

GUSTAV HOLST

SATURDAY 3 JUNE

PHILHARMONIA
ORCHESTRA
&
PHILHARMONIA
CHORUS

CONDUCTED BY
EMILIA HOVING

© BOLDTENDENCIES

THE PLANETS

SATURDAY 3 JUNE at 7.30PM

The Planets

Op. 32 (1914-16)

by Gustav Holst

1. Mars, the Bringer of War
2. Venus, the Bringer of Peace
3. Mercury, the Winged Messenger
4. Jupiter, the Bringer of Jollity
5. Saturn, the Bringer of Old Age
6. Uranus, the Magician
7. Neptune, the Mystic

Emilia Hoving — Conductor

Philharmonia Orchestra

Philharmonia Chorus

“I was made for another planet altogether.
I mistook the way.”

— Simone de Beauvoir

“In the dark times
Will there also be singing?
Yes, there will also be singing.
About the dark times.”

— Bertolt Brecht

Our Live Programme for 2023 opens on the night of June's Full Moon with *The Planets* by Gustav Holst, a spectacular astrological portrait. Composed for a vast orchestra, 95 players are joined by a hidden chorus of women's voices, singing from outer space over orchestra, harp and organ in a celestial vocal finale.

Among the most popular of British composers, Holst (1874-1934) began investigating astrology to alleviate his own disillusionment and depression. He also cast horoscopes throughout his life, calling it "My pet vice!" Shy, nervous and private, he craved the unbroken silence and solitude of the sound-proofed room where he wrote his music.

Holst's conception of *The Planets* partly was certainly motivated more by his astrological curiosity than any scientific interest. The piece comprises seven movements, each dedicated to a planet in the Solar System seen from Earth. The first movement *Mars, the Bringer of War* was written just prior to the First World War. Battle music of violence and terror, its relentless rhythm an omen of the mechanised warfare to come.

The suite cycles through *Venus, the Bringer of Peace*, *Mercury, the Winged Messenger*, *Jupiter, the Bringer of Jollity*, *Saturn, the Bringer of Old Age* (Holst's own favourite movement, taking us from despair and defeatism to resolution and equanimity), ending with *Uranus, the Magician* and *Neptune, the Mystic* (Pluto was not yet discovered at the time of writing).

A gifted music teacher who worked in South London, Holst was passionate about empowering and enabling

people of all ages to participate in the communal joys and individual endeavours of classes and learning, practice and performance. He saw all this as an opportunity for an unfolding of the mind, and spoke of the pupil-teacher relationship as a “beautiful comradeship”.

In 1907 he was appointed Musical Director at the Morley College for Working Men and Women on Waterloo Road, where - after a tricky start - he found joy in making his students happy, many of whom turned up after a long day at work. One such student described Morley as “a sort of heaven we go to on Mondays and Wednesdays”.

Despite his reticence, Holst’s letters offer us an insight into his sense of humour. Writing to his wife Isabel from Istanbul in 1919, Holst stated: “I know I’m groovy, but grooviness has one great advantage; at the end of a week’s work I can shut myself up and forget everything but composing.” We can confirm that Holst is groovy: *The Planets* is a masterpiece of modern music that sounds fresh, daring and otherworldly—more than 100 years after it was written.

“I feel that the evil and scandal in the world must put its tail between its legs when it meets you”, wrote one of Holst’s student friends to him when he was studying at the Royal College of Music. And so for us to meet Holst this evening and, with his celestial visions, confront this year of Crisis in the concrete spaces and high windows at Bold Tendencies.

The Planets seems to give us a glance into the future—with a note of interrogation. We look into the future, but its secrets remain closed to us.

Emilia Hoving (b. 1994) has emerged as one of the most exciting young conductors of today. An alumnus of the celebrated Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, she studied piano from the age of six as well as clarinet and cello, before beginning her conducting studies in 2015. She appears internationally with orchestras including the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic (whom she conducted in the Nobel Prize Award Ceremony, televised and streamed live across the world), Luxembourg Philharmonic and Iceland Symphony as well as with the Helsinki Philharmonic. Last year she made her UK debut conducting the Philharmonia and in 2022/23 she conducts the BBC Symphony, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic and the BBC National Orchestra of Wales. She also debuts at the Adelaide Festival and with the Munich Chamber, and is invited to the Borusan Symphony (Istanbul), Lausanne Chamber, Opera de Rouen, returning to the Quebec Symphony, Nordic Chamber and Helsingborg Symphony.

