Kindergarten - 4th Grade

Music
Week #6

May 4-8, 2020
Gustav Holst (1874-1934)

Gustav Holst was a British composer born in 1874. He learned to play the piano but eventually had medical issues with his hand and was forced to stop. He then learned to play the trombone. He composed many pieces during his lifetime including operas, choral chamber works, and large orchestral pieces. He is best known for his orchestral work: *The Planets*.

**Directions:**

1. Find and circle all the hidden objects.
2. Color your picture
3. Listen to excerpts of *The Planets* by Gustave Holst. Do you think each piece is a good representation of each planet? Why or why not? Let me know which one is your favorite.

- You may find links so music on the distance learning web page
Gustav Holst was born in London, England. It was there that *The Planets* was written between 1914 and 1916.

John Williams based much of his *Star Wars* soundtrack on various movements of *The Planets*.

Even though Holst loved to play the piano, he was forced to stop due to medical problems with his hand. He then learned to play the trombone.

Holst also wrote 13 operas. In operas, singers dressed in costume sing songs that tell a story, and usually the songs are sung along with an orchestra.

The Planets is based on astrology, which is the study of the positions of the stars and planets in the sky.
Holst taught music to English soldiers during World War I.

*The Planets* includes movements titled after 7 of the 8 planets. Holst did not write a movement for Earth.

Most of the planets are named after Greek and Roman gods.

There are eight planets in the solar system: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune.

Imogen Holst, Gustav's daughter, was also a composer and a conductor.

A horoscope looks at the positions of the sun, moon and planets to predict the future.

When performing the *Neptune* movement, the women's choirs are put in a nearby room with the door open. At the end of the piece, the door is slowly closed to create a fading sound.