

Gustav Holst
Mercury
from "The Planets"

arranged for percussion ensemble by
James Ancona



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instrumentation, mallet selection, performance notes

This arrangement of “Mercury” was performed in Star of Indiana’s Brass Theater production in 1996. “Mercury” was part of a larger arrangement of “The Planets” which included brass instruments and choreography. With this arrangement we wanted to capture the lightness and playfulness of the original score. This piece is, however, extremely complex harmonically. Another difficult aspect of this arrangement is that many of the melodies and themes are split between several players. To achieve this effect, the ensemble must work on the blend and balance of each part. Rhythmic accuracy and tempo control are also imperative.

Glockenspiel 1: hard plastic bell mallets, small suspended cymbal (share with Glockenspiel 2), drum sticks, medium plastic mallets.

Glockenspiel 2: small triangle (mounted), triangle beater, hard plastic bell mallets, small suspended cymbal (share with Glockenspiel 1), yarn mallets, medium plastic mallets, cartwheel timpani mallets, very hard yarn mallets.

Xylophone: very hard yarn mallets.

Vibraphone 1: medium hard cord mallets, very hard yarn mallets, small triangle, triangle beater.

Vibraphone 2: medium hard cord mallets.

Marimba 1A: 4.3 octave marimba shared with Marimba 1B, medium hard yarn mallets.

Marimba 1B: 4.3 octave marimba shared with Marimba 1A, medium yarn mallets.

Marimba 2A: 4.3 octave marimba shared with Marimba 2B, medium hard yarn mallets.

Marimba 2B: 4.3 octave marimba shared with Marimba 2A, medium yarn mallets.

Timpani: 5 timpani (preferably 20”, 23”, 26”, 29”, and 32”), staccato mallets, ultra-staccato mallets, triangle, triangle beater.

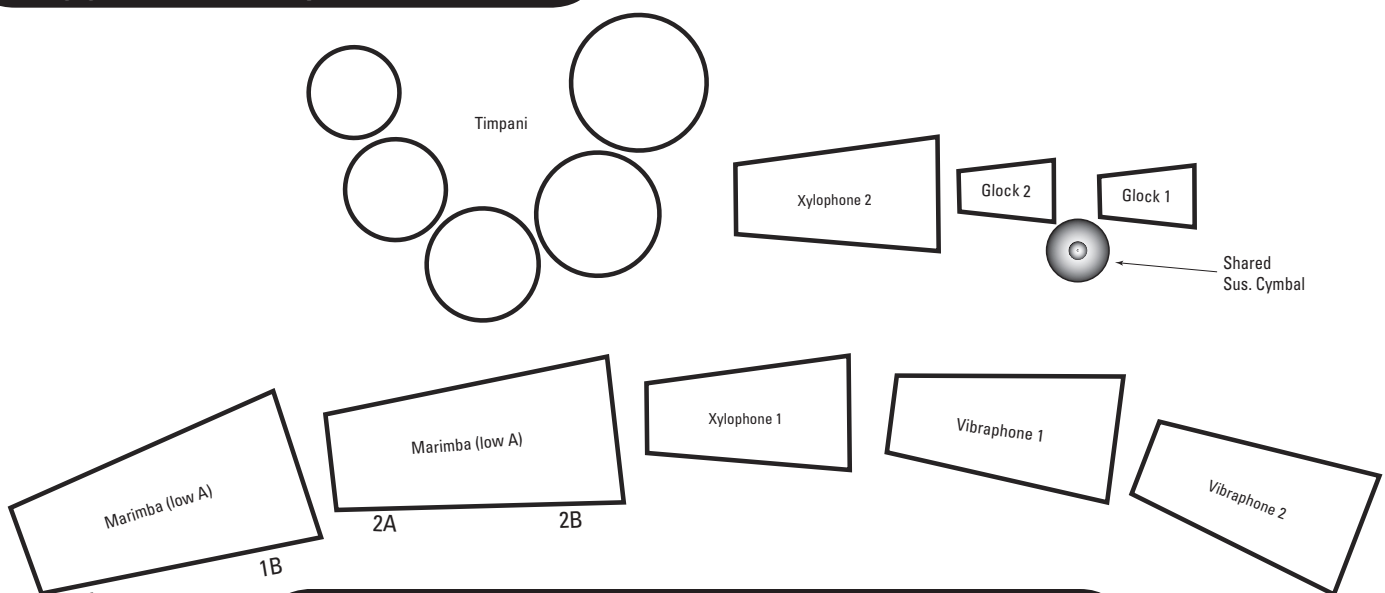
NOTES:

Though the marimba parts are written to share instruments, four marimbas can be used, if desired.

