

## *A Word about the Oort Suite*

*First - there is no consensus as to how to pronounce "Oort". Some say "Ort", others, "Euh-r't". But the Oort Cloud is an expanse of icy planetesimals ranging from 2,000 to 200,000 times the distance of the earth to the sun - in other words, a good deal of the territory between us and Proxima Centauri, the nearest star.*

*The suite is a mostly light-hearted journey on a spaceship, a journey impossible according to science, but not to music!*

*It takes up where Gustav Holst (The Planets) left off, past the orbits of Jupiter, Herschel and Neptune, into the Kuiper Belt, which is a sort of "ring" of little planets and such, including Pluto. Then we pass through quiet space (the Prayer from Ephesians) to reach a spaceport near some good Oort objects. We will meet some very interesting folks there, who happen to be musicians. Then we take up a happy song (Oumareshka Vozhne) which is fake Russian for... whatever you wish! The Suite concludes with a joyful medley of "All Through the Night" and "Angels We Have Heard on High", for certainly angels dwell in this wonderful Oort Cloud.*