



## KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER: ENGLISH COMPOSER 1

# GUSTAV HOLST

1874-1934



- Holst was a VICTORIAN and lived during World War 1
- Holst was best friends with Ralph Vaughan Williams (see English Composer 2)
- He was really good at playing the trombone and was a teacher before the war
- Holst wanted to join the army when WW1 started but he was rejected for military service because he had bad eyesight
- Holst had the opportunity to serve his country by teaching music to the British troops—but he had to change his name from Gustav ‘Von’ Holst to just Gustav Holst because the ‘Von’ sounded too German
- Holst’s ashes are buried at Chichester Cathedral

Gustav Holst’s most **SIGNIFICANT WORK** is **THE PLANET SUITE** written during World War 1. It is written for full orchestra and is in 7 movements. Holst writes about 7 planets and gives them a nickname.

Mars: The Bringer of War  
 Venus: The Bringer of Peace  
 Mercury: The Winged Messenger  
 Jupiter: The Bringer of Jollity  
 Saturn: The Bringer of Old Age  
 Uranus: The Magician  
 Neptune: The Mystic

### JUPITER

In the middle of this music, lyrics have been added to a melody to create a song. This song is called:

**I Vow to Thee my Country** and is now a well-known **patriotic** song.

The melody and lyrics have also been adapted and given the title **World In Union**. This is now the theme song for the **Rugby World Cup**.

Orchestra	A large group of musicians playing instruments with brass, woodwind, strings and percussion sections
Movement	Orchestral music can be divided up into sections like chapters in a book. Movements can be played separately.
Dynamics	The volume of the music. How loud it is.
Pitch	How high or low the sounds are.
Tempo	The speed of the music. How fast it is.
Texture	How many sounds are heard at the same time. This might be thick (many instruments are playing) or thin.
Melody	This is the tune.
Patriotic Song	A song which is sung and makes you feel pride for the country you live in or were born in.
Lyrics	The words to a song.

