

Theme of the concert

Out of this World!

The theme of the 2026/27 concert is 'Out of this World' – a chance to hear music that makes us look up and consider life beyond our immediate surroundings. We'll be traveling to space, learning more about planets and stars, and considering myths and legends that challenge the way we see the world we live in.

As an international orchestra, the Philharmonia travels a lot when touring around the world. They even recorded music and sent this into space! The pieces in this concert all have a link to being out of this world and these are outlined below:

Composer	Piece title	Date composed	Link to 'Out of this World'
Richard Strauss	Also sprach Zarathustra – 'Sunrise'	1896	This opening fanfare captures a sunrise and was used in Stanley Kubrick's 1968 film '2001: A Space Odyssey'
Jessie Montgomery	'Starburst'	2012	This music pictures the rapid formation of new stars in a galaxy
Gustav Holst	Extract from 'Mars', 'Venus' and 'Jupiter'	1914-1917	These three extracts are taken from a larger work picturing seven planets of our solar system (excluding Earth)
Eleanor Alberga	'Sailing on Tethys'	2022	This is the fifth movement from Alberga's Symphony No. 1 'Strata' representing the different layers of a planet. Named after the Greek water goddess, Tethys was a very old ocean which no longer exists in the modern world
Daniel Rosenfeld (C418)	'Minecraft Medley'	2011	The virtual world of Minecraft encourages players to build structures, extract raw materials and compete with others
Ludwig van Beethoven	Creatures of Prometheus – 'Overture'	1801	This is the opening piece from this Ballet, based on the mythical story of Prometheus who stole fire from Zeus to help make mankind
John Williams	Star Wars – 'Theme'	1977	Star Wars follows the story of the Rebel Alliance against the Galactic Empire in an epic science fiction film franchise