Classical Music and the Cosmos

Classical Music · Answer Key · 18 Questions

1. Which composer wrote the famous orchestral suite 'The Planets', which assigns a musical character to each planet in the solar system?

A) Gustav Holst
B) Ludwig van Beethoven
C) Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
D) Johann Sebastian Bach

2. In Gustav Holst's 'The Planets', which planet is referred to as 'The Bringer of War'?

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

3. The piece 'Also sprach Zarathustra' by Richard Strauss was made famous in the film '2001: A Space Odyssey'. What is the name of the philosophical book that inspired this composition?

A) Thus Spoke Zarathustra by Friedrich Nietzsche
B) The Republic by Plato
C) Beyond Good and Evil by Friedrich Nietzsche
D) Meditations by Marcus Aurelius

4. Which planet is associated with the subtitle 'The Bringer of Jollity' in Gustav Holst's 'The Planets'?

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

5. How many movements are in Gustav Holst's 'The Planets' suite, corresponding to the planets known at the time of its composition?

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

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6. Which famous composer wrote the 'Jupiter Symphony', officially known as Symphony No. 41?

A) Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
B) Franz Schubert
C) Joseph Haydn
D) Johannes Brahms

7. The movement 'Neptune, the Mystic' in Holst's 'The Planets' ends with a fade-out effect using which specific musical element?

A) A solo violin
B) A hidden women's chorus
C) A loud percussion roll
D) A trumpet fanfare

8. Which planet is excluded from Gustav Holst's 'The Planets' suite because it had not yet been discovered when he wrote the music?

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

9. What is the name of the symphony by Antonín Dvorák that was famously played for astronauts during the Apollo 11 moon landing mission?

A) Symphony No. 9 'From the New World'
B) Symphony No. 5 'Fate'
C) Symphony No. 3 'Eroica'
D) Symphony No. 4 'Italian'

10. In 'The Planets', which planet is musically described as 'The Bringer of Old Age'?

A) Saturn
B) Mercury
C) Uranus
D) Mars

11. Which classical composer wrote the piece titled 'Cosmic' or 'The Heavens'?

A) There is no famous classical work with that exact title
B) Gustav Mahler
C) Richard Wagner
D) Claude Debussy

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12. The music from '2001: A Space Odyssey' uses a tone poem by Richard Strauss. What is the celestial body featured in the film's iconic opening scene?

A) The Earth and Moon
B) The Sun
C) Saturn
D) Mars

13. Which movement in 'The Planets' is known for its fast tempo and is titled 'The Winged Messenger'?

A) Mercury
B) Jupiter
C) Venus
D) Neptune

14. What is the title of the suite by Camille Saint-Saëns that includes a piece depicting the movement of celestial bodies?

A) The Carnival of the Animals
B) The Planets
C) Symphonie Fantastique
D) The Four Seasons

15. Which of these planets is represented in Holst's 'The Planets' with the subtitle 'The Magician'?

A) Uranus
B) Mars
C) Jupiter
D) Saturn

16. Which composer wrote 'Harmonies du soir' (Evening Harmonies), referring to the light of the setting sun?

A) Franz Liszt
B) Frederic Chopin
C) Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
D) Sergei Rachmaninoff

17. The music 'Clair de lune' by Claude Debussy translates to which astronomical term?

A) Moonlight
B) Starlight
C) Sunbeam
D) Eclipse

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18. Which celestial event is famously depicted in the opera 'The Magic Flute' by Mozart through the Queen of the Night's coloratura aria?

A) The Night Sky

B) A Solar Eclipse

C) A Comet

D) A Meteor Shower

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