ASTRO Stellar

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HARRY STYLES

The glamour, the music and the hype

ALISON BOULTON

One of the world's biggest popstars and style icons, he is a self-confessed control freak recently hit hard by the tragic death of One Direction former bandmate Liam Payne. What lies ahead for Harry?

Photo credit: Raph_PH

Harry Styles in 2022. Photo credit: Lily Redman

In less than 15 years, multi-award winner Harry Styles has evolved from the 'boy-next-door', working Saturdays at his local bakery – to (in the words of radio DJ Mark Goodier) popstar and superstar, and then to global icon. Beyond his charm, good looks and undoubted musical talent there is definitely a special 'something' about Styles, a something that resonates absolutely with the independent and idealistic Aquarian spirit of our times.

With Sun, Mercury, Venus and Mars in Aquarius, Harry Styles is über-Aquarian. So, what is this sign all about? Keywords are: independence, originality and idealism, combined with a detached, impersonal friendliness. Aquarius is rational and intellectual. People with several planets in this sign may not be comfortable in the murky realm of feelings.

Aquarius is inherently contradictory due to being ruled [in modern astrology] by both Saturn and Uranus, planets which are basically opposites. Saturn describes the boundaries within us, built up through our social environment and family background, whilst Uranus, an outer planet, is a symbol for collective change.

The position of Uranus and the other outer planets [Neptune and Pluto] in our birth charts illustrates how we may become channels for collective ideals. Harry Styles has Uranus in Capricorn in 3rd house of communication, next to imaginative, spiritual Neptune. In interviews he expresses himself as an intelligent and thoughtful human being, focused on his work and in tune with collective ideals.

He is also a self-confessed "total control freak" which resonates with the Fixed nature of Aquarius and the structured, ambitious, leadership qualities of Saturn.

Styles' birth chart lacks personal planets in both earth and fire elements

The lack of an element can lead to a real focus on the themes it symbolises. Earth is to do with being grounded in material reality. It's about our senses and being embodied in the 'real' world. Styles focuses on his body through his clothes, tattoos and jewellery, presenting himself physically as a work of art. He approaches his body in an original, Aquarian way that is very in tune with the zeitgeist.

Styles navigates and unites the contradictions of the Saturn/Uranus duo with the help of his Libra Moon and Ascendant. Libra is smooth, sociable and charming. It is often dubbed the 'people-pleasing' sign because it seeks balance and harmony. These qualities can lead to it refusing to make decisions or stand its ground. Libra, however, is a cardinal sign, an instigator and no pushover. Once a decision is made the line is drawn.

Libra relates to beauty, fashion and art, but also peace, justice and compromise. Exceptionally, Styles Libra Moon makes an exact trine to his Aquarius Sun suggesting a rare inner balance. This perfect, flowing aspect represents an intrinsic harmony between his conscious, forward-looking solar energy, and his unconscious, instinctive lunar energy. Styles is unusual, then, because he is genuinely at ease within himself.

Harry Styles' BIG THREE

Sun
(our core centre)

Aquarius
Yang, Fixed, Air
Rulers: Saturn, Uranus
Symbol: Water Bearer

Aquarius can be...

independent, friendly, humane, kind, detached, faithful, idealistic, truthful, original, liberal, ecological, innovative, intellectual...

contrary, dogmatic, perverse, rebellious, tactless, stubborn, lacking compassion

Moon
(our instinctive responses)

Libra

Ascendant
(our approach to the world)

