

Classical Music and the Cosmos

Classical Music · Answer Key · 18 Questions

1. Which English composer wrote the famous orchestral suite titled 'The Planets'?

- A) Gustav Holst**
- B) Edward Elgar
- C) Benjamin Britten
- D) Ralph Vaughan Williams

2. How many movements are in Gustav Holst's 'The Planets' suite, representing the planets known at the time?

- A) 5
- B) 7**
- C) 9
- D) 12

3. In 'The Planets' suite, which planet is famously associated with the subtitle 'The Bringer of War'?

- A) Mars**
- B) Jupiter
- C) Saturn
- D) Venus

4. Which planet is portrayed as 'The Bringer of Jollity' in Holst's 'The Planets'?

- A) Mercury
- B) Jupiter**
- C) Neptune
- D) Uranus

5. Which celestial body, formerly considered a planet, does not have a dedicated movement in Holst's original 'The Planets' suite?

- A) Pluto**
- B) Mars
- C) Venus
- D) Saturn

6. What is the name of the recurring musical theme in the 'Jupiter' movement of 'The Planets' that became a famous hymn tune?

- A) Ode to Joy
- B) I Vow to Thee, My Country**
- C) Jupiter's Call
- D) Space Anthem

7. Which composer wrote '2001: A Space Odyssey' opening theme, 'Also sprach Zarathustra'?

A) Richard Strauss

B) Johann Strauss II

C) Franz Liszt

D) Gustav Mahler

8. What philosophical work by Friedrich Nietzsche inspired the title of Richard Strauss's 'Also sprach Zarathustra'?

A) Thus Spoke Zarathustra

B) Beyond Good and Evil

C) The Birth of Tragedy

D) Human, All Too Human

9. Which planet is musically described as 'The Bringer of Old Age' in Holst's suite?

A) Saturn

B) Neptune

C) Mercury

D) Mars

10. Which instrument family is heavily used in 'Also sprach Zarathustra' to depict the sunrise and the vastness of space?

A) Brass

B) Percussion

C) Woodwinds

D) Strings

11. In 'The Planets', which movement features a wordless female chorus that fades into silence to represent the vastness of deep space?

A) Neptune

B) Mercury

C) Uranus

D) Venus

12. Which 'Planet' movement is known for its fast, scherzo-like tempo representing the 'Winged Messenger'?

A) Mercury

B) Mars

C) Jupiter

D) Saturn

13. Which planet is musically depicted as 'The Magician' in Holst's work?

- A) Uranus**
- B) Neptune
- C) Jupiter
- D) Mars

14. Who wrote the symphonic poem 'The Planets', an early 20th-century work that explored the astrological signs of the planets?

- A) Gustav Holst**
- B) Claude Debussy
- C) Jean Sibelius
- D) Igor Stravinsky

15. What scientific field inspired the compositions of many classical works that describe the movement of stars and planets?

- A) Astronomy**
- B) Biology
- C) Chemistry
- D) Geology

16. Which movement of 'The Planets' is known for its peaceful, flowing melody representing 'The Bringer of Peace'?

- A) Venus**
- B) Mars
- C) Jupiter
- D) Saturn

17. The use of what piece of music in the film '2001: A Space Odyssey' helped popularize Richard Strauss's work for future generations?

- A) Also sprach Zarathustra**
- B) The Blue Danube
- C) Symphony No. 5
- D) The Planets

18. Which celestial phenomenon does the 'Sunrise' section of 'Also sprach Zarathustra' celebrate?

- A) The rising sun**
- B) A solar eclipse
- C) A supernova
- D) The orbit of Venus