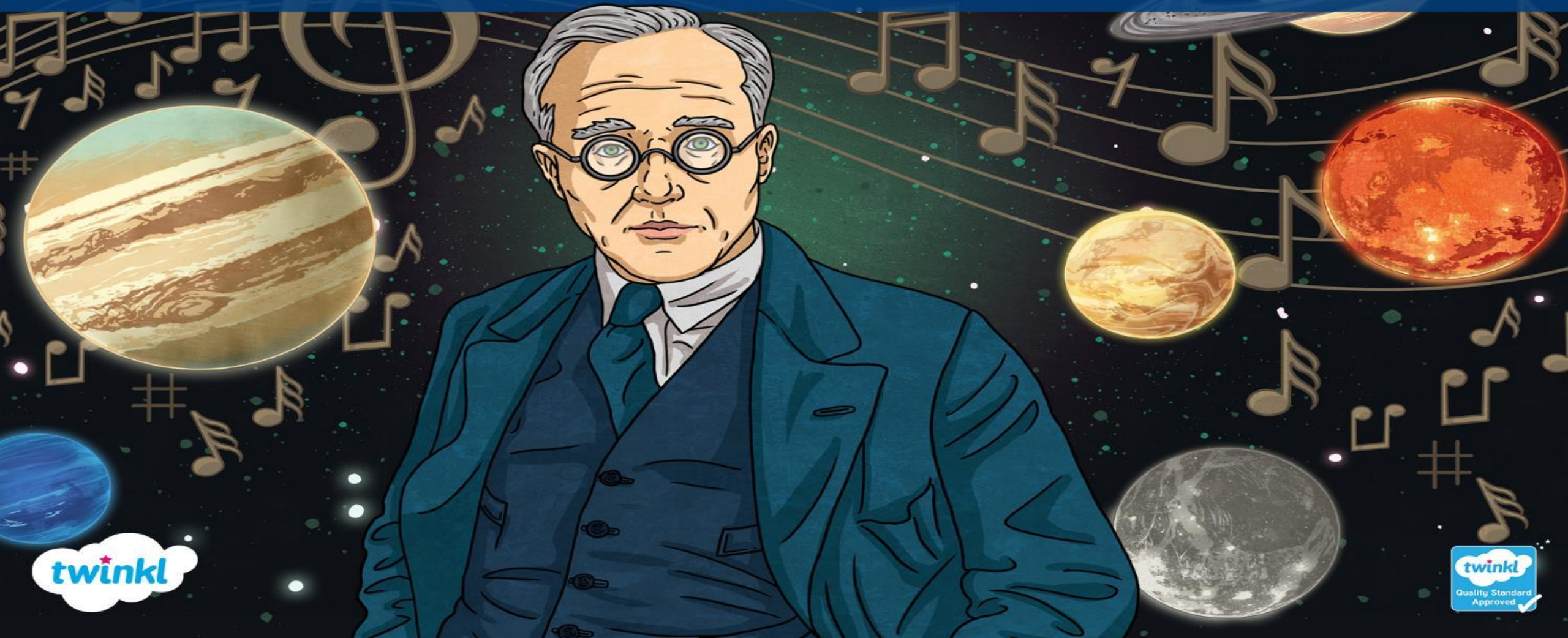


All About Gustav Holst and 'The Planets'