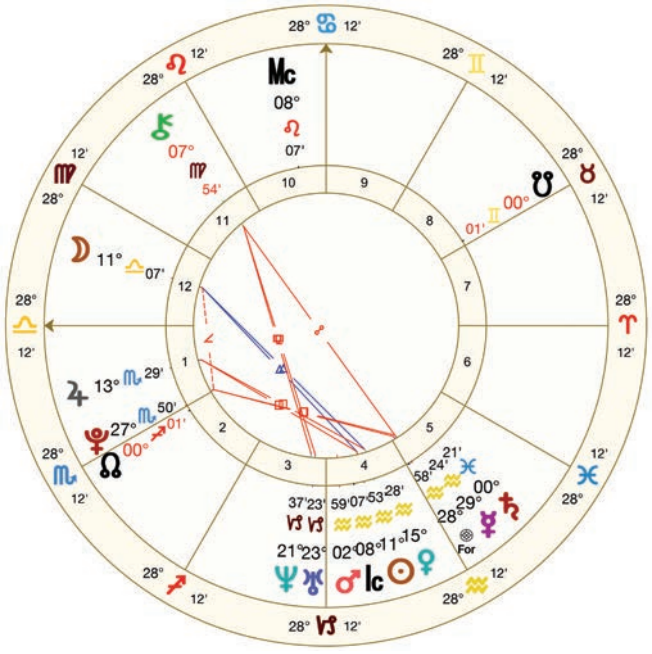
Libra

Yang, Cardinal, Air
Ruler: Venus
Symbol: Scales

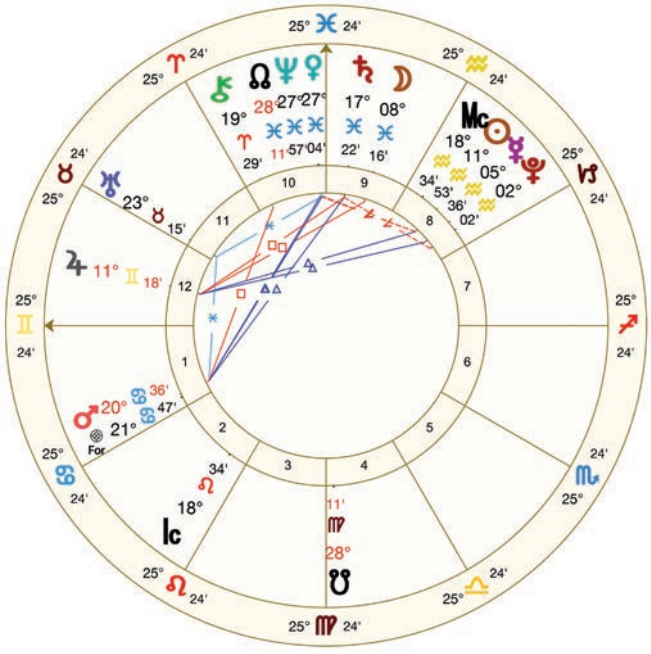
Libra can be...

diplomatic, peace-loving, sociable, fair-minded, judicious, charming, just, kind, cultured...

ambivalent, indecisive, lazy, placatory, procrastinating, extravagant, gullible



Harry Styles Natal 1 Feb 1994, Tue 00:06 UT +0:00 Redditch, United Kingdom Geocentric Tropical Equal



Harry Styles Solar Return 31 Jan 2025, Fri 12:47:45 UT +0:00 Redditch, United Kingdom Geocentric Tropical Equal

'Gender fluid' and 'metrosexual' are terms which have been applied to Styles. He has refused to label his sexuality – though he has only ever been linked romantically to women – and refuses to be constrained by traditional perceptions of male dress codes. He comments in *Vogue* (December 2020): "There's so much joy to be had in playing with clothes. I've never thought too much about what it means – it just becomes this extended part of creating something".

This has inevitably led to both admiration and criticism. More importantly, it has fed into the social discourse. Tom Lamont noted in *The Guardian* that some of Styles' fashion choices have contributed to "an important political discussion about gendered fashion".

In the same *Vogue* interview actress Olivia Wilde, who later went onto date Styles, enthuses: "To me, he's very modern, and I hope that this brand of confidence as a male that Harry has – truly devoid of any traces of toxic masculinity – is indicative of his generation and therefore the future of the world."

Interestingly Mars, signature of the masculine drive, has no major aspects in Styles' birth chart

So, Mars has an unadulterated quality, untouched by energy from other planets. Mars is in Aquarius on the Sun/Uranus midpoint, uniting and channelling all this Aquarian energy. Through his appearance and through who he is in the world, then, Styles expresses an Aquarian manifestation of the masculine principle. He is seen as the 'ideal' guy, an embodiment of modern masculinity and is just enough ahead of the curve to be appreciated.

Styles doesn't seem to reflect too deeply on any of this. His focus is his music and how he expresses himself artistically. This brings in Aquarius' opposite sign, Leo. Leo is all about self-expression, creativity and what the individual brings to the wider group. Leo needs to be appreciated. This sign rules Styles' Midheaven which is very decidedly in the 10th house of career and public life. Styles explores the Leo arena of self-expression via his public persona. What he brings to the (Aquarian) group is his creativity, and for this he is adored.

Styles' private life is as hidden as you would expect from someone with three personal planets in the 4th house, and his family ties are strong. He appears to

Elements:

Fire: 0
Earth: 0
Air: Sun, Moon, Mercury, Venus, Mars
Water: Jupiter, Saturn

Harry Styles has a preponderance of planets in the element of air. Air signs are civilised, social, detached and abstract. They approach the world rationally, through the function of thought. Very 'airy' people may be uncomfortable in the realm of feeling and emotion.

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A PAM CRANE PAPERBACK FROM AMAZON

One Direction,Red Carpet 2012. Photo credit: Brett Robson

have a good relationship with both his parents, although he is is much closer to his mother as she was the one he lived with growing up. His 12th house Moon, symbol of the mother, rules the 10th house of career and it was his mother who famously sent off the tape that resulted in *The X Factor* audition.

The X Factor journey wasn't without setbacks, but Simon Cowell famously saw 'something' in Styles and his bandmates, pulling them together to create One Direction, the most successful boy band of all time. On 11 September 2011 their first single, 'What Makes You Beautiful' went platinum as Neptune transited Styles' 5th-house cluster of Mercury, Saturn and Pars Fortuna. This was the stuff that dreams are made of.

For someone who seems to be brimming with confidence, it is perhaps surprising that there is a complete absence of planets in fire in Harry Styles' birth chart. This suggests that rather than finding confidence and meaning within himself, Styles searches for it 'out in the world', notably via his Leo MC. For Styles, then, meaning and faith are internalised through how he is seen and appreciated by the world at large. This illustrates generally how absences in a birth chart and the corresponding unconscious drive to 'fill the void' can be tremendously creative.

The other point in fire is the North Node in Sagittarius in the 2nd house of values and resources. The North Node may be seen as a destiny point in our charts, expressing qualities we are in the process of developing. Importantly, it's ruled by Jupiter in the penetrating and powerful sign of Scorpio. This implies developing inner confidence and finding meaning through deep emotional connection. With Jupiter ruling the North Node in the 2nd, it also describes his immense wealth.

