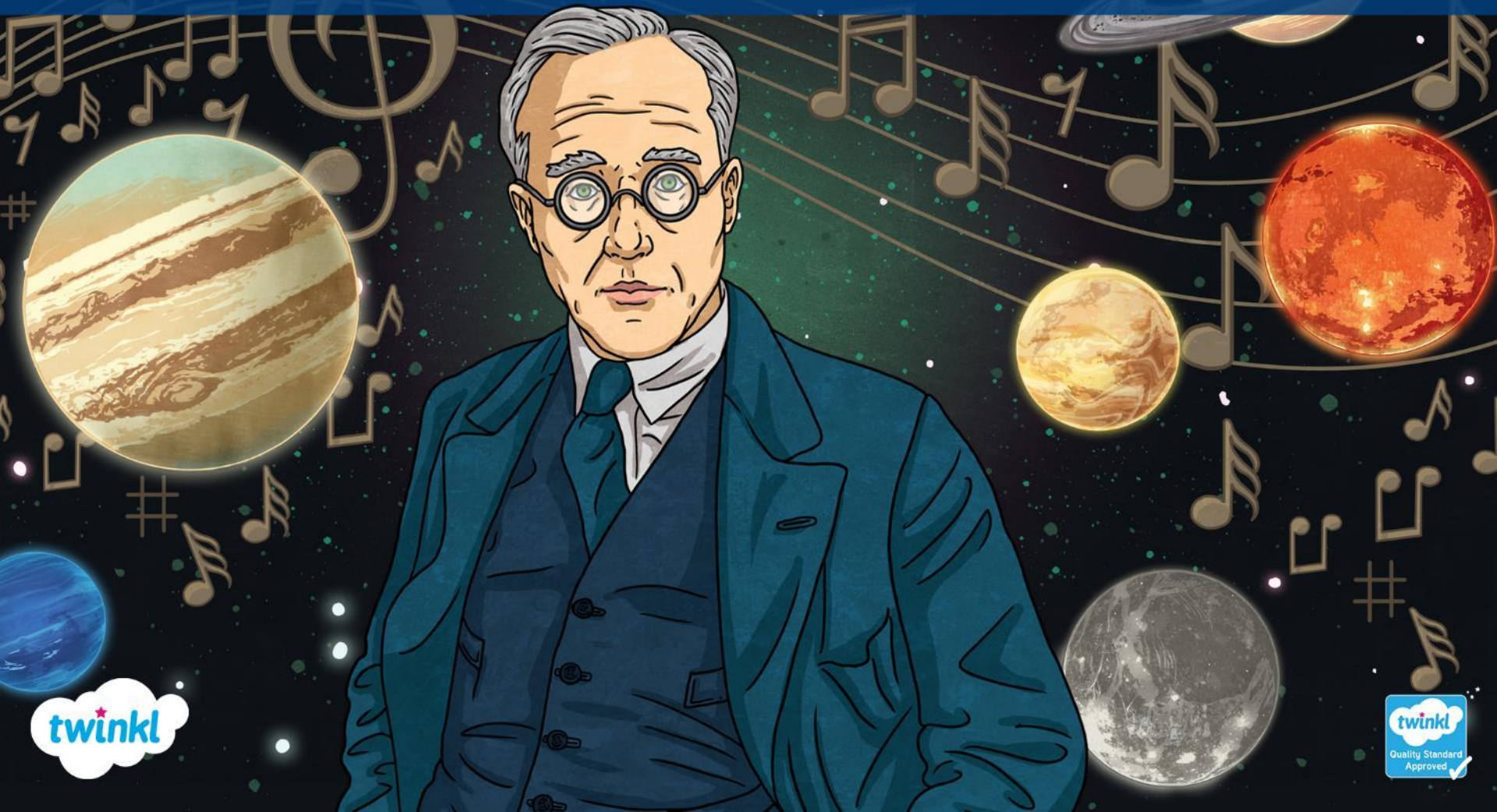


All About Gustav Holst and 'The Planets'



Gustav Holst

Gustavus Theodore von Holst was born in Cheltenham on 21st September 1874.

From a young age, he showed a passion for music. He was taught how to play the piano by his father. As a young man, he conducted a local village choir and he later took up the trombone.

Holst attended the Royal College of Music in London, where he studied composition (writing music using musical notation).

While studying, he met fellow student, Ralph Vaughan Williams, another famous composer. The two became great friends.

