



Smithsonian Associates

Music Inspired by the Natural World

DR. RACHEL FRANKLIN, SMITHSONIAN ASSOCIATES

MAY 31 Heavenly Marvels

We finish our excursions through earthly delights, then on to the vast mystery of space. From the deepest reaches of the universe to the beauty of our sun, moon and planets, our cosmos has always drawn composers towards the starry heavens. With little scientific direction, most works symbolized spiritual and religious perspectives that continue to resonate today. We journey through galaxies with *The Planets* suite by Gustav Holst, Haydn's oratorio *The Creation*, Schumann's exquisite song, "Mondnacht" and the astonishing choral work *Deep Field* by Eric Whitacre, among others.

Works explored, media used:

Mark O'Connor, 1961: *The American Seasons (Seasons of an American Life)* for violin and orchestra, Summer, 1999

- Mark O'Connor, Scott Yoo, The Metamorphosis Chamber Orchestra

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uf_KPcjVXQs

Samuel Barber, 1910-1981: *Knoxville, Summer of 1915*, Op. 24, 1948

- Dawn Upshaw, David Zinman, Orchestra of St. Luke's

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OTR3oCCek74>

William Grant Still, 1895-1978: *Three Visions*, Summerland

- The Sylvan Winds

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QBqRNokzg1g>

Robert Schumann, 1810-1856: *Frühlingsnacht*, Liederkreis, Op. 39, 1840

- Wolfgang Holzmair, Imogen Cooper

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cqcq9swbUII>

Lili Boulanger, 1893-1918: *D'un matin de printemps*, 1918

- Yehudi Menuhin & Clifford Curzon

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hbYIKmOIY_0

Darius Milhaud (1892-1974): *La Création du monde*, 1923

- Nicolas Chalvin, Orchestre des Pays de Savoie

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xg5GhEbSVcE&t=82s>

Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958: *Journey up the glacier*, from "Scott of the Antarctic" 1948

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7b6BOI1jGBM>

Vaughan Williams: Symphony No. 7, *Sinfonia Antartica*, 1952

- Andre Previn, London Symphony Orchestra, spoken excerpts Ralph Richardson

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=anDkHMBYbLI>

Franz Schubert, 1797-1828: *Heidenröslein*, 1815

- Arleen Auger, Erik Werba

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=USNsanzD0iGc>

Léo Delibes, 1836-1891: *Flower duet*, Lakmé, 1882

- Sabine Devieille, Ambroisine Bré, Opéra Comique

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2eqzh207ggY>

Ferde Grofé, 1892-1972 : *Grand Canyon Suite*, Sunrise, 1931

- Leonard Bernstein, New York Philharmonic

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IVGOUHcdXy4>

Joseph Haydn, 1732-1809: *The Creation*, Hob. XXI:2, 1798

- Alan Gilbert, NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchestra, choir & soloists

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o2mCWogEzo8>

Gustav Holst, 1874-1935: *The Planets*, Mars, Jupiter, 1914-1917

- Sir Charles Mackerras, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jmk5frp6-3Q>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gu77Vtja30c>

Josef Strauss, 1827-1870: *Sphärenklänge* (Sounds from the Spheres) Walzer op. 235, 1868

- Ernst Lester, Vienna Classic Orchestra

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_PVdjGBeD3Y

Robert Schumann, 1810-1856: *Mondnacht*, from *Leiderkreis*, Op. 39, 1840

- Sophie Rennert, Sascha El Mouissi

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TrUS9B0LcqY>

Arnold Schoenberg, 1874-1951: *Pierrot Lunaire*, Op. 21, 1912

- Kiera Duffy, members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bd2cBUJmDr8&t=160s>

Jacques Offenbach, 1819-1880 : *Le Voyage dans la Lune*, 1875

- Le BarokOpera

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hc99g_GOw-w

Uuno Klami, 1900-1961: *Aurora borealis*, Op. 38, 1948

- John Storgårds, Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZqgsAExhVvM>

Eric Whitacre, 1970: *Deep Field, The Impossible Magnitude of our Universe*, 2018

- Eric Whitacre, Eric Whitacre Singers, Virtual Choir 5

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yDiD8F9ItX0&t=1431s>