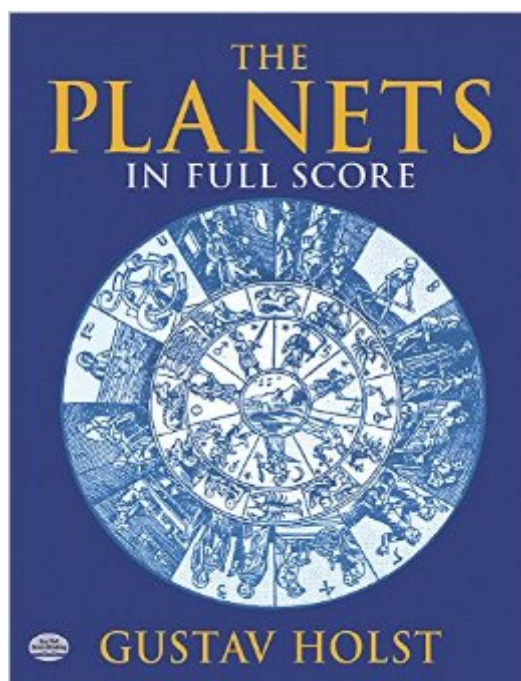


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# The Planets In Full Score (Dover Music Scores)



## Synopsis

Among the most popular and important modern British composers, Gustav Holst (1874–1934) was a true eccentric, given to odd enthusiasms and mystical musings. His spectacular symphonic suite *The Planets*, first performed in 1918, established his international reputation and remains a staple of the orchestral repertoire to this day. Scored for huge orchestral forces and a wordless chorus, the work is divided into seven movements, the music of each embodying the astrological and mystical qualities of a different planet. From the ominous, relentless march of "Mars, the Bringer of War" to the robust festivities of "Jupiter, the Bringer of Jollity" and the weird, unearthly hush of "Neptune, the Mystic," the emotional sweep and innovative techniques of the suite have delighted and thrilled its vast audience ever since its spectacular debut. Musicians and music lovers alike will want to own this authoritative, attractively published and inexpensive full score.

## Book Information

Series: Dover Music Scores

Paperback: 192 pages

Publisher: Dover Publications (January 21, 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0486292770

ISBN-13: 978-0486292779

Product Dimensions: 9.3 x 0.4 x 12.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (35 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #71,080 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #1 in [Books > Humor &](#)

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## Customer Reviews

Clean, clear, large print, handsome edition of this well known and loved classic. Lists instrumentation on every page (some editions don't list the score instrumentation except for the first page. This often makes score study [especially big orchestral works like this or R. Strauss] very hard to read). Great price as well.

If you want to unlock the music of *The Planets*, it's all right here. I have found this score both useful

for learning firsthand compositional technique and for gaining a greater appreciation for the work as a whole.

What more can be said about Holst's masterpiece "The Planets" which has not already been said been? To be sure, the music is a work of genius; therefore, I wish to comment more about the quality of Dover's printed score. This publication is a quality product. The engraving is primo (a reproduction of the 1921 Goodwin & Tabb Ltd. original); it is easily legible, accurate, and looks wonderful. Obviously, the original engravers were at the top of their game on this one, and Dover has done a terrific job of transferring the plates; it's as clean as one could wish for in an affordable study score. Even in soft-cover, the binding is durable and the pages lay flat. The inclusion of a commentary or brief analysis would have been a welcome addition, but that is a very small gripe against an otherwise fantastic publication. I give it my highest recommendation.

The Planets is Holst's masterpiece. It was an epic undertaking, both in size and orchestration, and is hugely influential on many classical pieces today. Perhaps it was his unique and detailed orchestration that made this work stand out the most. It only takes one look at Dover's wonderful release of the full score to fully realize how monumental it was and to better appreciate it. Holst used every instrument in the orchestra effectively and masterfully integrated them into the piece. Even Rimsky-Korsakov, the master of orchestration, lacks the ingenuity and creativity Holst used with the orchestra in this one. This piece was way beyond of its time and, therefore, I strongly recommend it as a staple to any classical music listener's collection. By looking at it, you'll appreciate the piece much more than you did before and for orchestration fanatics like myself, you won't find any better score in terms of orchestral complexity. It's fun just following along with the piece.

This score is a must have for any musician. The well written score dives into one of the best suites of the century. The Planets rocks.

I went through this score several times with multiple recordings and it is to the tee. All the movements are in the book, in concert order, the score was written out in the proper key. If you're trying to find a score for the Planets, This is the one without having to buy the actual performance score.

We've been going over this piece in my composition class a lot lately, so I wanted my own score. For the money, this is a pretty damn good deal! The scores are very easy to read, mainly because of the "large" print on the notes and the fact that instrumentation is printed on EVERY page instead of just the first page of every movement like other scores do. The one thing that does kinda bother me though is that there isn't a lot of room between staves to jot down anything besides the chord progressions and where each section of a movement starts and stops...but it isn't really enough for me to NOT recommend this to someone. If the publisher released a new edition with more space between staves and maybe a brief analysis of each movement, I would probably buy that one too.

This Dover score presents everything in a clear and easy-to-read way even though Holst wrote some interesting things that are difficult to notate by ear! The score does open up a new world - listening to it and reading/watching the score are two different things. I was completely unaware of Holst's gigantic forces and his wonderful orchestration that is present in the score. There's no see through on the pages (and where there is, it is only minimal). Main languages are English and Italian terms. For an 80-year old score, it's pretty impressive and in very good condition. A very good buy I must say for \$10 - my friend had to pay close to \$70 for her copy (both of which are exactly the same). A great bargain!

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