

Gustav Holst

Celebrating Holst at Morley



Welcome

It is fitting in this year, the 150th anniversary of Gustav Holst's birth, we at Morley celebrate his musical and educational legacy here at our Waterloo Centre for Adult Education. Music at Morley has an enviable reputation, not only for the breath and depth of musical education and training available for the thousands of students who study with us each year, but also for the artistry, skill and experience of the staff team, many members of which enjoy notable profiles as performers, arrangers and composers in London and well beyond.

Building on Holst's legacy from his time as Director of Music (1907-24) - sustained by Michael Tippet (1940-51), and then by esteemed colleagues that followed - the opportunities in Music at Morley continue to be both accessible and ambitious, encouraging all to learn lifelong.

Courses in instrumental and vocal training, ensemble performance and composition combine with more recent additions, including the Opera School, Jazz Ensembles and Engine Room Sound Art, to create one of the most exciting and engaging musical destinations for adult education in the UK.

The College's commitment to live performance stems directly from our former Director of Music. Morley maintains an extensive programme of public concerts and performances, given by a rich array of choirs and ensembles. I am delighted that to mark this 150th anniversary the College will stage a special sequence of concerts to celebrate the remarkable music of Gustav Holst. I do hope you will join us.

Dr. Andrew Gower
Principal & CEO

Gustav Holst at Morley

Classical music is an integral part of Morley's DNA and it was at Waterloo where the Morley College Choir was founded by Gustav Holst, an English composer and teacher where he was Director of Music at Morley (1907-1924).

Best known for his orchestral suite, *The Planets*, he composed many other works across a range of genres. His distinctive compositional style was the product of many influences with Richard Wagner and Richard Strauss being most crucial early in his development. Holst's collection of work holds significant historical value which inspires our music department and its current students at Morley today.

In 1893, Holst left Cheltenham for London to study composition at the Royal College of Music. After finishing at the college, Holst discovered that 'man could not live by composition alone' and took various organist posts at London churches and became a professional musician, playing the trombone in theatre orchestras.

It was in 1903 when Holst decided to abandon orchestral playing to concentrate on composition, however his earnings as a composer were too little to live off and in 1905 he accepted the offer of a teaching post at James Allen's Girls' School, Dulwich which he held until 1921. This was followed by his teaching posts as Director of Music at St Paul's Girls' School, Hammersmith, from 1905 until his death.



Come and Sing: Choral Songs by Gustav Holst

When: Saturday 10 February 2024
13:30 - 16:30

Where: Waterloo Centre

Tickets: Free

Join the Morley choirs in a creative and fun afternoon exploring Gustav Holst's choral pieces dedicated to Morley College 'Short Festival Te Deum' and 'A Festival Chime', as part of our celebration of the 150th anniversary of his birth.

This event is free and open to anyone with some experience in choral singing, or anyone able to read music and interested in exploring choral singing. Please book your place via Eventbrite. Hard copies of the music will be provided on the day, but for maximum enjoyment, we recommend you download and study it in advance.

You can choose yourself which voice part to join. Please note that sopranos and altos will also sing the Treble lines in A Festival Chime.

The session will be led by Morley Chamber Choir conductor Giannis Giannopoulos, who will start with some vocal warmups followed by sectional rehearsals of each piece. At the end, there will be an informal sing-through of both pieces. There is also the opportunity after this session to join one of the participating choirs in their following rehearsals, leading to a concert of Holst's music on 14 March called 'Harmony of the Heavens'. This will be accompanied by the Morley Chamber Orchestra.

Scan the QR code below to book tickets and find out more:



Harmony of the Heavens: A Holstian Showcase of Orchestral and Choral Brilliance

When: Thursday 14 March 2024

19:45 - 21:15

Where: Emma Cons Hall
Waterloo Centre

Tickets: £10

Join us for an extraordinary evening of musical enchantment, where the Morley Chamber Orchestra together with the Morley Chamber Choir and the Meridian Choir join forces to bring to life Holst's timeless compositions. From the Arabic influences of "Beni Mora" to the intricate beauty of his choral works - including the 'Short Festival Te Deum' dedicated to Morley College -, experience the seamless interplay of orchestral and vocal brilliance.

Performed by:

The Morley Chamber Orchestra

The Morley Chamber Choir

The Meridian Choir

Programme:

Two songs without words op. 22

A song of the night op. 19 no.1

+Beni Mora Op. 29 no. 1

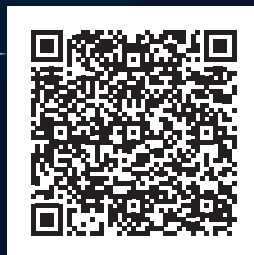
Short Festival Te Deum

Ode to Death

Scan the QR code below to book tickets and find out more:



Gustav Holst with choir in 1916, taken at Thaxted church, courtesy of Alan Gibbs and the family of Vally Lasker



“The Planets” for 4 Pianos, and 8 Pianists!

