

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Section \_\_\_\_\_

### **The Planets by Gustav Holst**

Gustav Holst composed a musical suite (think Nutcracker Suite) that is a set of movements related to the title. The seven movements represent seven planets:

Mars – Venus – Mercury – Jupiter – Saturn – Uranus – Neptune

The entire suite may be conceived as a progression of life from its beginning (Mars) to its end (Neptune). We might give a role to each planet based on its astrological sign or character (you know, horoscope).

#### **Part 1**

- A. Do some brief research on the internet about the planets. Then, choose a planet. Answer these questions:

What role would YOU assign to the planet? Why?

Provide some adjectives and adverbs to describe the planet.

How would you draw the planet to match the role you have assigned?

Would your picture be of a person, an object, or an animal? Explain.

Which colors would you use?

- B. If you were to set your planet to music, what instruments would you use?

What would the tempo (speed) and dynamics (volume) be?

Would the tempo, dynamics, and instruments stay the same, or change?

Would you include text or narration? Why?

**Part 2**

When you are finished Part 1, print page one out to show Doc Shel. Then, you can go to YouTube and enter the planet name with the composer's name (Holst). Listen and watch the music. Complete the chart below AS YOU LISTEN. We will discuss the responses in class.

CHARACTERISTICS	
First impression	
Melody	
Harmony	
Rhythm	
Beat	
Tempo	
Dynamics	
Instrumentation	
Other Music Characteristics	

Example: Planet Name (Mars) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s8EwBTQhI3Y&feature=related>