



Mars by Gustav Holst

Music lesson for the week beginning
27th April



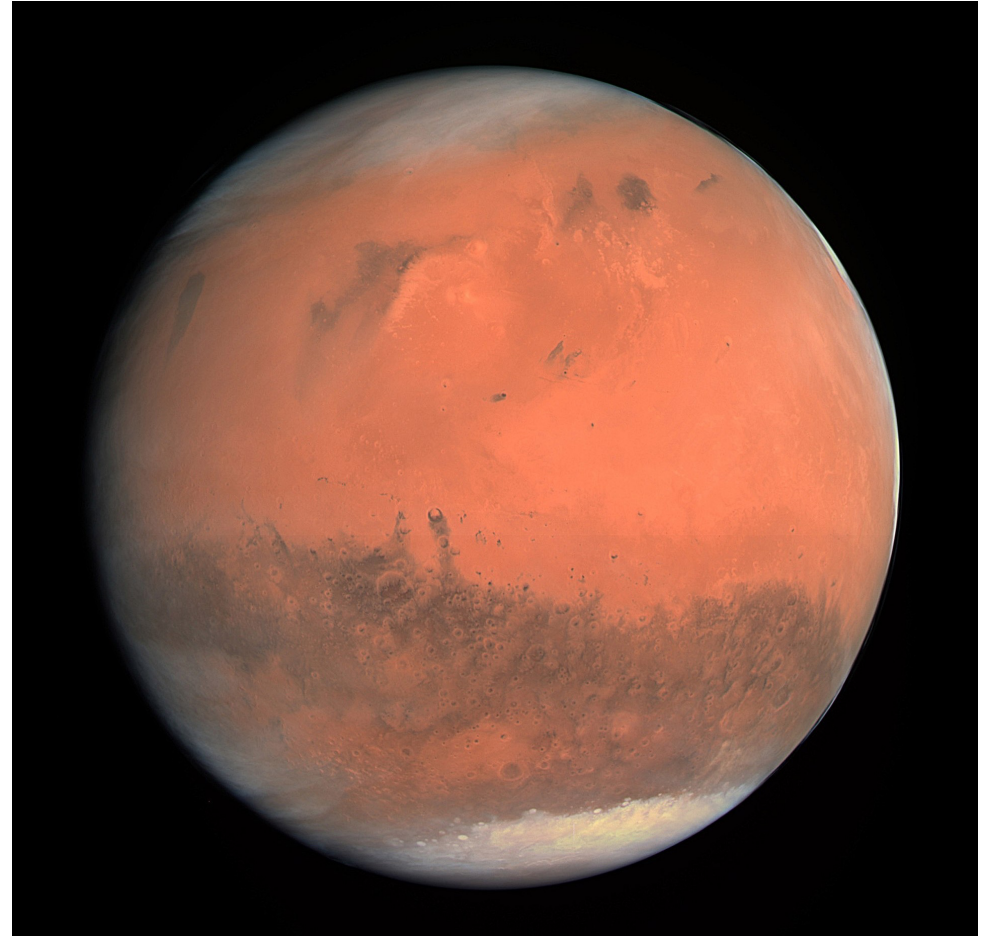
Background – the composer

- Gustav Holst (1874 - 1934)
 - British composer
 - Eccentric character - fascinated by space, astrology, meditation and vegetarianism
 - Played the trombone after he injured his arm too much to play the piano.



Background – the music

- 'Mars' from The Planets Suite
 - Written in 1918 for very large orchestra
 - The full suite describes 7 planets (no Earth)
 - Holst was particularly interested in the 'character' of each planet rather than its science



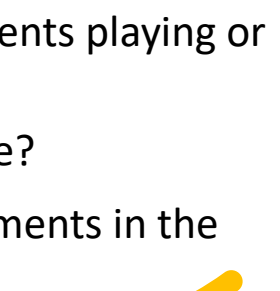
Listening questions EYFS and KS1

Click [here](#) to watch a performance of Mars then answer these questions. Discuss them with someone at home if you can.

EYFS:

1. How does this music make you feel?
2. Does it sound like there are a lot of instruments playing or only a few?
3. Can you draw a picture of one of the instruments that you saw?

Year 1 and 2

1. How does this music make you feel?
 2. Does it sound like there are a lot of instruments playing or only a few?
 3. How many of the instruments can you name?
 4. Can you draw a picture of one of the instruments in the percussion section?
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Listening questions KS2

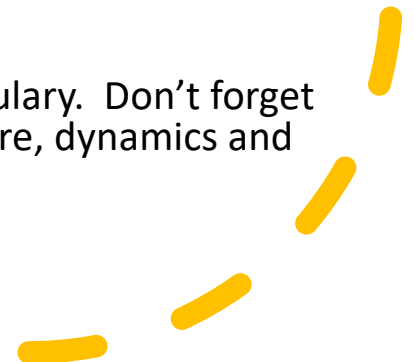
Click [here](#) to watch a performance of Mars then answer these questions. Discuss them with someone at home if you can.

Years 3 & 4:

- What instruments can you hear playing and which family do they belong to?
- Can you hear an ostinato? (repeated pattern). Which instrument is playing the ostinato at the beginning?
- What picture do you get in your head when you listen to the music?

Year 5 & 6:

- What is the highest/lowest pitched instrument you can hear playing? Which family do they belong to in the orchestra?
- Do the dynamics change suddenly or gradually?
- Describe the music using correct musical vocabulary. Don't forget to think about the structure, pitch, tempo, timbre, dynamics and tonality (major – happy, minor – sad) of Mars.



Activity

EYFS and KS1

Here is an activity for you to do.

Take photos or make recordings of your work if you can.