When: Friday 7 June 2024
19:30 - 21:00
Where: Waterloo Centre
Tickets: £10

The iconic composition “The Planets” by Gustav Holst is presented in a ‘new’ and captivating arrangement by the New Zealand composer and former Morley tutor Paul Sarcich for 4 pianos and 8 pianists. Each planet is characterized by its own musical style and thematic representation of astrological characteristics associated with the respective planet. The collaboration of the eight pianists, who are also Morley tutors, creates a kaleidoscope of sounds and colours under a prism that is both new and enchanting.

Programme:

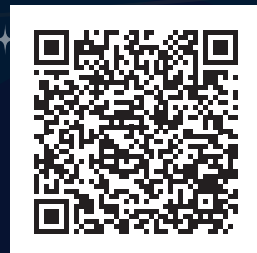
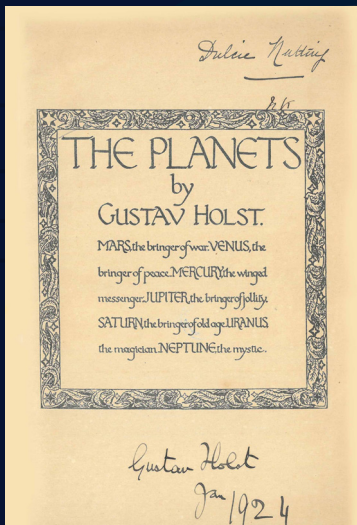
Gustav Holst: The Planets (for 4 pianos, 16 hands, arr. Paul Sarcich)

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

Pianists:

Michalis Angelakis
Maria Canyigueral
Giannis Gianopoulos
Dimitris Karydis
Lewis Kesterton
Petros Moschos
Kate Ryder
Andrew Zolinsky
Conducted by Paul Sarcich

Scan the QR code below to book tickets and find out more:



Music Courses at Morley

Morley is the home of music, with our vibrant calendar of events, from orchestral performances to jazz gigs and choral concerts to opera. From Stravinsky to saxophones and bebop to baroque. Browse our wide array of music courses and become a part of the musical landscape here at Morley.

Choose from:

- Classical Music
- Folk
- Jazz
- Opera
- Popular Music
- Vocal Studies

Music Production courses:

- Music Technology
- Morley Radio





**MORLEY
RADIO**

Gustav Holst (on air)

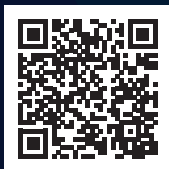
Morley Radio is celebrating Gustav Holst 150th anniversary with a selection of interviews, broadcasts, and playlists. Some highlights include:

Wednesday April 10 2024: The Maximum Reinhardt Show: Tune in at 7pm to hear a Max Reinhardt interview some of the artists that took place in the 'Sampling Holst' project back in 2018. This project encouraged the creation of new electronic works based on samples taken from 'The Planets'

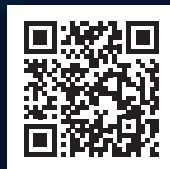
Friday June 7 2024: Tune in at 7:30pm for a live broadcast of "The Planets" for 4 Pianos, and 8 Pianists, performed by 8 Morley College Piano Tutors.

Saturday September 21 2024: It's Holst's Birthday! Morley Radio will be dedicating all day to his music and a selection of music inspired by his works.

To listen, visit morleyradio.co.uk, download our app or **scan the QR code below:**



Sampling Holst



Morley Radio Live

Penny Lecture - Holst at 150: Re-assessing his achievement

Presented by: Philippa Tudor
Date: Wednesday 15 May 2024
Where: Waterloo Centre
Time: 18:00 - 19:00 with Q&A
Tickets: Free

Gustav Holst's best friend and fellow composer Ralph Vaughan Williams described him as "a great composer, a great teacher, and a great friend". This shone through Holst's time as Director of Music at Morley from 1907-1924.



Gustav Holst in 1923. Photo credit Holst Victorian House Cheltenham

This talk will reassess Holst's achievement throughout his career, and his lasting legacy.

Philippa Tudor is the author of "Mrs Gustav Holst" and the co-curator of a forthcoming exhibition at Holst Victorian House Cheltenham.

Scan the QR code below to book tickets and find out more:



PENNY
Lectures
open to all

The background is a dark blue gradient with several white, wavy lines that resemble musical staves. Scattered throughout are various musical symbols, including eighth notes, quarter notes, and treble clefs. Small, four-pointed white stars are also scattered across the background.

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COLLEGE
LONDON

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FOR ADULT EDUCATION**

morleycollege.ac.uk/holst/