

MCNEESE STATE
UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF
LIBERAL ARTS



W.A. AND DOROTHY
HANNA
DEPARTMENT OF
PERFORMING ARTS

Present

McNeese State University Wind Symphony

Jay Sconyers, Conductor

McNeese State University Theatre

Charles McNeely, Director

Luke Connally, Narrator

McNeese State University Women's Ensemble

Darryl Jones, Conductor

Sulphur High School Opus

Molly Jones, Conductor

THE PLANETS

GUSTAV HOLST

Sunday, November 10, 2019

7:00 P.M. o Tritico Theatre

McNeese State University Wind Symphony

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Gustav Holst

Transcribed by Merlin Patterson

THE PLANETS

Op. 32, Suite for Large Wind Orchestra

- I. Mars: Bringer of War
- II. Venus: Bringer of Peace
Michael Buckles, Violin
- III. Mercury: The Winged Messenger
- IV. Jupiter: Bringer of Jollity
- V. Saturn: Bringer of Old Age
- VI. Uranus: The Magician
- VII. Neptune: The Mystic
McNeese State University Women's Ensemble
Sulphur High School Opus

Please feel free to applaud between each movement. However, please hold your applause after the narration preceding each movement and following the final movement Neptune.

A letter to the audience

For millennia, humans have looked to the night sky for inspiration. Among the thousands of stars, several luminous wonderers inspired the imagination of ancient civilizations. These planets represented more than simply an astronomical body, but rather, they embodied an idea, an idea that conjured images of war, peace, joy, and mysticism. This is the realm of astrology, and it is in this realm that Gustav Holst drew his inspiration for his magnum opus *The Planets*.

Composed during the tumultuous time surrounding World War I, it would be easy to conclude that the work was simply a commentary on the war, but Holst began this work prior to the onset of hostilities in 1914. Much like the music of Debussy and Ravel, this suite does not have a specific program, but rather, its soundscape is drawn from imagery, moods, and emotions. Deeply interested in astrology, Holst set out to compose an astrological suite. Therefore, this work does not simply portray the celestial bodies themselves or even the gods of Roman mythology for which they are named. Rather, it portrays the place occupied in astrology that these bodies have and can easily be summed up in the subtitle of each movement.

The suite represents contrasting dualities both musically and aesthetically. Each movement layers and juxtaposes contrasting musical ideas. This could be opposing meters, different styles, or multiple keys, and is reminiscent of the duality present in much of Holst's music. On a larger scale, the work creates an odd sense of symmetry by pairing movements in opposition of each other. The outer movements of Mars and Neptune are in asymmetrical quintuple meter but are very different aesthetics. Mars is inhuman, aggressive, and very concrete, while Neptune is ethereal, distant, and yet very organic. Venus is peaceful, sublime, and soloistic, whereas Uranus is bombastic, vulgar, and brings the full ensemble to bear in a rousing climax. Mercury provides a youthful vigor with its unrelenting driving nature, whereas Saturn is heavy, ominous, and reflective. This arch creates a mirror on either side of the capstone of the work, Jupiter. In fact, this movement in itself represents an arch. Joyous and almost ceremonial themes are presented in fragments at the beginning and come back in full fruition after the famous choral theme in the center.

This monumental work of art was not created overnight, but rather was the result of years of painstaking work between his classes and rehearsals at the St. Paul's Girls School. He began the work in 1914 with Mars. Soon thereafter, he composed Venus and Jupiter. In 1915, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune were added to the cycle, and Mercury rounded out the suite in 1916. However, the work would not be premiered in its entirety until September 29, 1918, during the final weeks of World War I.

Similarly, the students and professionals on stage tonight have undertaken the monumental challenge of bringing the imagery this cornerstone work of twentieth century western music portrays. We ask you to follow us on this musical journey. Sit back and let the muse and character introduced by the narrator transport you to a place ready to receive the celestial and deeply human imagery of Gustav Holst's music.

