

FOREWORD TO TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

It is of the utmost importance that the student violinist acquire a thorough knowledge and understanding of scales, thirds, arpeggios, and simple double stops within the range of his technical ability.

The appalling number of failures among violin students is due in a large measure to the lack of a thorough foundation in the art of good violin playing, i.e. position, bowing, correct left hand finger development, and rhythm, all of which must be acquired in the first position. This is the only road which leads to success. With this fact in mind I have confined this book entirely to this fundamental position.

The early introduction to playing double stops is two-fold, i.e. the left hand position **MUST** be correct, and the even pressure of the bow upon two strings will help to develop the fingers of the right hand on the bow stick for generally good tone production.

The playing of scales, thirds, arpeggios, and double stops in the various keys, will, in addition to developing the ear, give the student excellent routine so necessary for various bowings in string crossing. Particular care must be exercised in holding the fingers down when crossing from one string to another. Smoothness in scales will be the reward.

Another weakness with many violin students is their lack of rhythmic feeling. The various rhythm patterns in connection with the scales should be diligently studied. Many additional rhythm patterns may be suggested by the teacher.

Let us as teachers try to impart to the pupil a feeling for artistic performance. Too many music students, today play by the "hit and miss" method. It is not how much a student can play but how well can he play what little he plays.

C. P. H.