
TOP TEN for Violin, Bks. 1, 2 & 3

Georgia Vale

Spartan Press, SP 1331, 1332, 1333

www.SpartanPress.co.uk

Distinguished English violin pedagogue Georgia Vale provides ten sets of ten exercises in each of three progressive manuals, covering beginners to Grade 2, then Grades 2-4 and finally Grades 4-6.

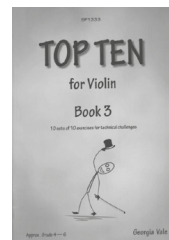
The exercises are short and simple, with basic techniques repeated in progressively difficult exercises.

Her emphasis is on mastering the technique rather than note-reading.

As in her earlier books, Vale's ideas are very entertaining and enjoyable while detailed and progressive at the same time.

Initial plucking, string-crossing, rhythmic bow exercises, slurs, dynamics, finger aerobics, harmonics and much more are all designed to give the student a secure base on which to develop skills. By Book Three, the student will be proficient in up-bow staccato, ricochet, trills, double stops, shifting and higher positions.

Tips and tricks abound together with Georgia's delightful stick-figure drawings to keep the student fully engaged. These are the 'go-to' books I would choose for the upcoming generation of young violinists.



TOP TEN for Violin Book 4

Georgia Vale

SPARTAN PRESS SP1334

www.spartanpress.co.uk

British violinist and pedagogue Georgia Vale once again hits the jackpot with her fourth book in her outstanding Top Ten series. The 10 sets of 10 exercises are kept short (four or five lines long) with the emphasis on mastering the technique rather than note-reading.

At approximately Grade 6-8 level, each is designed to progress systematically up the technical ladder, adding new techniques or honing earlier skills which can then be called upon when playing pieces. Paganini, Beethoven and De Bériot come to mind in the variety of fast string-crossings, octaves, saving bow over 16-note slurs, ricochet, thirds and much more. Set Ten features one-string octaves, irregular groups in varying time signatures, a 'ferociously fiendish' finger twister, bariolage, three-part chords and tenths. A fun 'Top Ten' piece at the end of each set includes some of the trickiest techniques learned.

Delightful quirky drawings, helpful hints and metronome speed challenges are all pertinent in Georgia's latest book. It forms a valuable basis for every advanced student's practice.

No need to plough through a raft of studies – repeat these enjoyable exercises as often as you like.