Cheltenham



Gustav Holst

After studying, Gustav Holst made a living in orchestras as a rehearsal pianist before becoming a teacher of music. Holst liked to encourage those who enjoyed singing and composed work especially for his students.

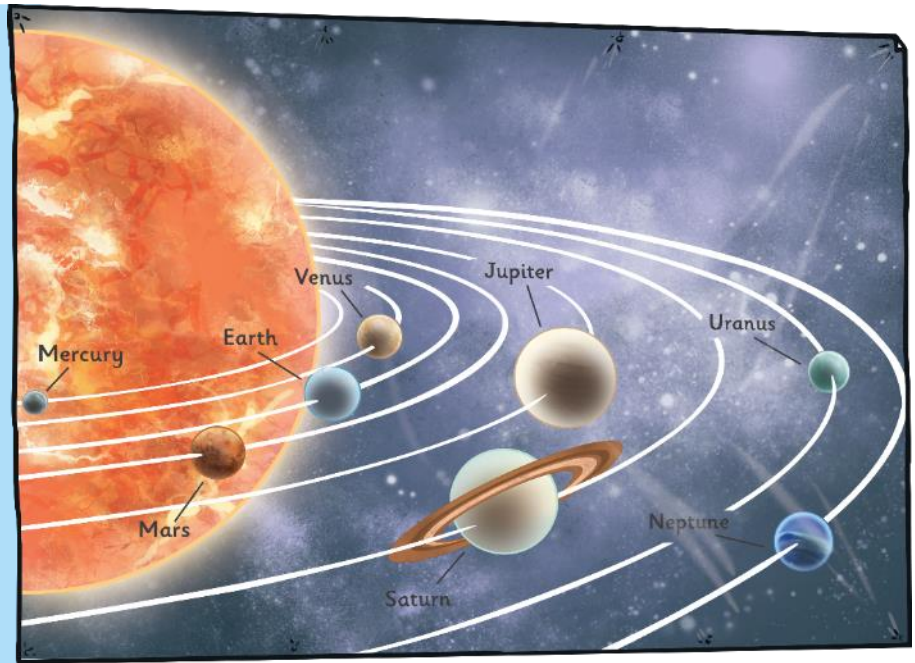
He composed music for orchestras too in his free time and achieved great success. This eventually led him to teaching theory and composition at the Royal College of Music in London.



'The Planets'

He is perhaps best known for 'The Planets', which he composed between 1914 and 1916.

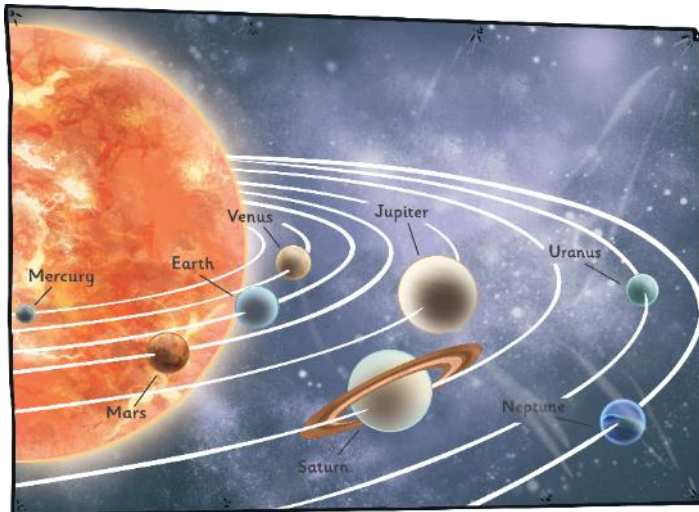
'The Planets' is a suite of music that contains seven different movements (pieces of music). It is sometimes thought that each of the seven movements of 'The Planets' are based on the Roman gods that the planets are named after. Others believe they are based on the physical features of the planets themselves. However, according to Holst, they are actually based on astrology.



'The Planets'

During a holiday with a friend, Holst was introduced to astrology. Astrology is the study of the movements and positions of the planets and the belief that they have some influence on human life and the natural world. **Horoscopes** are drawn from astrology and Holst became very interested in them, telling his friends all about them and what they meant.

Over the next few slides you will listen to the parts of the seven movements from the suite 'The Planets'. What do you hear?



horoscopes – This is when people predict their future based on where the planets and stars were positioned when they were born.