

Violin I.

10
188

Picc. *p* *sempre* *più* *arco* *Andante maestoso.* (♩=♩)

198

207

216 **IX** *f* *ff*

226

The melody known as Thaxted begins in m. 193 of “Jupiter” from Holst’s *The Planets* above. (Thaxted is a village where Gustav Holst and his wife had a cottage for weekends and holidays.) The tune is a gorgeous, very gradual ascent from the violin’s lowest pitch to the instrument’s upper register.

Four 4-bar phrases (with pickup notes, the first two being twice as slow) are followed by the same music up an octave. (Compare mm. 194 – 209 with mm. 210 – 225.) Bar 226 is transposed an octave higher still, but only gets about halfway through the melody. This is an unending melody. The B flats on the downbeats of m. 209 and m. 225 need to resolve, but they do so by starting the tune all over again an octave up.

The melodic contour is initially fairly smooth, mostly 2nds and 3rds with an occasional 4th. However, a 5th in m. 201, an octave in m. 203, and a 6th in m. 207 add excitement along with the higher pitches.

Holst adapted Thaxted to fit the lyrics of the patriotic poem “I Vow to Thee, My Country” by Cecil Spring Rice. This setting in Britain is like “My Country ’tis of Thee” in America. Many hymns use the Thaxted melody as well.