The **Philharmonia Orchestra** is a world-class orchestra for the 21st century. The Philharmonia is a team of 80 musicians of 16 different nationalities led by Principal Conductor Santtu-Matias Rouvali. With award-winning concert series, a vital community programme across the UK, and pioneering work in virtual reality, the Philharmonia brings orchestral music to a worldwide audience. The orchestra has a rare spirit, energy and optimism and we are delighted to welcome them back to Bold Tendencies for two live events this summer.

The **Philharmonia Chorus** is an independent symphony chorus based in London, recognised as one of the world's finest symphony choruses. They have a distinguished 60-year history and a legendary discography, having performed with almost all the leading conductors of the age. The Chorus Master is **Gavin Carr**, one of the most distinguished choral conductors of his generation and member of the vocal faculty of the Royal Academy of Music.

BOLD TENDENCIES

Players of the Philharmonia Orchestra

1ST VIOLIN

Rebecca Chan
Zahra Benyounes
Victoria Irish
Eunsley Park
Lulu Fuller
Soong Choo
Naori Takahashi
Joonas Pekonen
Peter Fisher
Haim Choi
Julia Liang
Boglárka György
Emmanuel Bach
Jane Kim

2ND VIOLIN

Emily Davis
David López Ibáñez
Paula Clifton-Everest
Susan Hedger
Julian Milone
Gideon Robinson
Roma Tic
Ikuko Sunamura
Tom Aldren
Sophie Cameron
Malcolm Allison
Maya Bickel

VIOLA

Rebecca Chambers
Sylvain Séailles
Daichi Yoshimura
Cheremie Hamilton-Miller
Joe Ichinose
Julia Doukakis

Matthias Wiesner
Raquel Lopez Bolivar
Louise Hawker
Michael Turner

CELLO

Steffan Morris
Richard Birchall
Yaroslava Trofymchuk
Ella Rundle
Silvestrs Kalniņš
Tamaki Sugimoto
Alba Merchant
Coral Lancaster

DOUBLE BASS

Neil Tarlton
Michael Fuller
Samuel Rice
Owen Nicolaou
Joseph Cowie
Siret Lust

FLUTE

Daniel Pailthorpe
Anna Kondrashina
Robert Looman
Helen Keen

PICCOLO

Robert Looman

ALTO FLUTE

Helen Keen

OBOE

Rosie Staniforth
Rachel Harwood-White
Luiz De Campos

BOLD TENDENCIES

BASS OBOE

Adrian Rowlands

COR ANGLAIS

Emily Cockbill

CLARINETS

Mark van de Wiel

Jennifer McLaren

Katy Ayling

BASS CLARINET

Laurent Ben Slimane

BASSOON

Robin O'Neill

Guylaine Eckersley

Patrick Bolton

CONTRABASSOON

Luke Whitehead

HORNS

Diego Incertis Sánchez

Kira Doherty

Zoë Tweed

Kathryn Saunders

Oliver Johnson

Paul Cott

Duncan Fuller

TRUMPETS

Matthew Williams

Robin Totterdell

Chris Evans

Aaron Akugbo

Catherine Knight

TROMBONES

Roger Cutts

Philip White

Dan Jenkins

BASS TROMBONE

James Buckle

EUPHONIUM

Byron Fulcher

TUBA

Peter Smith

TIMPANI

Antoine Siguré

Calum Crosbie

PERCUSSION

Paul Stoneman

Louise Lewis Goodwin

Rachel Gledhill

Laura Bradford

HARPS

Heidi Krutzen

Tomos Xerri

CELESTE

Alison Procter

ORGAN

Richard Pearce

Philharmonia Chorus

CHORUS MASTER

Gavin Carr

Julie Adrian Smith
Elizabeth Album
Victoria Armillotta
Bogna Bargiel
Harriet Cameron
Jocelyn Coates
Helen Cooper
Sheena Cormack
Rhian Davies
Caroline Davies
Noelle Davies-Brock
Sheila Fitzgerald
Polly Francis
Megan Holch
Emma Louise Jones
Asher Joyce
Yoshino Kitao
Scarlet Lee
Rosslyn Panatti
Isabella Piggott
Nuria Prats Illanas
Iveta Rožlapa
Ayano Sasaki-Crawley
Laura Schack
Elizabeth Thomas
Madeleine Todd
Margarida Vaz Neto
Ling Wang
Alexandria Wreggelsworth

We need your help!

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