

Classical Music and the Cosmos

Classical Music · Answer Key · 25 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, each named after a planet?

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

3. In 'The Planets' by Gustav Holst, which planet is nicknamed 'The Bringer of War'?

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

4. Which celestial body is famously absent from Gustav Holst's 'The Planets' suite?

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

5. The piece 'Also sprach Zarathustra' by Richard Strauss was famously used in which space-themed film?

- A) Star Wars
- B) 2001: A Space Odyssey**
- C) Interstellar
- D) Gravity

6. Which composer wrote 'Also sprach Zarathustra', a tone poem inspired by the philosophy of Friedrich Nietzsche?

- A) Richard Wagner
- B) Richard Strauss**
- C) Johannes Brahms
- D) Gustav Mahler

7. In the suite 'The Planets', which planet is referred to as 'The Bringer of Jollity'?

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

8. Which planet is depicted as 'The Bringer of Old Age' in Gustav Holst's suite?

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

9. Gustav Holst's 'Neptune' movement in 'The Planets' is notable for featuring an offstage what?

- A) Solo violin
- B) Female choir**
- C) Brass fanfare
- D) Timpani roll

10. Which instrument is prominently featured in the main theme of 'Also sprach Zarathustra' to represent a sunrise?

- A) Trumpet**
- B) Flute
- C) Cello
- D) Piano

11. The music 'The Planets' was composed during which decade?

- A) 1860s
- B) 1910s**
- C) 1950s
- D) 1990s

12. Which of these planets is represented in Holst's suite with the subtitle 'The Bringer of Peace'?

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

13. Which musical term describes a piece of music intended to evoke images or stories, such as the cosmos?

A) Program music

B) Absolute music

C) Atonal music

D) Minimalism

14. The movement 'Uranus' in Holst's suite is subtitled 'The Magician' and is known for its heavy use of which instrument?

A) Brass

B) Harp

C) Clarinet

D) Violin

15. Which planet is known as 'The Winged Messenger' in Holst's 'The Planets'?

A) Mercury

B) Venus

C) Earth

D) Mars

16. Who was the conductor who first performed 'The Planets' in a private concert in 1918?

A) Adrian Boult

B) Herbert von Karajan

C) Leonard Bernstein

D) Gustav Holst

17. What is the subtitle for the 'Neptune' movement in Holst's 'The Planets'?

A) The Mystic

B) The War-bringer

C) The King

D) The Traveler

18. Which massive celestial body is represented by the 'Mars' movement in Holst's suite?

A) Sun

B) Moon

C) Mars

D) Jupiter

19. Richard Strauss composed 'Also sprach Zarathustra' in what year?

A) 1896

B) 1920

C) 1950

D) 1980

20. 'The Planets' suite was composed by a musician from which country?

A) United Kingdom

B) Germany

C) France

D) Italy

21. The main theme of 'Also sprach Zarathustra' is called 'Sunrise' and depicts the transition from what to what?

A) Night to Day

B) Winter to Spring

C) Earth to Space

D) Silence to Sound

22. In 'The Planets', which planet is called 'The Bringer of Jollity'?

A) Jupiter

B) Mercury

C) Venus

D) Mars

23. Which classical composition is often associated with the 'Big Bang' due to its dramatic opening?

A) Also sprach Zarathustra

B) The Planets

C) The Four Seasons

D) Symphony No. 5

24. Which movement of 'The Planets' has the subtitle 'The Bringer of Old Age'?

A) Saturn

B) Mars

C) Venus

D) Jupiter

25. What type of orchestra is required to perform Holst's 'The Planets'?

A) Full orchestra

B) String quartet

C) Solo piano

D) Jazz band