

## Listen Up!

'Mars' from 'The Planets' by Gustav HOLST



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/14ZiT5yjnKQRdKVsqRlzk1x/mars-from-the-planets-by-gustav-holst>

Follow this link to watch Dick and Dom introduce you MARS

Or follow the next link to just listen to the mp3

[http://downloads.bbc.co.uk/tv/tenpieces/holst\\_short.mp3](http://downloads.bbc.co.uk/tv/tenpieces/holst_short.mp3)

Listen for the **OSTINATO**.

Which instruments get to play the **OSTINATO**?

Listen to 'Earth' by ZIMMER again

<http://teach.files.bbc.co.uk/tenpieces/Zimmer1.mp3>

## COMPARE

1. How does each piece make you feel?
2. Write some of your own words to describe each piece. (like spikey/smooth dark/light anxious/calm)
3. Which colours do you imagine for each piece?
4. Is there an **OSTINATO** in both pieces?
5. Which instruments/sounds are used in each piece?
6. Do you like the pieces? Why?

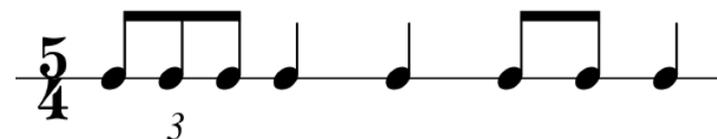
## Explore

The **ostinato** in 'Mars' is tricky as it is written in 5/4  
This means that there are 5 beats in one **measure**.

Normally a march has 4 beats in a bar so you can say "left, right, left, right" but Mars has 5 beats

The girls from 'Play The Rig' explore this theme if you follow this link.

<https://youtu.be/3xDTKI5YstU>



This is how that **rhythm** looks in musical notation.

## Key Words:

**Ostinato** – a short phrase that is repeated continuously

**Measure** - a segment of time within a piece of music defined by a given number of beats.

**Pulse** - a steady beat like a ticking clock or your heartbeat.

**Rhythm** - sounds and silences are put together to form patterns of sound.

## Let's get Creative

### Create your own **Rhythmic Ostinato**

Follow this link from **Musicroom UK**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=glpcclLBDgk>

**Have a go at writing and performing your own rhythmic ostinato.**

1. Keep the **pulse** start with 4 beats/**measure**.  
(maybe stamp your feet to a steady beat?)
2. See how many different **rhythms** you can make.  
(use different words/phrases to help)
3. Write your favourite word patterns down. Eg.



4. Try to write your favourite rhythms using notation.  
If you need a quick reminder visit:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4vZ5mlfZlgk>
5. Practice your OSTINATO patterns with a steady PULSE.
6. **PERFORM** to anyone who will listen 😊  
(This could be your teddy or the whole street-from a 2m distance of course.)

## Extra fun

Have a listen to **John Williams Star Wars**

### **The Imperial March**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-bzWSJG93P8>

### **Main Theme**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D0ZQPqeJkk>



**Apparently**, George Lucas originally requested that John Williams use Holst's The Planets in the movie, but Williams insisted on writing original music. So, that's one of the reasons why the Star Wars score sounds so heavily influenced by The Planets.

### **John Williams vs Gustav Holst**

or

### **Star Wars Vs The Planets**

An **in-depth musical comparison** of the two pieces  
by Rick Beato

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8IX1jSVmaAs>