Jupiter is situated in the 1st house of Styles' chart which lends him sensitivity

Which he deploys in how he approaches the world – and the planet adds to his enigmatic quality. For all his apparent openness, he may not be very easy to get to know.

The Nodes are exactly square Saturn in imaginative, spiritual Pisces in the 5th house of self-expression and joy. Planets in close aspect to the Nodes are considered especially relevant, and here we have Saturn, co-ruler of all Styles' Aquarian planets, in the watery, emotional world of the Pisces fishes.

Saturn in our charts represents what we fear, but paradoxically, what we long to achieve. It often symbolises a challenge we are being asked to confront and work through. In Pisces, in tense aspect to the Nodes, Styles' Saturn is perhaps driving him to engage with his emotional and spiritual side; to make it manifest through through his music. He confirms in an interview with Zane Lowe that he expresses his emotions through his songs.

Styles' nodal axis was highlighted recently when One Direction bandmate, Liam Payne, died tragically in Buenos Aires. On 16 October 2024, the date of Payne's death, Styles' secondary progressed Moon – a personal barometer for inner feelings – was exactly on his Sagittarius North Node square Saturn. At the same moment, transiting Venus, symbol of love and relationships, crossed natal Pluto. These connections leave no doubt that he was deeply affected by the loss of his friend.

Harry Styles has been affectionately dubbed 'Prince Charming' by both media and fans. However, as befits someone with his 7th house ruler in the private space of the 4th house, Styles has been enigmatic about his love life.

Lunar phase: Harry Styles' Moon is in the Disseminating phase. This is about finding ways to share and *disseminate* ideas and ideals.

Harry Styles' birth time

Astrodienst cites a time of 12.06 am but also gives the chart a DD rating and suggests other options. Having looked at them all in relation to Styles' life to date, the 12:06 am time is the one that appears to resonate most strongly.

Relationships are often how we pull what we unconsciously feel we are lacking into our lives. So, we might expect Styles to be attracted to people with lots of fire or earth in their charts. Taylor Swift, an early squeeze, was potentially a good candidate with her fiery Sagittarius Sun, Mercury and Saturn in Capricorn, and her natal Venus conjunct Styles' Mars.

His latest companion is British singer Olivia Dean. We don't have a timed chart for Dean but it's clear that she has Venus and Mercury in Aries, another fire sign. Further, her Aquarius Moon will connect on a powerfully instinctive level with Styles' own Aquarian planets. Her Pisces Sun may also help him to express his feeling nature.

However, both Styles and Dean lack earth in their horoscopes so although they probably have a lot to offer each other, it may prove difficult to ground the relationship in the real world – which is unsurprising given that they probably both have punishing work schedules.

2025

What does 2025 hold for Harry Styles?

The world is expecting a new album – RUSSH website predicts December 2024 – which is likely to confirm his status as global megastar. His solar return chart for 2025 has a stellium of planets in Pisces, spread across the 9th and 10th houses, including Venus and Neptune together with the North Node.

This is a glamorous, dreamy and spiritual combination suggesting 2025 is definitely a year in which he'll be feeling the love through his public image. The Venus/Neptune conjunction makes a tight, flowing trine to Styles' natal 1st house Pluto, adding power and depth, and suggesting he will be approaching the world through the lens of his creativity and music.

Transiting Pluto will also be moving back and forth across his natal 7th-house ruler, Mars, indicating the possible deepening of a personal relationship.

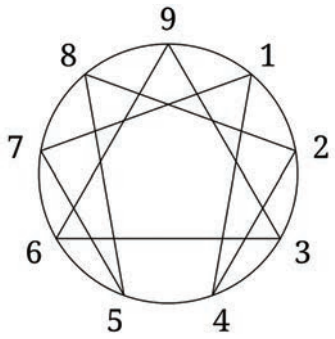
The SR chart [shown] is ruled by 8th-house Mercury in Aquarius conjunct Pluto which confirms this theme, as does SR 7th-house ruler Jupiter in SR 12th exactly trine the SR Sun. The challenge from Saturn in SR 9th may indicate that travelling could be an issue, but also suggests that the thirst for meaning and spirituality in his life may be especially important this year.

So, 2025 looks like another successful year for Harry Styles. Also one in which he may be driven to explore deeper layers of himself and discover who he really is beneath the glamour, the music and the hype.

ALISON BOULTON

Alison Boulton MA, D.F.Astrol.S. is a professional astrologer, writer and speaker. Her own astrology journey began in the 1980s after an intense consultation with Liz Greene. Inspired, she began reading Dr Greene's work which led her to Jung and to psychological astrology which she has explored extensively. She holds the Advanced Diploma from the Faculty of Astrological Studies, contributes regular articles to The Astrological Journal and has been published on Astrodienst. Alison is based in the southern French countryside beneath a canopy of stars where she has a busy consultancy practice. Find her on YouTube, instagram and her website.

