



Band Virtual Learning

# High School Band

May 21st, 2020



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Lesson: May 21st, 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

## Lesson

1. Some compositions are considered “cornerstones” of band music. All band students should listen to them.
  - a. Here is a partial list of some of those important compositions: [click here](#)
  
2. In this lesson we’ll learn about one of those important compositions: ***Second Suite in F by Gustav Holst***

## Lesson

Who was Gustav Holst?

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





## Lesson

The Second Suite in F (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, along with his First Suite in Eb, helped develop the “standard” instrumentation for concert bands that we see today.



## Lesson

The First Suite is composed in four movements:

Movement 1 - March: Morris Dance

Movement 2 - Song Without Words: “I’ll Love My Love”

Movement 3 - Song of the Blacksmith

Movement 4 - Fantasia on the Dargason



## Activity

Listen to each movement of the Second Suite in F. 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?



Click Here:

[Holst Second Suite in F performed by the Cleveland Winds,  
directed by Frederick Fennell](#)

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



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Movement 1 - [March](#): Morris Dance

Movement 2 - [Song Without Words](#): “I’ll Love My Love”

Movement 3 - [Song of the Blacksmith](#)

Movement 4 - [Fantasia on the Dargason](#)



Interesting fact...Holst based his movements on folk music that he was interested in. For instance, the second movement “Song Without Words: I’ll Love my Love” is based on a Cornish folksong that Holst used.

Read about the song here: [Info](#)

And listen to it here: [Performed by the Cambridge Singers](#)

Which version do you prefer? Why?



## 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. *Second Suite in F* 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:

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

[Sam VanderWoude](#): This college student recorded the entire Holst Second Suite in F with him playing every single part by himself on each of the different instruments. It took him a year and a half to put this project together!!!