He practised the trombone while he walked through fields which scared the sheep!

### Vocabulary

Composer – author of music

Inspiration - Something that stimulates you to feel or do something.

Solar System – The bound system of the sun and the objects that orbit around it.

Ascending – To rise/go up

Eerie – Strange, mysterious and frightening



# Key Vocabulary



Gustav Holst – British Composer, arranger and teacher.
Composer – Author of music.
Venus – The second planet from the sun and closest in size to earth.
Ascending – To rise/go up.
Eerie – Strange, mysterious and frightening.
Vaughn Williams – English composer.

**L.O:** To listen and respond to Holst's composition on the planet Venus.



**Here are today's key words:**

Gustav Holst
Composer
Venus
Ascending
Eerie
Vaughn Williams

# Teach



Today we are going to be focusing  on the piece Gustav Holst composed based on the planet Venus whose character name is 'The Bringer of Peace.'

The cool blue Venus follows angry red Mars. The music is slower and beautifully eerie, complete with relaxing tunes played on harps and flutes, shimmering strings, and ethereal solo violin passages to call to mind the Roman goddess.

# Teach



'Venus' is the second movement of 'The Planets' . Think about the following things when you listen to the piece of music:

- The rhythm you can hear. How does this compare to Mars?
- What instruments can you hear? Do they differ to the instruments used in Mars?
- How does the music make you feel?
- What are the similarities and differences between Venus and Mars?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Hpb2gp4mtc 'Venus' by Gustav Holst.

# Task -

Can you use or improvise a percussion instrument to accompany Holst's Venus?



# And finally…



**Next lesson we will be looking at the planet Jupiter!**