www.alisonsastrology.net
www.instagram.com/alisonastrologer



Harry Styles' Enneagram Type

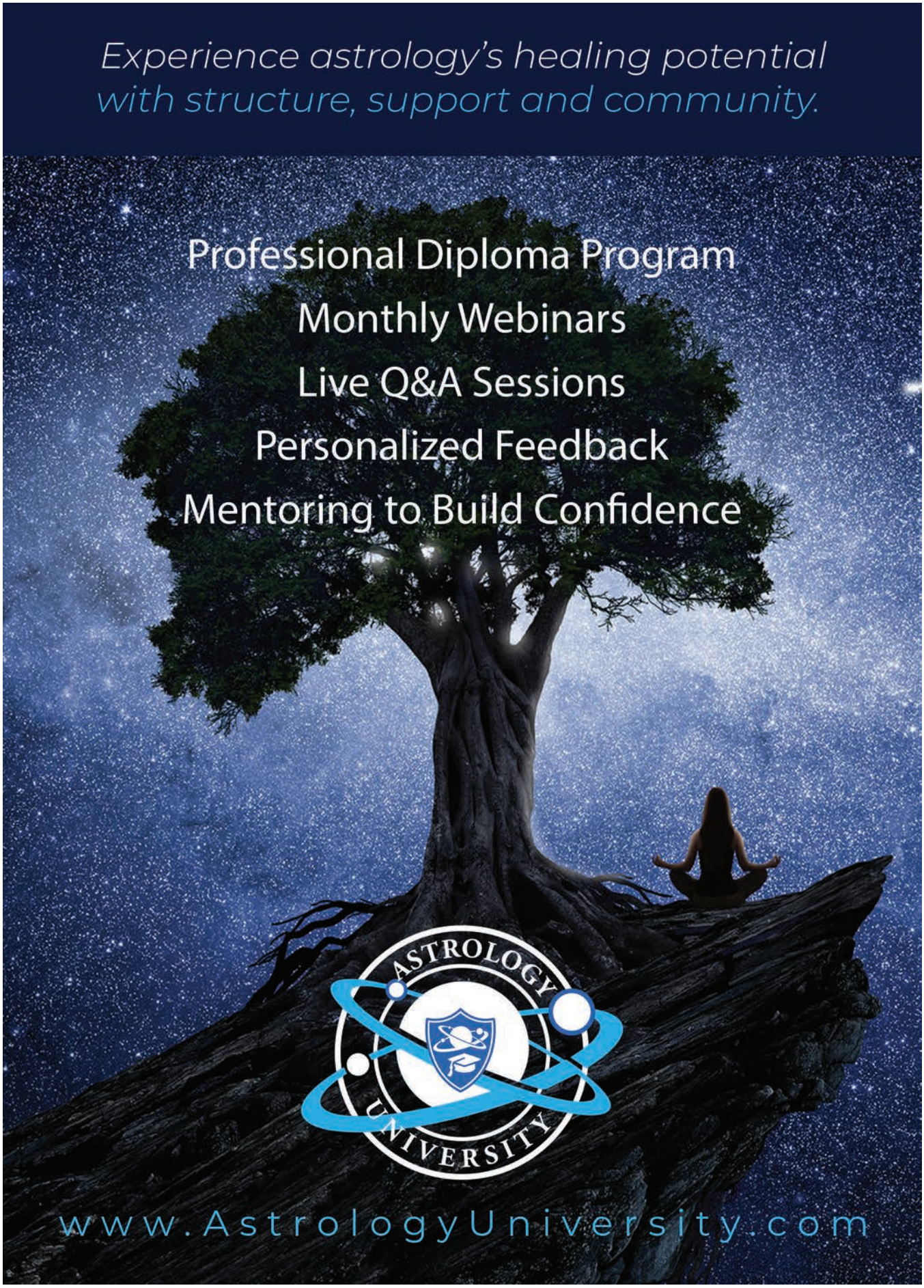
The enneagram groups people into nine types according to psychological and spiritual principles. Harry's a Type 2w3. So, what does that mean?

The enneagraminstitute defines a Type 2 as: Empathetic, sincere, and warm-hearted. They are friendly, generous, and self-sacrificing, but can also be sentimental, flattering, and people-pleasing. They are well-meaning and driven to be close to others but can slip into doing things for others to be needed. They typically have problems with possessiveness and with acknowledging their own needs. At their Best: unselfish and altruistic, they have unconditional love for others.

- **Basic Fear:** Of being unwanted, unworthy of being loved
- **Basic Desire:** To feel loved
- **Enneagram Two with a One-Wing:** "Servant"
- **Enneagram Two with a Three-Wing:** "The Host/Hostess"

Key Motivations: Want to be loved, to express their feelings for others, to be needed and appreciated, to get others to respond to them, to vindicate their claims about themselves.

For more on Harry's Type, go to: www.enneagraminstitute.com/type-2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Instant Synastry
Barack and Michelle Obama

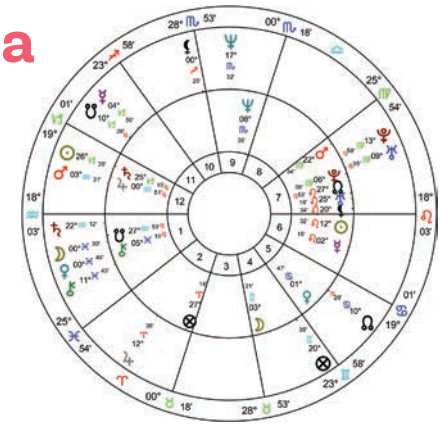
We do not have a time of birth for Capricorn former First Lady Michelle. Her New Moon is in Aquarius or Pisces – orienting her to original projects. And her Locomotive chart has Uranus as lead, adding to pioneering instincts. The Former President is a Leo which dominates his 7th house – a people person. His Moon in Gemini confirms his highly accomplished communication skills.

