



Perchance Music & Digital MediaSM and OpenScore Project Celebrate Centennial of Beloved Orchestral Suite by Gustav Holst

Digital Liberation and Creative Commons Open License Edition of *The Planets*, Opus 32

For Immediate Release

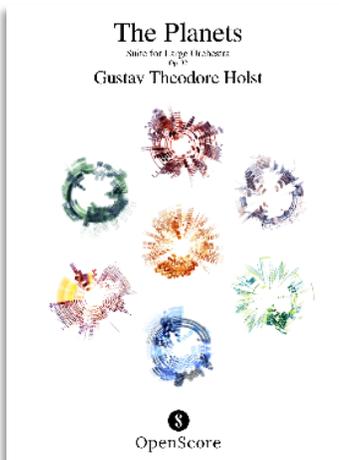
Pittsboro, NC — 2018/10/17 — This week Perchance Music & Digital MediaSM and the OpenScore project are pleased to announce the digital “liberation” of *The Planets*, Opus 32, by Gustav Theodore Holst under a CC0 1.0 Universal (CC0 1.0) Public Domain Dedication.

“I could think of no better way to mark the centennial of this iconic work than by sponsoring an OpenScore edition of *The Planets*,” says Christine Bush, Creative Services Director and proprietor of Perchance Music & Digital MediaSM. “I still treasure the first compact disc I ever purchased, the famous Deutsche Gramophone recording of *The Planets* with Herbert von Karajan conducting the Berlin Philharmonic. Since then we have completed a technological orbit and are now coming to appreciate the value of digitally encoding the notation itself,” says Ms. Bush. Thanks to the intersection of Creative Commons licensing with the efforts of dedicated volunteer transcriptionists and the stewardship of Peter Jonas, OpenScore Project Manager, anyone can now freely utilize this orchestral masterwork and a growing repository of other OpenScore editions.

This project represents a paradigm shift in how we archive and publish musical works. An OpenScore creates new possibilities for using music from the public domain that has until now been effectively trapped on the printed page, even if it was a digital page. The OpenScore editions allow anyone to freely use *and interact with* the musical works for any purpose. One can download an MP3 or MIDI file (generated from the digital score), download and print the full score and parts for ensemble performance, or download the MusicXML files for use with music software like MuseScore, Sibelius, or PreSonus Notion to create, record, and publish new works using these scores as digital source material. A digital score is also useful for musical analysis, for student conductors who can now rehearse or record virtual ensembles that respond in real time to their gestures, or to create braille scores for the visually impaired.

Astrology Meets Technology

The OpenScore edition also includes musicological notes to remind us that Holst composed this grand orchestral suite based on the astrological traits of the known planets. “Too often you will find people trying to impose our subsequent scientific discoveries onto this music and it just isn’t appropriate to do so,” explains Ms. Bush. “There is a long, well-documented tradition of astrologically-inspired works across the arts. In my opinion, Holst’s contribution to that tradition with *The Planets* is unsurpassed.”



By way of demonstrating the new possibilities that an OpenScore enables, each score features artwork by Chicago-based digital artist Nicholas Rougeux who is collaborating with the project to create *Off The Staff* ekphrastic images, “an experiment in visualizing notes from music scores.” His cover image for the OpenScore edition of *The Planets* features seven intricate circular designs, one for each planet in the suite, generated using the MusicXML from the OpenScore edition (shown left).

Rougeux also creates multimedia animations of the images being rendered synchronized to a sound file of the score. “As a musician, I understood the practical importance of what OpenScore was doing. But the artwork and animations provide a new way for anyone to experience music. That’s what really got my attention and made me want to be a part of the OpenScore project,” reflects Ms. Bush.

Founded in 2017, Perchance Music & Digital MediaSM creates original music and sound designs, offers music licensing consultation in collaboration with documentary and independent filmmakers, and delivers multimedia solutions for individuals and small businesses.

Download this score

The score can be downloaded in the format of your preference:

MuseScore

Open in MuseScore

PDF

View and print

PDF including parts Pro feature

Full score and individual parts

MusicXML

Open in various software

MIDI

Open in editors and sequencers

MP3

Listen to this score

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For more details: <https://musescore.com/openscore> | <https://openscore.cc> | <https://perchancemusic.com> | <https://www.c82.net/offthestaff/>

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