

Gustav Holst (21 September 1874 – 25 May 1934) was an English composer. He is most famous for his orchestral suite *The Planets*. Having studied at the Royal College of Music in London, his early work was influenced by Grieg, Wagner, Richard Strauss and fellow student Ralph Vaughan Williams, and later, through Vaughan Williams, the music of Ravel. The combined influence of Ravel, Hindu spiritualism and English folk tunes enabled Holst to free himself of the influence of Wagner and Strauss and to forge his own style. Holst's music is well known for unconventional use of metre and haunting melodies.

The **First Suite in E-flat for Military Band** (Op. 28, No. 1) is considered one of the cornerstone masterworks in the concert band repertoire. Officially premiered in 1920 at the Royal Military School of Music, the manuscript was originally completed in 1909. Along with the subsequent "Second Suite in F for Military Band," written in 1911 and premiered in 1922, the First Suite was the catalyzing force that convinced many other prominent composers that serious music could be written specifically for the combination of winds, percussion and brass. Works such as the English Folk Song Suite (1923) of Ralph Vaughan Williams and the William Byrd Suite (1923) of Gordon Jacob are leading examples.

Chaconne, the first movement of Holst's First Suite for Band, is a theme and variations form dating from the Baroque period. A chaconne theme is usually in triple meter, eight measure in length, and begins in the bass line. Holst's Chaconne follows this typical plan, followed by fifteen variations. In the center, at variation seven, the melody inverts, reverting to its original form four variations later and building to a rousing climax.

Dr. Michael Pratt has degrees in music education and music composition from The University of Toledo, The University of Michigan, and Boston University. He studied composition with Pulitzer Prize winning composers Ross Lee Finney and Leslie Bassett at The University of Michigan, and taught music in the public schools for many years in Michigan.

He has sung with The Toledo Choral Society, Toledo Symphony Chorale, Opera!Lenawee, and The University Musical Society Choral Union of The University of Michigan with whom he has performed with The Detroit Symphony Orchestra, The San Francisco Symphony, The Kirov Orchestra, The Russian National Orchestra, The Ann Arbor Symphony, The Lansing Symphony, The Grand Rapids Symphony, The Toledo Symphony, The Birmingham Symphony, The Gabrieli Consort, and The Tallis Scholars.

He has played tuba with The Toledo Symphony, Toledo Concert Band, Toledo Opera, University of Toledo Faculty Brass Quintet, Adrian Chamber Brass, Adrian College Faculty Brass Quintet, The Croswell Opera House, The Adrian Symphony Orchestra and The Adrian City Band.

He has performed with many notable conductors, including, Valery Gergiev, Michael Tilson Thomas, Neeme Jarve, Mikhail Pletnev, Rafael Fruhbeck de Burgos, Leonard Slatkin, John Adams, Gennady Rozhdestvensky, Paul McCreech, Peter Phillips, Catherine Comet, Eric Kunzel, Margaret Hillis, Martin Katz, and John Finley Williamson.

Michael Pratt is a member of ASCAP.

I. Chaconne

Duration 4:00

from *First Suite in Eb*

Gustav Holst

Arr. Michael Pratt

for Brass Septet

Allegro moderato $\text{♩} = 104$

Trumpet in B \flat 1

Trumpet in B \flat 2

Trumpet in B \flat 3

Horn in F

Trombone

Euphonium

Tuba

B \flat Tpt. 1

B \flat Tpt. 2

B \flat Tpt. 3

Hn.

Tbn.

Euph.

Tuba

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20

p

p

p

pp

pp

pp

pp

pp

pp

pp