Vibe pedaling is up to the performer, though the tenuto with staccato should be interpreted as a “quick pedal.”

The timpanist should play bar 61 on the 29” drum and tune the 26” drum to the same pitch (B natural). This will allow for the Glockenspiel 2 player to play his/her timpani part on the outside of the drums (opposite side of the drums from the timpanist).

suggested setup



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Level - Intermediate

Approximate playing time: 2 minutes

Mercury

from "The Planets"

Gustav Holst
arranged by James Ancona

♩. = 136 Vivace

Glockenspiel 1

Glockenspiel 2

Xylophone
with very hard yarn
mp

Vibraphone 1
with med-hard cord
mp *mp*

Vibraphone 2
with med-hard cord
p

Marimba 1A
with med-hard yarn
mp *p* *mp* ⁴

Marimba 1B
with medium yarn
p

Marimba 2A
with med-hard yarn
mp *p* *mp*

Marimba 2B
with medium yarn
mp *p*

Timpani
(A>B>-D>-A>-B>)
with staccato mallet
p

8 10

G1

G2 *small triangle*
mp

X *mf*

V1 *mf* *mp*

V2 *mf* *p*

Mar 1A *mf* *p*

Mar 1B *mf*

Mar 2A *mf*

Mar 2B *mf*

T

Sample
Image

15

with hard plastic bell mallets

17

to small suspended cymbal (with stick)

G1

mp *f*

G2

to glock (w/hard plastic bell mallets)

mf *f*

X

mp *f*

V1

f

V2

f

Mar 1A

f

8va

f

Mar 2B

f

Sample
Image

25

23

G1

to glock

f

f

dampen

G2

to small triangle

f

X

mp

f

f

V1

mp

f

p

f

V2

mp

f

p

f

Mar 1A

mp

f

p

Mar 1B

f

p

Mar 2A

mp

f

p

Mar 2B

f

p

T

f

Sample
Image

32 33 39

G1 *pp*

G2 to glock. *pp*

X *pp*

V1 to xylophone 2 *p* with very hard yarn mallets *pp*

V2 *p* *pp*

Mar 1A *p* *mp* *mf*

M* *p* *mp* *mf*

mp *mf* sub *pp*

mp *mf* sub *pp*

triangle *p*

Sample
Image

45

41

G1 *sub f*

G2 *sub f* dampen

X *sub f* *pp*

V1 *sub f* *pp*

V2 *sub f* *pp*

Mar 1A *sub f* *pp*

Mar 1B *sub f* *pp*

Mar 2A *sub f* *pp*

Mar 2B *sub f* *pp*

T

Sample
Image

[illegible]

Sample Image

Mercury – arr. Ancona

58

61

medium plastic mallet
(celesta sound)

ff *mf*

p *mf* *mf*

ff *p*

to vibe 1

ff *p*

ff *p*

ff

ff

ff

with ultra st

f

G1

G2

X

V1

V2

Mar 1A

Mar 1B

Mar 2A

Mar 2B

T

Sample
Image

Sample Image

TSPCE-07

74

G1 *mp*

G2

X *p*

V1 *p*

V2 *p*

Mar 1A

Mar 1B

Mar 2A

Mar 2B

T

Sample
Image

81

8/

G1

G2

26" timp
w/cartwheel mallet

f

X

f

V1

f

V2

f

Mar
1A

soloistic

mf

f

Mar
2A

mf

f

Mar
3B

mf

f

Sample
Image

91

G1 *mp*

G2 *pp*

X *mp*

V1 *p*

V2 *p*

Mar 1A *p*

Mar 1B *p*

Mar 2A *p*

Mar 2B *p*

T

Sample
Image

Sample Image

106

G1 *mp* *pp*

G2

X *pp*

V1 *pp* small triangle *pp*

V2 *p* *pp*

Mar 1A *mp* *pp*

Mar 1B *mp*

Mar 2A *mp*

Mar 2B *mp*

T

Sample
Image