She: With her Sun close to Mars, she has remarkable determination to see things through. For the midday chart, Moon/Venus in Pisces enhances emotional sensitivity, helping to counterbalance mental 'rational' energies. The conjunction also accounts for her fashion icon status at the White House, as Venus represents style.

He: North Node (destiny point) is conjunct Uranus in the 7th house, marking him as a 'breakthrough' person – he was the USA's first African-American president. Like Michelle's his chart is a Locomotive (planets fill just two-thirds of the horoscope), but his lead planet is Moon. Highly attuned to people's needs. Jupiter/Saturn in the 12th house points to broad concerns about humanity.

Strengths together: Her Mars on his Jupiter in the 12th makes them a formidable power couple, activating joint ideals. Her Sun on his Saturn strengthens their sense of purpose (or joint mission) but may involve some sacrifice on her part. If her Moon is in Pisces trine his Venus in Cancer – highly compatible.

Challenges together: His Moon opposite her Black Moon Lilith can suggest a disconnect between her emotional needs and his need for independence. Her Moon close to his South Node in Aquarius establishes a 'karmic' connection but one that requires a lot of work against powerful egotistic energies. His Sun opposite her Mars is a competitive aspect – but this can also be dynamic for both.



Inner Wheel: Barack Obama Natal Chart 4 Aug 1961, Fri 19:24 AHST +10:00 Honolulu, Hawaii 21°N18'25'' 157°W51'30'' Geocentric Tropical Placidus Mean Node

Outer Wheel: Michelle Obama Natal Chart 17 Jan 1964, Fri 12:00 CST +6:00 Chicago, Illinois 41°N51' 087°W39' Geocentric Tropical 0° Aries Mean Node

Overall: The synastry chart is more challenging than public perception of the pair might suggest. Yet some of the strongest unions require considerable work. Each has had to negotiate with the other to make this union a success.

What, Precisely, are the Angles?

Simply put, the angles (or 'four pillars') are four powerful points in the horoscope marking the Ascendant (1st house), the Imum Coeli (4th house), Descendant (7th house) and Midheaven (10th house). These are sometimes called cardinal points, but that is only truly the case if the four angular signs are cardinal ones, too: Aries, Cancer, Libra, Capricorn. It is better to speak of angular points. Though in the Whole Signs house system, each angle starts at 0 degree of the relevant sign, other house systems start well into a sign, based on geographical location. Explaining all this is for another time. Today, we are just focusing on the nature of the angles.

The angular points are highly potent parts of the chart. When drawing up a birth or event chart, the angular points can only be determined if you have precise (clock) time. Without time, forget about the angular points. If you choose to rectify a chart (i.e., calculate a chart time by analysing key events in a person's life by relating them to certain relevant chart aspects or ingresses), then it's possible to work out angularity. But opinions vary on this theme. Some astrologers, particularly traditional, refuse to look at a chart without time. But you can still get a lot of information from a chart without time.

The 1st, 4th, 7th and 10th houses are called 'angular houses'. And planets close to the start of each angular point are known as 'angular' – but any planet within an angular house may be also called angular. You may say that a planet in an angular house is "in an angle". The angular points lend additional expression. So, if Mars rises (i.e., it is conjunct the Ascendant in the 1st or 12th houses), its dynamic energy is heightened according to the sign it is in and its alignments to other planets and points. In traditional astrology, each of the 12 houses varies in power according to whether it's angular, succedent or cadent. These distinctions we'll deal with in another issue. But do read Deborah Houlding at Skyscipt.com on this topic.

Each of the angles has specific themes. The 1st house relates to the subject of the chart (the person, usually) and their energy. The 4th house has to do with family and ancestry. The 7th envisions other people and partnerships. The 10th describes life direction and/or career.

A chart with much 10th-house angularity may belong to someone highly ambitious and career-oriented. Or if much 4th-house angularity, to someone who has a strong sense of tradition or family heritage. But remember: these are generalisations because the whole chart needs to be understood.

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(A selected list based on various criteria, not just subscriber numbers. No order of priority)

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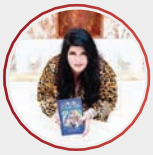

Michele Knight
@MicheleKnight
308K subscribers • 8.9K videos

New and Full Moons January–February 2025

Phase	Date	Sign/Degree	Ephemeris Time	Significant Aspects	Themes
Full (Wolf Moon)	13 Jan	24 Cancer 00	22:28	Moon conjunct retrograde Mars trine North Node/Fortuna. South Node trine Sun in Capricorn	Emotional volatility; breaks with the past
New	29 Jan	9 Aquarius 51	12:37	Trine Jupiter; sextile North Node	New cycle focused on groups and humanitarianism. Positive starts
Full	12 Feb	24 Leo 06	13:55	Uranus in t-square to Sun/Moon opposition	Innovative solutions preferred; rebellious energies
New	28 Feb	9 Pisces 41	0:46	Square Jupiter; trine Mars; Neptune conjunct North Node in Pisces	Main planets all moving direct – fast-moving time. Pisces greatly emphasised: much to do with spirituality and creativity. Expectations must be managed

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The Beach Bum Astrologer

In this mini-documentary, Victor Olliver - editor of The Astrological Journal and Stellar - is interviewed by students of the prestigious MetFilm School in London.

Shooting took place in Victor's hometown of Lancing on the south coast of England. A longer version is being prepared.

Frank and Victor Discuss Astrology

Synastry, Michael Lutin's 'terrorist' stunt, Stellar, Victor's elephant cover, ethics and much more.

