



Band Virtual Learning

High School Band

May 7th, 2020



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Lesson: May 7th, 2020

Objective/Learning Target: First Suite in Eb by Gustav Holst

- Learn and understand why band “is the way it is.”
- Introduce important band literature and recordings



Warm Up Activity

Why are some pieces of music considered to be important?

Write three possible answers

Lesson

1. Some compositions are considered “cornerstones” of band music. All band students should listen to them. Click [HERE](#) for a partial list of some of those important compositions.
2. In this lesson we’ll learn about one of those important compositions: ***First Suite in Eb by Gustav Holst***

Lesson

Who was Gustav Holst?

- English composer
- 1874-1934
- Wrote lots of music
- Most famous for [“The Planets” \(1916\)](#)





Lesson

The First Suite in Eb (1911) was one of the first “serious” works written specifically for concert bands (or military bands as they were usually called at the time).

It helped develop the “standard” instrumentation for concert bands that we see today.



Lesson

The First Suite is composed in three movements:

Movement 1 - Chaconne (*pronounced sha-con*)

Movement 2 - Intermezzo

Movement 3 - March



Activity

Listen to each movement of the First Suite in Eb. After listening to each movement, write down your thoughts about what you listened to. What did you like? What role did your instrument play in the music? What was the character of each movement? What else did you hear?

After each movement, write down your thoughts about what you heard. Listen to each movement more than once if needed.

- Movement 1 - [Chaconne](#) (*pronounced sha-con*) 0:00-4:49
- Movement 2 - [Intermezzo](#) 4:49-7:38
- Movement 3 - [March](#) 7:38-10:44



Connecting the Dots!

In the warm-up activity of this lesson, you were asked to think of some reasons that a piece of music might be considered to be important.

What did you come up with?

Does *First Suite in Eb* satisfy the criteria you wrote down?



What makes it a “Cornerstone?”

Throughout history, events are often labeled as important or noteworthy for very similar reasons. These reasons range from the importance to a certain culture to the evidence of cutting edge innovation. *First Suite in Eb* by Gustav Holst definitely satisfies some of these criteria for historical significance. This piece was innovative due to being one of the first serious pieces ever written for the wind band (now commonly referred to as concert band). It was historically significant due to the impact it had on creating the specific instrumentation still currently used today in concert bands (what specific instruments are used). It was very significant to the British culture because it has provided notoriety England’s contribution to musical development. This piece of music is important!



More recordings:

[Tokyo Kosei Wind Orchestra \(live\)](#)

[University of Michigan \(live\)](#)

[Vista Ridge High School \(live\)](#)