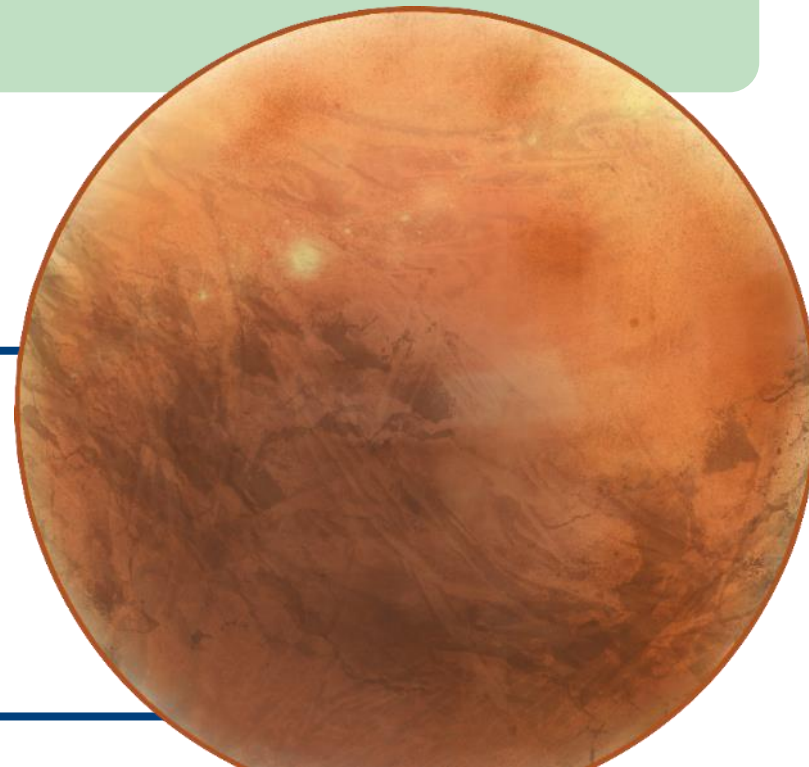
Mars

This first movement represents Mars. It was given the title 'Mars – Bringer of War'.

The drum beats give the piece a military feel. It could be described as an angry piece of music.

Mars in Astrology

Mars is associated with the sign of Aries – the ram. It represents energy, ambition and determination. It is said to describe a willingness for action.



Venus

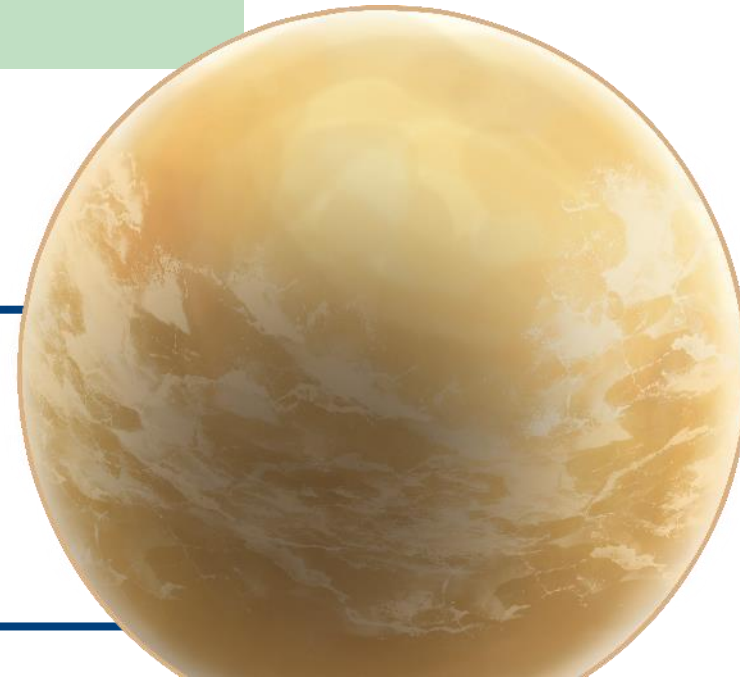
The second movement is called 'Venus – Bringer of Peace'.

How would you compare the mood of the second movement with the first?

This piece is more serene with many orchestral solos and gentle accompaniments.

Venus in Astrology

Venus is associated with the signs Libra and Taurus. It represents beauty, enjoyment and friendliness



