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 Violín 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
The violin has always been central to everything that André Rieu does — whether it's touring, recording or composing. For this new anthology, the master showman from Maastricht has put together 15 tracks that show off the full range of his repertoire — from Vivaldi's Winter, through Dvorak's Song to the Moon and Shostakovich's 'Romance' from The Gadfly, to the Frank Sinatra classic My Way. It is as slick, sumptuously produced and as entertaining as André’s millions of fans have come to expect, and is no doubt set for a very long stay at the top of the Classic Michael Taylor Violin 1993 x 71 cm). violin - my dad played the violin. Art by Alexei Ravski. Many people find piano lessons quite expensive and because of this, a lot of would-be pianists pass the opportunity to become one of the best in the music industry. Playing the piano is a skill that can developed through time. I like this picture because it is a beautiful picture of a piano, with some pretty daisies on top.