The Health and Beauty Guide by the Stars

Şira Nur Uysal

Astrology has always been more than a way to foresee events or interpreting natal charts. It has served as a guide for aligning daily life with the universe's rhythms. Many ancient cultures viewed the body as a sacred temple, a vessel for the divine. Caring for, cleansing, and nurturing it becomes a sacred act, evoking the inner god or goddess.

Planning beauty and wellness rituals around the planetary transits isn't just pampering—it's a celebration of the interconnectedness of the cosmos and our inner selves. By cleansing, purifying, and nurturing the body, we honor Hermetic wisdom: As above, so below. As within, so without. In aligning with celestial harmony, we let our inner and outer beauty shine in perfect rhythm with the universe.

As we embrace 2025, we can tap into this timeless wisdom to refine our beauty and wellness routines, aligning with the planets to nurture both our outer appearance and inner harmony

January's Capricorn season brings a grounding energy, perfect for building sustainable wellbeing routines. February's Aquarius and Pisces influences encourage creative and emotional renewal.

Key dates and Ingresses to look out for

Venus ingresses Pisces

Venus enters Pisces, her sign of exaltation, on 3 January 2025. This cosmic shift highlights themes of self-care, indulgence, and emotional depth. Pisces, which governs the feet, blends beautifully with Venus' affinity for love and beauty, making it a perfect time for practices like pedicures, reflexology, or foot massages. These activities not only promote physical wellness but also nourish the soul, resonating with Venus' elevated energy in this placement.

Then, on 4 February Venus transitions into Aries, a sign where she is considered in detriment. This fiery energy, arriving just before Venus goes retrograde, may ignite impulsive feelings and bring challenges to relationships. To navigate this phase effectively, focus on assertive yet thoughtful communication, balancing personal needs with mutual respect.

Engaging in dynamic activities like adventurous outings or energetic yoga can help channel Aries' bold spirit constructively while honouring Venus' desire for connection.

Mars Retrograde from Leo to Cancer

The phase 6 Jan–25 Feb marks a shift in energy as Mars enters Cancer, where its fiery nature is subdued, bringing attention to themes of emotional nurturing and introspection. This period may lower vitality, heighten sensitivity and promote self-care and restoration.

During this transit, Nicholas Culpeper's *The English Physitian* (1652) provides insight into how astrology influences the healing properties of plants. Herbs ruled by Mars and Cancer help harmonise Cancer's emotional depth with Mars' dynamic energy:

Ginger: Enhances warmth and digestion.

Wormwood: Boosts digestion and alleviates melancholy.

Sage: Offers emotional balance and purifying benefits.

Incorporating warming herbs like ginger, garlic and cinnamon into teas, baths or massages can help counteract sluggishness. Reflexology and gentle massages with essential oils can also relieve tension and support muscle health, areas influenced by Mars.

Beauty and Wellness Calendar

Haircuts

→ January: 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th

→ February: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th

Manicures and Pedicures

→ January: 4th–5th, alternatively 27th–28th

→ February: 1st, 23rd, 24th

Facials

→ January: 20th

→ February: 16th

Depilatories

→ January: 17th, 18th

→ February: 13th, 14th, 15th

Implementing a Healthy Dietary Plan

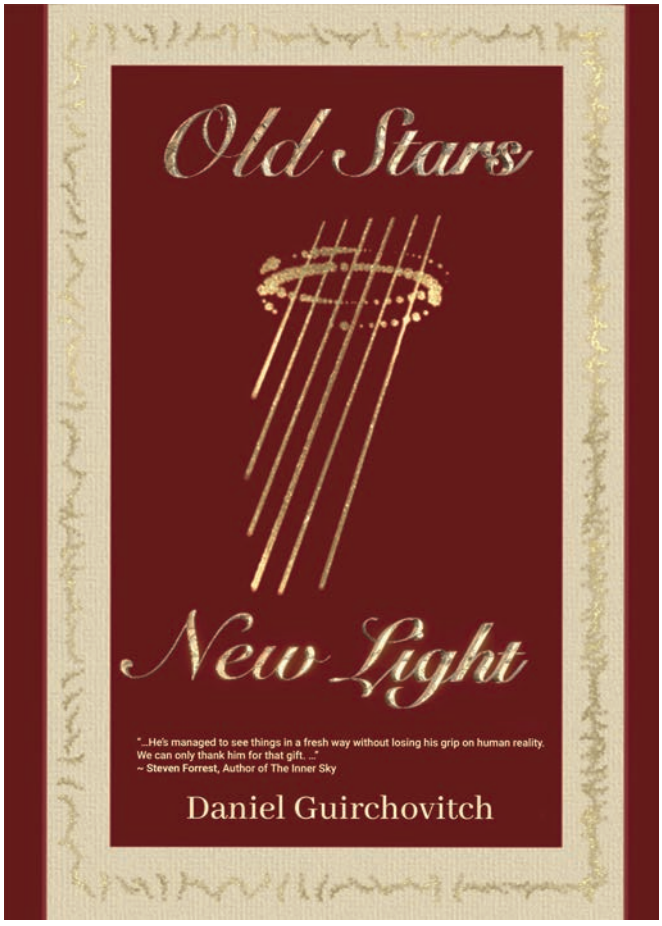
→ January 18th – February 15th

Breaking Bad Habits (e.g., quitting smoking):

→ January: 27th

ŞIRA NUR UYSAL

Şira Nur Uysal is Based in Istanbul. She is a professional astrologer and researcher. Her work focuses on hemerologies, exploring the influence of time and cosmic cycles on daily life. She is passionate about bridging ancient wisdom with modern insights and helps others navigate life's rhythms. Instagram: astrologsirauysal.



