

## THE PLANETS

(This is a piece of music about the planets, or some of them, in our Solar System)

The music is in seven parts, each part describes some things about one planet. You have to listen to a short extract from each one and decide which planet the music belongs to. There are a few notes about each one which tell you what to listen out for. There are a few other questions as well at the end.

### JUPITER – The Bringer of Jollity



The title tells you to expect some jolly tunes – the sort of thing you might be able to whistle if you were feeling happy!

Excerpt number.....

### MARS – The Bringer of War



The music really refers to Mars the God of War of the Ancient Romans. So, listen out for the tramp of marching troops, the sound of trumpets and the sort of noise you might connect with a battle!

Excerpt number.....

### MERCURY – The Winged Messenger



The God Mercury was a messenger. He could carry messages at enormous speed, so you can imagine that his music might be very quick and sort of slippery!

Excerpt number.....

### NEPTUNE – The Mystic



We often link Neptune with the sea. Here, he is shown as something very mysterious, so you might expect to hear music which is very quiet and rather distant sounding! You might even hear voices ...!

Excerpt number.....

### SATURN - The Bringer of Old Age



Saturn is well-known as the planet with the beautiful rings round it. Here, it is linked to old age, so listen out for some very creaky sort of sounds such as you might associate with some of us “oldies” as our joints begin to seize up – the music gets a bit tottery too!

Excerpt number.....

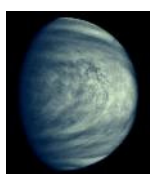
### URANUS – The Magician



If you have seen any “Harry Potter” films, you will have heard lots of music linked to magic and spells. The Planets was written long before Harry Potter came along but might have provided some of the inspiration for his music. It invites you to picture a very powerful magician towering over you, about to cast you under his spell!

Excerpt number.....

### Venus – The Bringer of Peace



Venus is the Goddess of Love and is very beautiful. Listen out for a very nice gentle violin tune that you might expect would be associated with a beautiful lady!

Excerpt number.....

Turn over

**How many planets are there in the Solar System? (The Moon does not count as a separate one because it “belongs” to us, on Earth.**

Answer.....

**There are seven pieces of music in The Planets. Which planet(s) is(are) not represented?**

Answer.....

**Why do you think this is?**

Answer.....

**The name of the composer who wrote this piece is *Gustav Holst*. What nationality was he?**

Answer.....

**The music was written in 1916. What world event might have influenced him in writing at least some of the pieces in it?**

Answer.....

**Where might you be able to go to listen to this piece “live” within the next two months?**

**Have Fun!!!!**