McNeese State University Wind Symphony

Jay Sconyers, Conductor

Flute

Freja Cole*
Merritt Jones
Larissa Perez
Jaylen Jones
Alexandra Parsons
Nichole Lanthier

Oboe

Phillip Larroquet†
Matthew Duplantist†
Noelle Maldonado†
Beverly Jones†

Bassoon

Trae Block*
Susan Lauderdale†
Dallas Lauderdale†
Jacob Voisin

Clarinet

Riley Maggio*
Raylee Burgett
Sarah Medwick
Mariah Burke
Ju Kim
Dalton Guillory
Amanda Gilchrist
Jaiden Courvelle
Savannah Ard
Ariel Denmon
Tamylls Souza da Costa†
Thomas Logan†

Bass Clarinet

Jacob Voisin
Brent Miller
Amina Floret†
Thomas Logan†

Alto Saxophone

William Pena*
Mark Portier

Tenor Saxophone

Caden Burgett

Baritone Saxophone

David Billodeau

Horn

Alejandro Leal*
Dawson Wallace
Lilla Faye Jackson
Alejandro Chapa
Darby Cook
Bailey Soto
JJ Bartley

Trumpet

Mikayla Dupont*
Jonathan Leveque
Alex Ellender
Tommy Holland
Audie Owens
Cody Gonzales
Lucas Whitney

Trombone

Andrew Usie*
Jeremy Smith
Alex Cormier
Cameron Fultz

Bass Trombone

Chris Garber*
Griffin Andry

Euphonium

Blake Kidner*
Ben Sensat
Spencer Butts

Tuba

Collin Thomas*
Ryan Broussard

String Bass

Zane Smith*

Harp

Jane Clark†
Patricia Horvath†

Celeste

Isaac Bellemin†

Organ

Efron Simon

Percussion

Keegan Crawford*
Joseluis Botello-Esquivel
Solasse Kennison
Joseph LeBoeuf
Brent Lensing
Nick Louviere
Efron Simon

Timpani

Joshua Hebert
Joseluis Botello-Esquivel

†Denotes Guest Performer

*Denotes Principle

All members listed
in chair order

McNeese State University Women's Ensemble

Darryl Jones, Conductor
HaeJu Choi, accompanist

Soprano

Angelica Arroyo
Lara Connally
Kathryne Darby
Heather Foreman
Caitlyn Reeves
Julia Reeves
Krista Smith
Rachel Walls

Alto

Therese Aguiard
Kennedy Anderson
MaryKate Core
Lauren Goodeaux
Julia McDonald
Isabella Rodriguez

Sulphur High School Opus

Molly Jones, Conductor

Soprano:

Trinity Duhon
Bailey George
Jordan Goad
Genna Guidry
Victoria Henry
Fayth Hickingbottom
Rachael Higginbotham
Jo Mobley
Sophie Seilhan
Isabella Stampley
Vynessie Wilburn

Alto:

Kawish Daniel
Dara Efe-Obuke
Ayla Ezekiel
Annalynn Garfin
Erin Hidalgo
Malya Hoffpauir
Isabelle Metcalf
Amber Martin
Julian Peshoff
Laila Razo

McNeese State University Theatre

Charles McNeely, Director and Original Script

Luke Connally, Narrator

Michelle Brunson, Lighting Design and Technical Director

McNeese State University Bands

Upcoming Events

Friday, November 15, 2019 , 7:00 PM, Burton Coliseum

McNeese State University Marching Band
McNeese State University Jazz Band, &
McNeese State University Percussion Ensemble
\$5 Admission, Tickets are available at the gate

Friday, February 28, 7:00 PM, Tritico Theatre

McNeese State University Wind Symphony
"Juxtaposition"
Free Admission

Tuesday, March 3, 7:00 PM, Tritico Theatre

McNeese State University Symphonic Band
Free Admission

Friday, March 6, 7:00 PM, Tritico Theatre

McNeese State University Jazz Band
Free Admission

Friday, April 3, 7:00 PM, Tritico Theatre

McNeese State University Symphonic Band
Free Admission

Sunday, April 5, 7:00 PM, Tritico Theatre

McNeese State University Wind Symphony
"Stained Glass"
Free Admission

Text **EVENTS** to **337-350-3022** to receive monthly updates
on music and theatre performances at McNeese

To ensure an enjoyable concert experience for all, please refrain from
talking, entering, or exiting while musicians are performing.

Food and drink are prohibited in all concert halls.

Please turn off cell phones and other electronic devices.
Thank you for your cooperation.

www.mcneesebands.com