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Victor Olliver chats to Frank Clifford of the London School of Astrology

Frank C. Clifford and Victor Olliver discuss the US election, Michael Lutin, astrologers at war, and many other things

ASTRO-X-RAY

Victor Olliver

Celebrating his ten years as editor of *The Astrological Journal* – and editor of this publication, *Stellar* – Victor specialises in draconic astrology and horary, and swears he's seen a ghost…

Q: When did you first realise that astrology had completely taken possession of you – if indeed it has?

VO: I don't think I get completely possessed by anything. My trip into astrology was a gradual one. I was always interested in the power of symbols, such as corporate logos, road signs, deity statues and so forth. From an early age I worked out that humankind converts things into representations or symbols which embody different messages. Astrology was there from my teens, but I could not see what, say, Venus, had to do with me. Then at some point in my time as a mainstream celebrity journalist I bought Russell Grant's astro-kit which enabled you to construct a basic horoscope, and I would take a horoscope to a celebrity – such as the Hollywood legend Lauren Bacall – and discuss it with them. In my late 40s I finally decided to find out how astrology 'works' and enrolled on a Mayo course with Wendy Stacey. I became (slightly) 'possessed'.

Q: Where do you live and work? Which country? Briefly describe your office and the view from the principal window, if any.

VO: I live by the sea in West Sussex in the UK. My office is an upstairs east-facing room peering towards Brighton over Lancing Bay, but my office is nomadic. Sometimes I'll move to my writing bureau downstairs for a change. The view from my house is the sea. Each day it is a different colour. It is moody. Sometimes aquamarine or turquoise or battleship grey. An off-shore windfarm about 10 miles out captivates me. As the sun sets in the north-west the light falls directly on the wind turbines, magnifying them. A very Neptunian optical illusion.

Q: Name one feature of your birth chart that stands out as a major trait – and is known to loved ones, less so to acquaintances.

VO: Saturn in Sagittarius in the 10th exactly opposite Venus in Gemini in the 4th. My younger years were a social nightmare. I felt like an alien. I was highly steely and not generally liked. As I grew older, I realised that I was an angry soul (North Node in Scorpio) and that other people's reactions mirrored my own feelings towards them. At age 67 the opposition has long since become my friend, and now I am the most delightful, witty and charming person you could hope to meet…

Q: How did you learn the astro art/trade? Who/what inspired your interest?

VO: A glossy fashion magazine commissioned me to interview the late media astrologer Patric (no 'k') Walker who back in the 1970s/'80s was all over the place – an immensely adept Libran, I think. We took an instant dislike to each other. But his descriptions of life on his island home of Rhodes fascinated me. He said he scrawled Sun-sign horoscopes on the beach of Lindos. I suspect he was having me on, but the thought of drawing sandy charts on a Greek Island idyll tapped my romantic side and got me more interested in astrology. I studied at the Mayo School as I have said, and later I got the Practitioners' Level Certificate from the School of Traditional Astrology.

Q: You are celebrating 10 years as editor of *The Astrological Journal*. How did you get the job in the first place? Are you staying another 10 years?

VO: It helped that Wendy Stacey is Chair of the Astrological Association [AA], and she was my tutor at the Mayo. So, she knew about my journalistic and editorial background. I know what a 'standfirst' is [an introductory paragraph below the title] and I have a good visual eye. I was also the author of the notorious scandal blog called 'Madame Arcati' and I survived many potential lawsuits. Oh, I am a barrister too, but I never practised. I am not intimidated by legal threats or bureaucracy or anything much. Law training is much commended. As for how long I remain as editor, you'd better talk to Wendy or Roy Gillett. It's still a stimulating job, and the recent launch of ***Stellar*** has revived my reflexes.

Q: How did the idea of *Stellar* arise?

VO: Over a glass of Pinot Grigio in my kitchen. It had concerned me that we were not reaching a larger audience with ***The Astrological Journal***. Hundreds of thousands of people visit commercial astrology sites such as Astro Hub. Then you have astro apps like The Pattern with millions of subscribers. How could we reach these people? *Journal* is too specialist and in any case is a membership magazine. So, it became obvious. We needed a free online publication that is serious but accessible and designed for readerships shaped by social media, podcasts and so forth. The information had to be repackaged for screen reading on iPhones and other electronic devices. The title came to me

over the Pinot. The first issue was read by thousands and ads started coming in. *Stellar* is a whole new approach to astrology journalism and I am delighted it has been embraced by the AA board. The moment I suggested *Stellar* to Wendy she jumped at it. As did our designer Cat Keane – she's brilliant. I love creative spontaneity. A great big corporate would have spent months and money on focus groups and other marketing superstitions.

Q: You write books, too, including *Chasing the Dragons: An Introduction to Draconic Astrology*. Is that your specialism, draconic? Or do you have other specialisms as well? And you read for clients?