Mercury

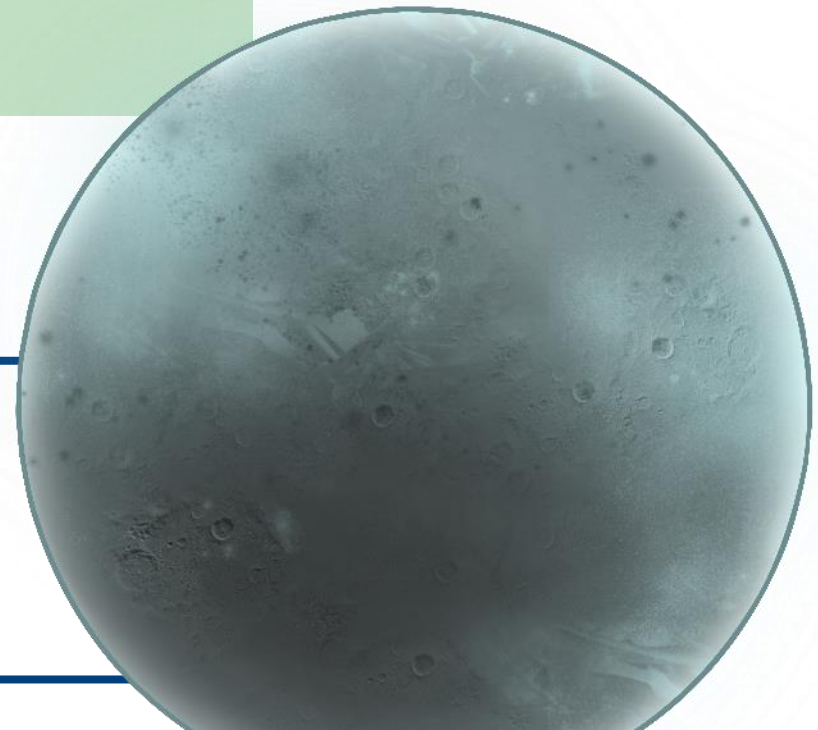
This movement is called 'Mercury – The Winged Messenger'. Close your eyes. What does this piece remind you of? Why?

How would you describe the tempo of the music?

This piece has a fast tempo.

Mercury in Astrology

Mercury is associated with the signs Gemini and Virgo. It represents reason, order and the process of learning.



Jupiter

This is named 'Jupiter – Bringer of Jollity'. Listen out for the tune, 'I Vow to Thee My Country', within this piece. You might recognise it if you are a rugby fan!

Which word do you think best describes the character of this piece? Why?

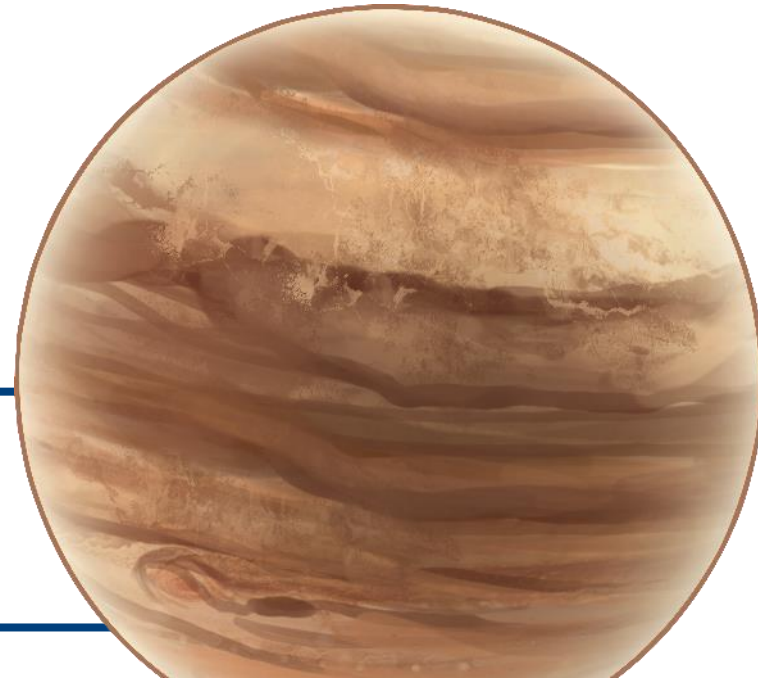
scary

cheerful

serious

Jupiter in Astrology

Jupiter is associated with the sign of Sagittarius. It represents hope, and justice.



Saturn

'Saturn – Bringer of Old Age' was Holst's favourite movement.

