

Classical Music and the Cosmos

Classical Music · Practice Test · 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

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

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

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