

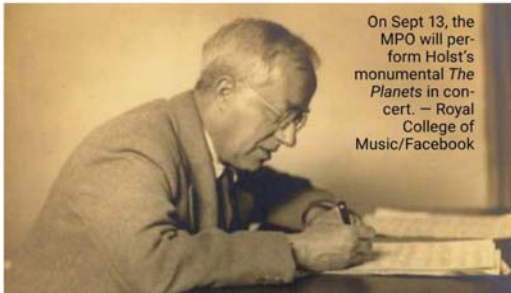


02 SEP, 2025

Taking a cosmic trip

The Star, Malaysia

Taking a cosmic trip



On Sept 13, the MPO will perform Holst's monumental *The Planets* in concert. – Royal College of Music/Facebook

It was the English composer Gustav Holst who first sent orchestras on a celestial voyage with *The Planets*, a symphonic suite of striking imagination and enduring popularity.

On Sept 13, the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra (MPO) will present this monumental work in a concert entitled *A Cosmic Symphony* at Dewan Filharmonik PETRONAS (DFP), KLCC, under the direction of its music director, Junichi Hirokami.

Composed between 1914 and 1917 and premiered in 1920, *The Planets* remains Holst's most celebrated work, noted for its originality, vivid orchestration, and its evocation of the astrological

character associated with each of the known planets of his time.

For this performance, the MPO will collaborate with the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra, a distinguished ensemble founded in 1946 and internationally recognised for its opera and ballet repertoire, having performed in 58 cities worldwide.

Complementing the orchestral forces will be the homegrown voices of the UCSI Chorale and Dames of Harmonia.

The programme will open with Samuel Barber's *Toccata Festiva*, composed in 1960 for a ceremonial occasion with the Philadelphia Orchestra.

The work will feature organist

Mari Ohki, acclaimed as the first Japanese artist to win the International Dietrich Buxtehude Organ Competition in Germany, performing on DFP's magnificent Klais Pipe Organ.

The concert will also include Johann Sebastian Bach's *Concerto For Two Violins In D minor*, with the MPO's own Peter Danis and Issey Kobayashi as soloists.

With *The Planets* at its heart, *A Cosmic Symphony* marks a welcome return to the MPO's classical core – a rarity these days amid the rise of pop-classical programmes.

More info: mpo.com.my.



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SUMMARIES

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