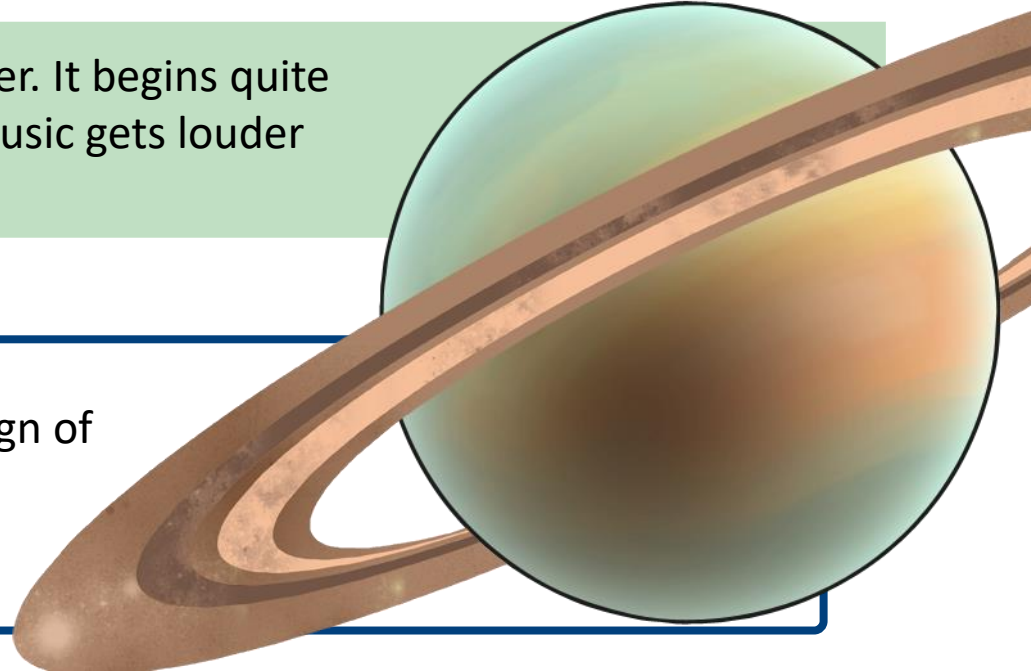
How would you describe this piece?

How does it make you feel? Why?

It isn't quite as upbeat as Jupiter. It begins quite slow and quiet and then the music gets louder before ending quietly.

Saturn in Astrology

Saturn is associated with the sign of
It represents the sense
wrong, honesty



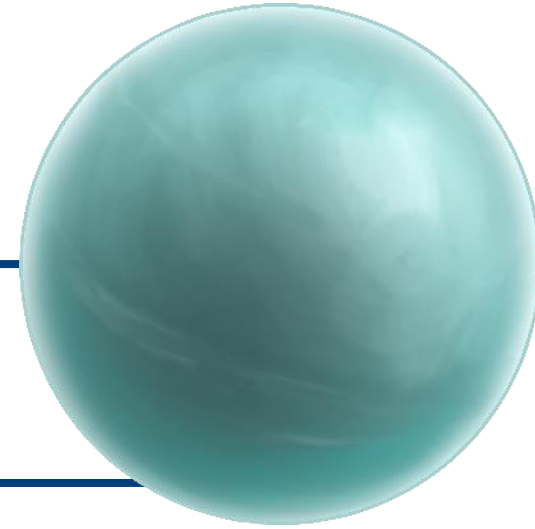
Uranus

The full orchestra makes an impressive sound in 'Uranus – The Magician'.

Click to hear an example!

Uranus in Astrology

Uranus is associated with the sign of Aquarius. represents inspiration and understanding and readiness for the unknown.



Can you name three instruments played in this piece?

Reveal answer

trumpet, trombone, timpani, flute, bassoon, tuba, xylophone, French horn, tambourine, piano, bass drum, cello, violin, clarinet, harp and cymbals.

bassoon



cello



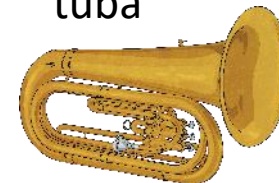
clarinet



French horn



tuba



Neptune

The final movement is named 'Neptune – The Mystic'.

How is this final movement different to the others?

The final movement includes a choir. Perhaps this is to represent the mystery associated with Neptune in astrology.

Which is your favourite movement and why?

Neptune in Astrology

Neptune is associated with the sign of
It represents mystery, illusion and
appearances.