Nursery and Reception:

Clap this rhythm and then copy writing it on some paper:



Now, can you write your own rhythm? Use ta, ti ti or a rest.

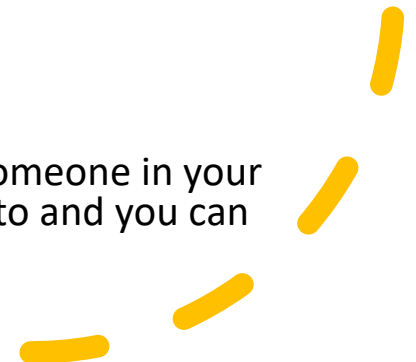
Show an adult your writing and perform your rhythm to them.

Year 1 and 2:

This piece of music uses an Ostinato. An Ostinato is a pattern that is repeated. Can you play this rhythm as an Ostinato? (play it over and over again)



Now, write your own Ostinato and perform it to someone in your house. You can have 3, 4 or 5 beats in your Ostinato and you can use tikatika too, if you want.



Activity KS2

Here is an activity for you to do.
Take photos or make recordings of your work if you can.

Years 3 & 4:

One of the most important things in Mars is the rhythmic ostinato (repeated pattern).

Say and clap the Mars ostinato rhythm 5 times.



Go and do these activities using the Mars rhythm. Say it over and over in your head while you do them. Did they all work to do in this rhythm? Check over the page to see how I got on!

1. Clean your teeth
2. Eat something crunchy like an apple or carrot.
3. Do 10 Star Jumps
4. Wash your hands for 20 seconds
5. Draw an outline of Mars or a Spaceship and colour it in in time with the rhythm.

Year 5 & 6:

Mars is written with a time signature of  time. This means there are 5 crotchet beats in every bar.

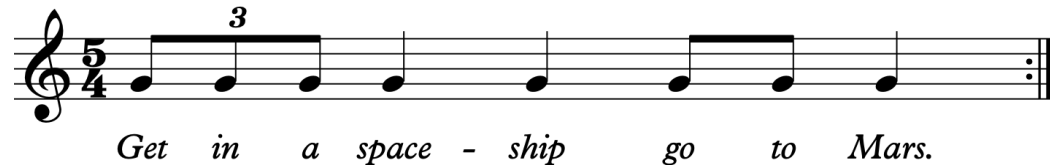


The ostinato rhythm in Mars is this.

- Say the rhythm several times to make a vocal ostinato.
- Clap the rhythm or try drumming it on the table. See if you can do this in time with the video clip.
- Play this rhythm on your brass instruments. Some music for this is on another page.

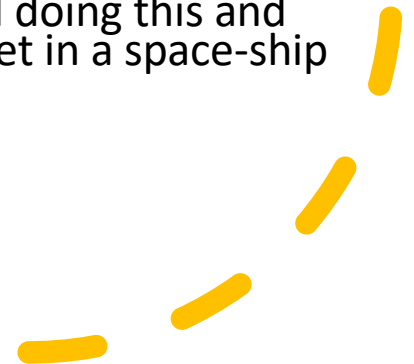
Activity KS2

How did Mrs
Waller-Box get
on with Year 3
and 4's tasks?



Years 3 &4:

1. Clean your teeth – I loved doing this using the Mars rhythm. Made cleaning my teeth much more fun!
2. Eat something crunchy like an apple or carrot – I found this a bit harder to do but liked the challenge!
3. Do 10 Star Jumps – I couldn't do this using the ostinato rhythm. My feet just wanted to keep the beat.
4. Wash your hands for 20 seconds – easy peasy!
5. Draw an outline of Mars or a Spaceship and colour it in in time with the rhythm – I really enjoyed doing this and found it easy to do using the rhythm 'get in a space-ship go to Mars'.

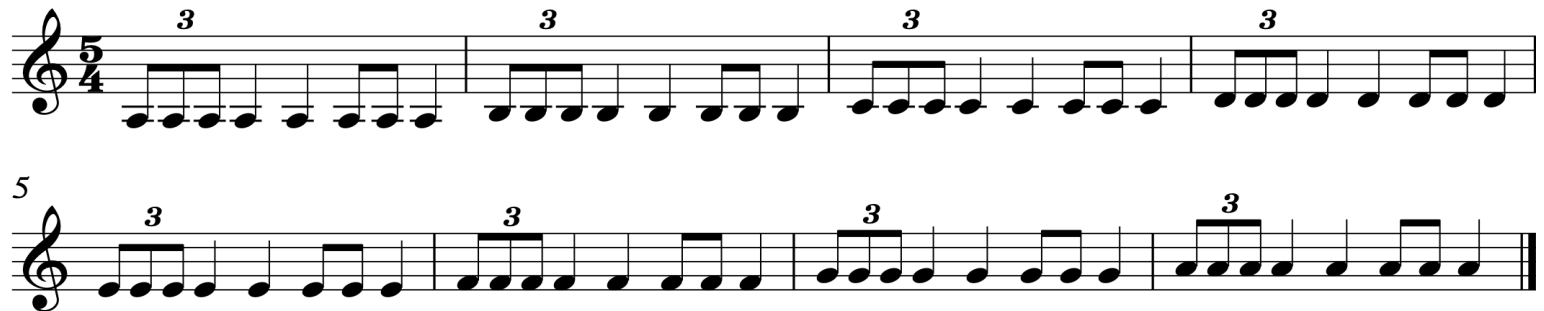


Warm up with this scale on your brass instrument. Make sure you're saying 'Get in a space ship, go to Mars' while you play so that you get the rhythm right.

Can you play this both ascending (going up) and descending (going down)?.

Warm up
for your
brass
practice
using the
ostinato
rhythm
from Mars.

Trumpet/Trombone



Horn in Eb

