TWO SONGS WITHOUT WORDS

I. Country Song

II. Country March

GUSTAV HOLST Arranged by FRANK ERICKSON

INSTRUMENTATION

- I Full Score
- I Piccolo
- 4 Ist Flute
- 4 2nd Flute
- I Ist Oboe
- I 2nd Oboe
- 4 Ist B Clarinet
- 4 2nd B Clarinet
- 4 3rd B Clarinet
- 2 E Alto Clarinet/
 - E Contrabass Clarinet
- 2 B Bass Clarinet/
 - BB Contrabass Clarinet
- 2 Bassoon
- 2 Ist E Alto Saxophone
- 2 2nd E Alto Saxophone
- 2 By Tenor Saxophone
- I E Baritone Saxophone

- 3 Ist B Trumpet
- 3 2nd B Trumpet
- 3 3rd B Trumpet
- 2 Ist F Horn
- I 2nd F Horn
- I 3rd F Horn
- 2 Ist Trombone
- 2 2nd Trombone
- 2 3rd Trombone
- 2 Baritone B.C.
- 2 Baritone T.C.
- 4 Tuba
- I Xylophone
- I Timpani
- 3 Percussion

(Snare Drum, Bass Drum,

Crash Cymbals, Suspended Cymbal)

Frank Erickson Publications



About the composer

Born in 1874, Gustav Holst was guided by his father into music as a career. It was intended for him to become a pianist but from the earliest days his preference was for composition. A village organist's post during his teenage years gave him the first opening in a direction that was to have an important influence on his musical life. He entered the Royal College of Music at the age of 21 where he met Ralph Vaughan Williams and the two became lifelong friends. A nerve problem in his hand severely limited his capabilities as a pianist and he took up the trombone. On leaving the R.C.M. he joined the Carl Rosa Opera Company as first trombonist and played for many years in the Scottish and other orchestras. His reputation as a composer grew and although highly esteemed in a somewhat narrow circle, Holst suddenly became a worldwide celebrity with the instant success of *The Planets* in 1918. As a composer he was a tireless and intense worker and showed mastery in a wide variety of idioms: opera, ballet, chamber music, the orchestra and most notably, vocal works. His two suites for band are cornerstones of the modern band repertoire.

About the composition

Two Songs Without Words was composed in 1906 and was dedicated to Ralph Vaughan Williams. In the preceding years Holst was giving much attention to the study of English folksong and the influence is apparent: although much simpler in concept they are similar in style to his two suites for band. The Country Song opens with the principal theme as an unaccompanied clarinet solo, followed by its repetition in the full woodwind section. The tempo then picks up, presenting fragments of the extended second, more rhythmic theme, which follows. The main theme returns in a 'maestoso' setting before fading into a quite closing.

The introduction of the *Marching Song* is characterized by a distinctive running sixteenth note figure. The principal melody, first played by the low woodwinds, is punctuated by these same running sixteenth note fragments. This figuration also serves as transitional material throughout the march. The main theme is repeated by the full band before modulating to a 'trio-like' theme in D major. Both themes are again repeated with much variation before the tempo picks up into a short coda-style ending.

Rehearsal Suggestions

COUNTRY SONG - Measure 32: the melody should be very rhythmic and played in a detached style, Measure 58: the continuous eighth note pattern in the 1st clarinet can be facilitated by staggered breathing. Measure 99: the *rit*. should be gradual, leading into the new tempo at 102. Measures 134-end: the staccato markings should be carefully observed.

MARCHING SONG - Since the 4th beat pick-up into measure 5 is too low for the Bb clarinets, bring out this dotted eighth and sixteenth in the low woodwinds. The *rit.* and *a tempo*, measures 17-18, 36-37 and 86-87 should all be quite pronounced with the *a tempo* taking place on the 4th beat of the second measure in each case. As in the *Country Song*, all notes, not under a slur, should be be played in a detached style and quarter notes should be held their full value.

Two Songs Without Words















































































































