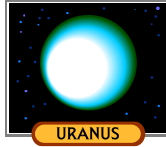


Our Planets



These are the planets in our solar system. Composers have always been fascinated with space, and Gustav **HOLST**, an English composer, wrote a piece of music called 'The Planets Suite' to describe the **CHARACTERISTICS** of each planet. Holst identifies the planets as:

Musical Vocabulary

COMPOSER – someone who writes/makes up music

OSTINATO – a repeated musical pattern; can be rhythmic or melodic or a combination of both

DYNAMICS – how loud or soft the music is

CRESCENDO – a dynamic marking indicating to the performer to gradually get louder

SUITE – a longer piece of music made up of several shorter pieces (movements) grouped together, often with a similar theme

MOOD – the feeling and atmosphere that a piece of music creates

MOVEMENT – the name given to an individual piece of music which, when grouped together, forms a larger-scale work *e.g. a Suite*. Each of the movements in a suite of music is normally different in some way, contrasted by elements such as pitch, tempo and dynamics.

Mars: Bringer of War;

Venus: Bringer of Peace;

Mercury: Winged Messenger;

Jupiter: Bringer of Jollity

Saturn: Bringer of Old Age

Uranus: The Magician

Neptune: The Mystic

Roman God: Mars
Greek God: Ares

God of: War

Story of the Name: Mars was named after the god of war due to the planets red, blood-like color

Roman God: Venus
Greek God: Aphrodite

God of: Love & Beauty

Story of the Name: Venus is so bright and beautiful in the sky it was named after the goddess of beauty

Roman God: Mercury
Greek God: Hermes

God of: Messenger

Story of the Name: Mercury moves so quick it was named after the fleet-of-foot messenger god

Roman God: Jupiter
Greek God: Zeus

God of: Sky

Story of the Name: Jupiter was named after the most important god because it is the largest planet

Roman God: Saturn
Greek God: Cronus

God of: Harvest & Time

Story of the Name: Saturn moves so slowly it was named after the oldest god, the god of time

Roman God: Uranus
Greek God: Uranus

God of: Sky

Story of the Name: Uranus was named after the father of Saturn because Saturn is the father of Jupiter

Roman God: Neptune
Greek God: Poseidon

God of: Sea

Story of the Name: Neptune got its name because of its blue color, and named after the god of the sea

Musical Scales

In order to compose different music for different planets, composers use different **scales**. These are notes with different gaps in between to create a completely different sound such as the pentatonic scale; the whole tone scale; the chromatic scale;