VO: Yes, I have many clients. I prefer written reports, but I do Zooms. Certainly, draconic consultations are a favourite with people. Draconic aims to identify soul purposes by moving the natal North Node to zero Aries and then reconfiguring the tropical or sidereal chart by the number of degrees between radix North Node and zero Aries. It's very straightforward. But the challenge is to read a chart draconically. The draco chart represents one's higher self. Lockdown was great for me because so many people had time to ask the question: What am I here for? I had never been busier. I am also developing a horary practice. Horary has changed my perspective on astrology and drawn me closer to the divinatory nature of our art. And immersion in the old rules from William Lilly enables judgements to be made on client questions. There's a need in horary to identify the relevant planets and establish their condition.

Q: Which astrological software program do you use? Ever hand-draw charts?

VO: Solar Fire and Astrodienst. I double check charts using both systems. I also consult my hard copy of *The American Ephemeris of the 21st Century 2000–2050*. And I use a draconic ephemeris. I learnt to calculate and hand-draw charts at the Mayo, but I found the process laborious. I would book a one-way ticket to Switzerland if I had to hand-draw charts.

Q: Is astrology your main or only business? Or do you have a 'day job' too? How realistic is it to think astrology can pay all the bills?

VO: All of my work income is from astrology. This has been the case since the age of 50-plus. I am on pensions now, so I don't have to work. I choose to work. I can't imagine retiring in the usual sense – you know, endless cruises or reading the *Daily Mail* and afternoon bridge. My careers in journalism and writing/editing have adapted well to astrology. I do have Mercury in the Equal 3rd house. It is possible to rely solely on astrology income, but you have to work hard at it and diversify or specialise. Writing and teaching broaden one's range, and I know from experience that after I give a lecture, I always get new clients. A lucky few get to write bestsellers.

Q: Have you ever seen a ghost? If so, please tell all.

VO: My mother regularly attended Spiritualist church services – she was quite psychic; often had amazing hunches about outcomes. I have seen a ghost. I was 15 and looking out of a school classroom that had a view of a cemetery on the South Downs. I saw a misty, humanoid figure rise from one of the graves and walk eastwards. I shook my head and closed my eyes thinking I must be hallucinating, but there it still was when I opened my eyes. The odd thing is: the ghost's rapid pace did not synchronise with its slower-moving leg movements – rather like a walking cartoon figure. The entity then disappeared into a thick bush, like a cloud of smoke. I was quite shaken, and I see it vividly in my mind's eye to this day.

Q: And finally, Victor, would you say you are powerful?

VO: I am not powerful in the way the CEO of a company is. But I have a certain amount of influence in different ways. I write books, I edit two magazines, and I have clients. It is hard to measure this influence, and I work hard to not encourage people to rely on me or seek my approval. I offer a different kind of perspective on situations which may prove useful provided freewill is preserved. Otherwise, what you have to say as an astrologer is not 'owned' – whatever you offer people should be a matter for their consideration.

Victor Olliver's website:
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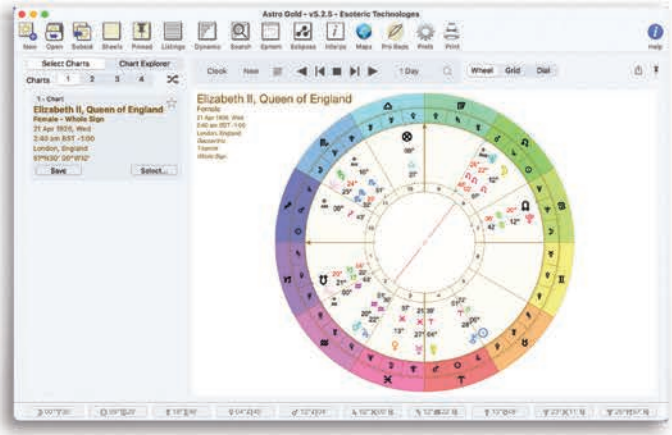

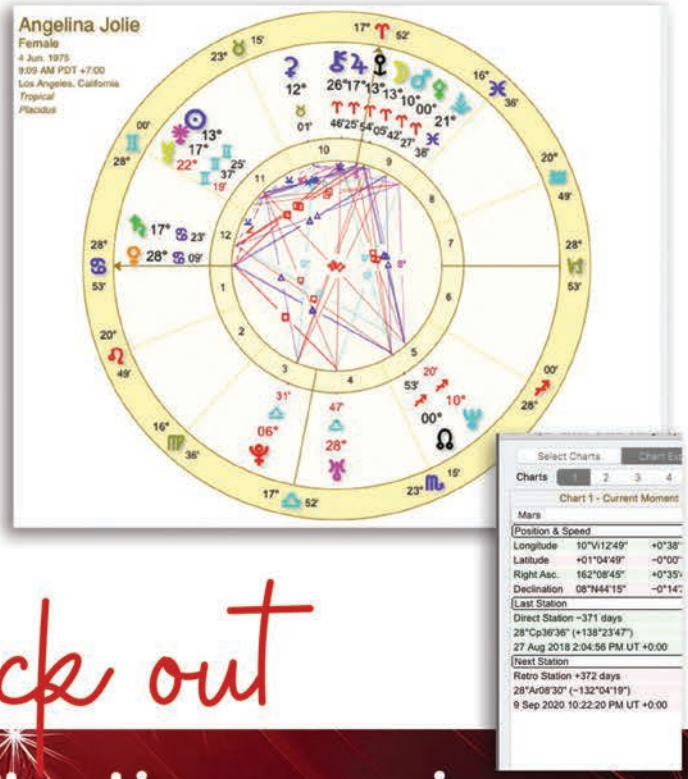

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