



## Gustav Holst - English Composer



Born: 1874, Cheltenham  
Died: 1934, London



Violinist & Pianist

Family had British, Swedish, Latvian and German roots.

Learnt the piano and violin as a child

Studied at the Royal College of Music

Worked mainly in England and Germany

### Compositions:

Orchestral music

Music for plays, opera and ballet

Chamber music

Piano music

Vocal music

Choral music

### TERNARY FORM

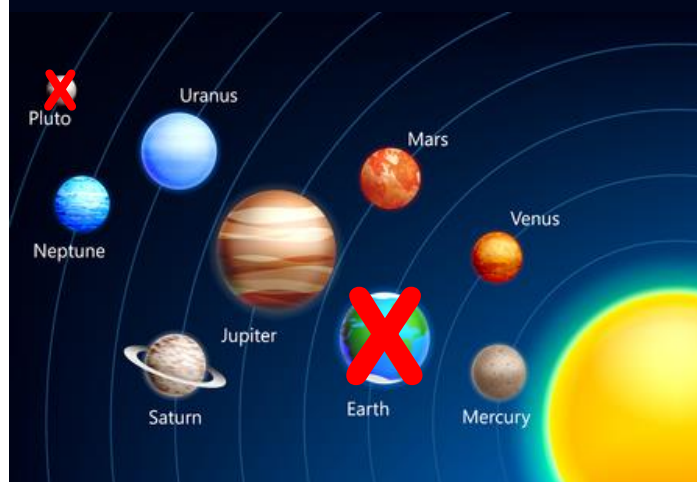
**A B A**

(the first and third sections are the same,  
with a different section in the middle)



## The Planets Suite

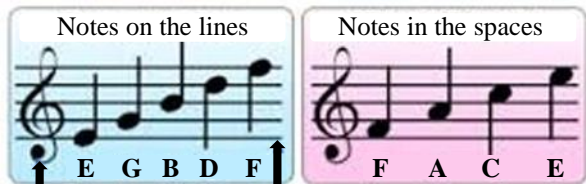
- First written for piano duet (one piano, two pairs of hands)
- Later arranged for orchestra
- Suite = a collection of pieces
- Each piece represents the planet's astrological quality
- Holst didn't write a piece for Pluto as it wasn't discovered until 1930
- Neither did he include Earth



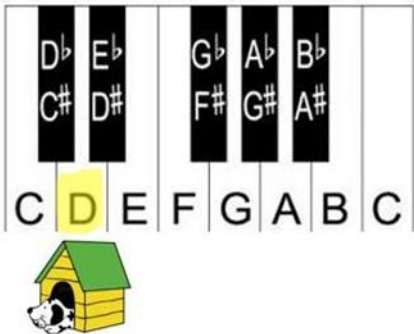
# Learning to Read Music



The notes are either on the line or in the space



Treble Clef      Stave (the 5 lines)



Finding the notes on the  
**KEYBOARD**  
*The dog is in the kennel*  
(D is between two black notes)

**Musical  
ELEMENTS**  
(to describe and build music)

**PITCH**  
(high/low notes)

**RHYTHM**  
(long/short notes)



Semibreve	4 beats
Minim	2 beats
Crotchet	1 beat
Quaver	$\frac{1}{2}$ beat
Semiquaver	$\frac{1}{4}$ beat

Pitch	High / low
Rhythm	Long / short
Tempo	Speed
Dynamics	Volume
Texture	Layers of sound
Timbre	Type of sound
Tonality	Major / minor