



The Arts Centre Telford  
**Music @ HOME**  
Year 4: The Planets  
Week 1



### Introduction:

There are lots of reasons that music is written and lots of different things that inspire people to write music. Very often, music is used to describe something. That might be a poem, a picture or something in nature.

We are going to look at 'The Planets Suite' by Gustav Holst over the next few weeks. It was a piece of music written to describe the planets in our solar system. He wrote for every planet except Earth:

Mercury      Venus      Mars      Jupiter      Saturn      Uranus      Neptune

### Task 1: The Planets

First of all, we need to know as much as we can about the planets to understand why they were written.

Your first questions are:

- Who are the planets named after?
- What does each planet/God represent?
- **Extension: Who discovered each planet?**

### Task 1 Hints

**Food for thought:**

Why didn't Holst write a piece about Earth?

**Task Link:**

[\*BBC Bitesize - The Planets\*](#)

### Task 2 Hints

**Orchestra:**

Group of string, brass, woodwind and percussion

**Task Link:**

[\*Meet The Orchestra\*](#)

### Task 2: Instrument Recap

To make sure we can analyse the music effectively, we need to remind ourselves of the instruments in the orchestra. Use the link and watch all these clips from the Welsh National Orchestra.

- What instruments can you see in this clip?
- How do they sound and how are they played?

### Task 3: Descriptive Music

To practice our skills when listening to descriptive music, we are going to start with 'Peter & The Wolf' by Prokofiev. Listen to this clip (it's quite long) listen to the story and answer these questions:

- Which instruments are used for each animal?
- Why are those instruments good for those animals?
- How does the music help to tell the story?

### Task 3 Hints

**Helpful Website:**

[\*The Orchestra\*](#)

**Task Link:**

[\*Peter & The Wolf\*](#)

### Great Composer Profile: Week 1

Make a composer profile about **Prokofiev** on an A4 page. Give us all the key facts on 1 page!

Feel free to email your composer profiles in to: [jack@theartscentretelford.com](mailto:jack@theartscentretelford.com)

