



Michaela's Music House: The Magic of the Violin

Gwendolyn Masin

Musikverlag Muller & Schade, £32

This is an excellent, very well-structured tutor book which provides physical exercises for establishing the basis of a sound technique for both left and right hands, the bow-hold and principal bow strokes.

As a full-time violin teacher I find myself constantly trying to find different ways of improving and establishing all aspects of a good technique. This book provides an indispensable resource of exercises which are explained in a way that a child of the age of 4+ would easily be able to understand and actually love doing. Each new game is accompanied by a little story which helps the young child understand the new underlying concept and the book is beautifully illustrated in a way that will be appealing to young pupils and teachers alike. I found that having a series of photographs accompanying the detailed account of the stages involved in explaining how to develop a sound bow-hold extremely helpful. In fact, this book could be seen as an invaluable reference book by violin teachers when lateral thinking is required to develop or indeed improve

the physical posture which we as teachers are always aiming to achieve or modify.

The author's approach uses primarily Violin Tutor, Book One by Sándor, Járdány and Szervánsky (1950) for the first few steps of playing and also uses Tunes for my Violin by Eleanor Murray and Phyllis Tate (1938) to provide a different musical type of experience i.e. music from both the East and West.

Summing up, this is a reference book I will be able to use extensively to improve my own day-to-day teaching in schools; I feel sure my pupils will approve of the new imaginative little games, analogies and stories I intend to incorporate into my lessons. Thank you so much Gwendolyn Masin.

Glowing accolades endorsing this book have come from great pedagogues and performers such as Igor Ozim, Maxim Vengerov, Anne-Sophie Mutter and David Zinman. DAVID COOPER