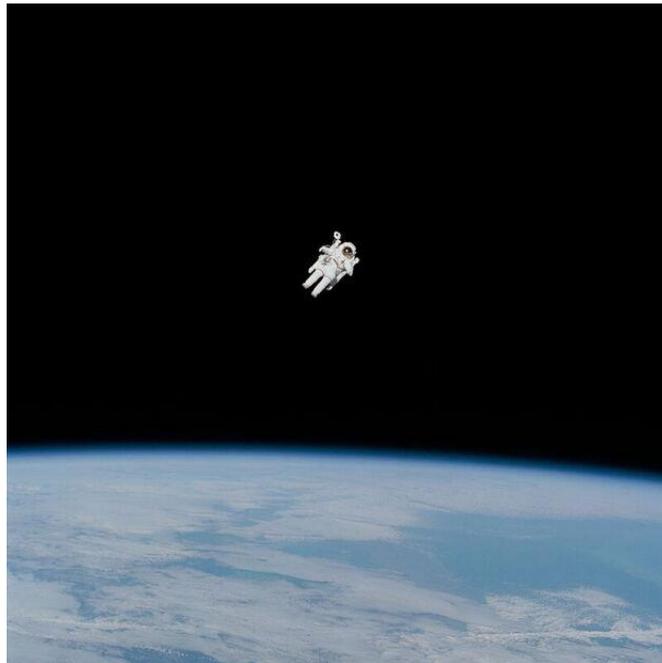




To the Moon and Beyond!

A Study Guide for Students



What will you hear?

Also Sprach Zarathustra: Introduction (2001), by Richard Strauss

All the way back in 1896, Richard Strauss composed a “tone poem” (a piece of music that tells a story) inspired by philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche’s book of the same name: *Also sprach Zarathustra*, which means “Thus Spoke Zarathustra.” Zarathustra was an ancient spiritual leader from Iran who founded a religion rooted in a strong belief of good and evil. Richard Strauss’ tone poem tells the story of Zarathustra’s journey, naming the different movements after chapters from Nietzsche’s story. Filmmaker Stanley Kubrick famously used the Introduction in his movie *2001: A Space Odyssey*, which is what you will hear at the concert!

Clair de Lune, by Claude Debussy (arr. Luck)

Meaning “light of the moon” or “moonlight” in French, “Clair de Lune” is the third movement in composer Claude Debussy’s *Suite bergamasque*. (A “bergamask” is a type of dance.) A “suite,” in classical music, is an ordered set of pieces. These pieces are referred to as “movements,” and often tell different stories, parts of a story, or convey different moods. The movement “Clair de Lune” is inspired by (and named after) a poem by Paul Verlaine, which you can read here:



P.S. – “arr.” means “arranged by.” To arrange a piece of music means to change how it was originally written by the composer. Debussy wrote this piece for piano, but Arthur Luck rewrote it so the entire orchestra can play!

Your soul is as fair as a moonlit landscape,
Masked people, delicate and shadowy
Play on lutes and dance, and have an air
Of sadness in their fantastic costumes.

They play songs in minor keys about
Triumphant love, good work,
With an air of knowing all is vain, —
In the quiet moonlight their songs rise,

The sweet and lonely moonlight
That makes birds dream in their trees,
And in their white stone basins,
Tall fountains sob with ecstasy.

From the Earth to the Moon and Beyond, by James Beckel

Last year, the world celebrated the 50th anniversary of men walking on the Moon for the very first time. On July 20, 1969, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin made history with the Apollo Moon Landing, and to celebrate fifty years later, composer James Beckel was commissioned to write a piece honoring their accomplishment. A “commissioned” piece is a piece ordered and paid for by another person or organization. In this case, multiple orchestras and individual people paid James Beckel to write this piece. It imagines the “Big Bang” with the help of a narrator. See if you can hear the creation of the universe that develops from a single note to a sudden “bang” from the orchestra.

