

# Fedge



According to conventional Roman mythology, Saturn and Ops were the perfect couple. He was the god of agriculture, virile and handsome; she was a fertility deity, the patroness of abundance and prosperity. It was synergy, Ancient Rome style, at its best. However, a recently discovered broadsheet from the Mythological Era suggests that the marriage was stage-managed for the sake of appearance. In truth (i.e., according to gossip), Saturn was downright ga-ga over a mortal hussy named Fedge. We may never know what Saturn saw in her. Unlike Ops, Fedge had no prosperity to speak of, and fertility was not a condition with which she was conversant. But who can say what drives the unique urges of the gods? Although the broadsheet was only just unearthed, it's clear that some people long ago knew of her. English composer Gustav Holst, for example, repeatedly referenced her in "Saturn," the fifth movement of his orchestral suite, "The Planets." The sequence of notes F, E, D, G, and E appears throughout the movement, but especially in the bass flute line in the Andante section. You can look it up.