The Planets (excerpts), by Gustav Holst

English composer Gustav Holst demonstrated his interest in astrology* by writing this epic piece about the planets in our solar system. Each planet makes up a different movement of the piece. (Remember how each movement makes up a different part of the story of the whole piece?) Today, you will hear “Mars: Bringer of War,” “Venus: The Bringer of Peace,” “Jupiter: The Bringer of Jollity,” and “Uranus: The Magician.” The planet Mars was named for the Roman God of War. Can you hear how this movement sounds like you’re marching off to war? Venus was named for the Roman Goddess of Love and Beauty. How does this movement sound different from “Mars?” Jupiter was the King of the Roman Gods. For this movement, Holst drew on folk songs from his native England to show joy. Uranus was named for the Greek God of the Sky. Can you hear Uranus casting spells with this music?

*P.S. – Astrology (the study of the planets’ movements and their supposed influence on humans, including zodiac signs and horoscopes), is not to be confused with *astronomy*, the scientific study of objects and matter outside the earth’s atmosphere.

Star Wars Suite: Main Theme, by John Williams

This is one piece of music you may know, already! In 1977, John Williams wrote this theme for the very first Star Wars film, *A New Hope*. Over 40 years later, it is still used as the main music in the Star Wars movies made, today! The theme was partially inspired by composer Erich Wolfgang Kornhold’s music for the 1942 film *Kings Row*.



The Instruments

The orchestra is made up of four “families” of instruments: strings, woodwinds, brass, and percussion.

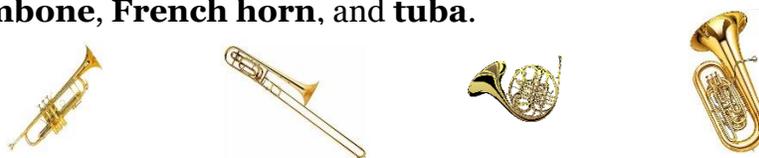
The **string** family includes the **violin**, **viola**, **cello**, and **string bass**. Each of them looks similar to one another but are all different sizes. The violin is the smallest, while the string bass might be taller than the person playing it! (Bass players have to play their instrument standing up or sitting on a tall stool!) The string instruments are played with a **bow** and can sound joyful, soaring, or mournful (sad).



The instruments in the **woodwind** family have a **reed** (a thin piece of wood that vibrates against the musician’s lips) attached to a hollow tube with holes in its side. The musician blows air across the reed into the tube and puts his or her fingers over certain holes to create notes. The **flute** doesn’t have a reed, but a hole that the player blows air across. The pitches and sounds of the woodwinds are determined by the shape and length of the tube, and how many holes the musician covers. Other woodwind instruments include the **clarinet**, **oboe**, and **bassoon**.



Brass instruments are made of tubes of metal that are coiled up like a garden hose! The tube ends in a flared edge called a “bell” which is where the sound comes out. The width and length of the tube determines the instrument’s sound. Brass instruments can often sound jazzy, grand, and exciting. This family includes instruments like the **trumpet**, **trombone**, **French horn**, and **tuba**.



Percussion instruments make sound by being shaken, struck, or scratched. The Germans even call **drums** “Schlagzeug,” or roughly... “hit stuff!” Other instruments include the **timpani**, **triangle**, **cymbals**, and **piano**. ...**Piano!?** Yes, the piano is considered a percussion instrument, because when you press a key, a tiny hammer strikes a string to create the sound!



Can you match each instrument to their family?
(No peeking!)

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Strings</u></p> <p>1. _____ </p> <p>2. _____ </p> <p>3. _____ </p> <p>4. _____ </p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Woodwinds</u></p> <p>1. _____ </p> <p>2. _____ </p> <p>3. _____ </p> <p>4. _____ </p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Brass</u></p> <p>1. _____ </p> <p>2. _____ </p> <p>3. _____ </p> <p>4. _____ </p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Percussion</u></p> <p>1. _____ </p> <p>2. _____ </p> <p>3. _____ </p> <p>4. _____ </p>

Try crossing off each instrument as you add them to the families above.
This will help you eliminate them and see what's left!

- | | | | |
|-------|----------|---------|-------------|
| Piano | Bass | Flute | Trumpet |
| Oboe | Timpani | Bassoon | Triangle |
| Tuba | Violin | Cello | Clarinet |
| Viola | Trombone | Cymbals | French Horn |

To the Moon and Beyond

Can you find these astronomical and musical words?

B	Y	P	V	H	T	V	W	Z	R	R	X	D	R	I	ARRANGEMENT
A	P	W	L	I	C	M	F	H	I	H	L	H	R	X	DEBUSSY
T	R	I	K	M	O	O	N	Q	H	I	Y	F	D	C	FLUTE
P	P	R	G	K	J	L	L	E	A	Y	M	K	K	R	JUPITER
E	H	V	A	Z	A	R	A	T	H	U	S	T	R	A	MOON
R	C	P	M	N	D	J	J	H	Y	C	C	R	Z	M	MOVEMENT
C	Y	Q	L	P	G	E	U	W	N	K	S	A	F	H	PERCUSSION
U	U	M	D	A	V	E	B	P	Y	N	P	N	H	R	PLANETS
S	V	O	V	N	N	R	M	U	I	E	A	I	U	P	SPACE
S	D	V	Q	G	Q	E	Q	E	S	T	C	X	G	F	VIOLA
I	L	E	Q	Q	Z	J	T	W	N	S	E	G	Z	L	ZARATHUSTRA
O	E	M	L	R	T	C	Y	S	Z	T	Y	R	I	G	
N	Y	E	C	E	E	Q	J	M	R	C	M	S	S	G	
F	X	N	F	A	H	M	F	L	U	T	E	P	J	G	
D	I	T	N	N	F	Z	R	E	M	Q	E	M	G	C	

P.S. – What about the Harp!?

You may see the **harp** on stage, today. It does not fall into the traditional instrument families but is most closely related to the string family.

A full-size harp has 47 strings that the player plucks, and 7 pedals that the harpist moves with his or her feet to change the pitches, and in turn, the key. (A “key” is a group of pitches or a scale that creates the basis of a piece of music. You can think of a key as the piece’s “home.” Typically, you can hear when a piece reaches its home key at the end, and it sounds resolved!



Answer Key

Instrument Families:

Strings:

1. Violin
2. Viola
3. Cello
4. Bass

Woodwinds:

1. Flute
2. Clarinet
3. Oboe
4. Bassoon

Brass:

1. Trumpet
2. Trombone
3. French horn
4. Tuba

Percussion:

1. Timpani
2. Triangle
3. Cymbals
4. Piano

To the Moon and Beyond

Can you find these astronomical and musical words?

B	Y	P	V	H	T	V	W	Z	R	R	X	D	R	I	ARRANGEMENT
A	P	W	L	I	C	M	F	H	I	H	L	H	R	X	DEBUSSY
T	R	I	K	M	O	O	N	Q	H	I	Y	F	D	C	FLUTE
P	P	R	G	K	J	L	L	E	A	Y	M	K	K	R	JUPITER
E	H	V	A	Z	A	R	A	T	H	U	S	T	R	A	MOON
R	C	P	M	N	D	J	J	H	Y	C	C	R	Z	M	MOVEMENT
C	Y	Q	L	P	G	E	U	W	N	K	S	A	F	H	PERCUSSION
U	U	M	D	A	V	E	B	P	Y	N	P	N	H	R	PLANETS
S	V	O	V	N	N	R	M	U	I	E	A	I	U	P	SPACE
S	D	V	Q	G	Q	E	Q	E	S	T	C	X	G	F	VIOLA
I	L	E	Q	Q	Z	J	T	W	N	S	E	G	Z	L	ZARATHUSTRA
O	E	M	L	R	T	C	Y	S	Z	T	Y	R	I	G	
N	Y	E	C	E	E	Q	J	M	R	C	M	S	S	G	
F	X	N	F	A	H	M	F	L	U	T	E	P	J	G	
D	I	T	N	N	F	Z	R	E	M	Q	E	M	G	C	