

A Kalmus Classic Edition

**THE LITTLE
ŠEVČÍK**

An Elementary Violin Tutor

FOR VIOLIN

K 02034

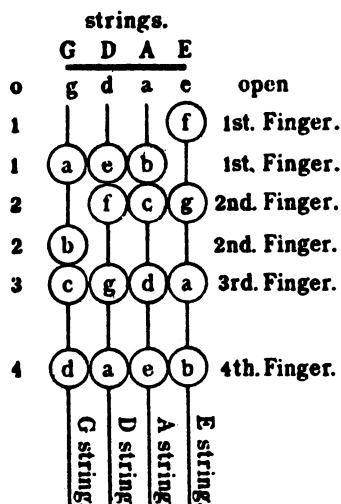


The Semitone System.

The general rule in writing methods for the violin is to use the diatonic scale as far as the compass of the first position allows. Such a system is not sufficiently clear for the beginner, for in each diatonic scale covered by the first position, the semitones which appear are produced on almost every string with different fingers. This leads to unequal fingering on the

different strings, as may be seen in the following analysis of the C-major scale :

This scale contains three different kinds of semitone : between the second and third fingers, between the first and second fingers, and from the open string to the first finger.



C major in the compass of the 1st. Position.

Unequal intervals with the same fingers.

The first and second fingers change their positions on two of the strings, and only the placing of the third and fourth fingers remains the same on all four strings. A large number of intervals have to be produced by moving the first and second fingers, which means that a correct survey of the fingerboard is rendered difficult for the beginner, and almost impossible for those who have not had the advantage of some preparatory instruction, especially in regard to correct intonation.

For this reason the author, in writing this work, has avoided adopting the scale-system, and selected the semitone-system as his foundation. This ensures all the semitones being produced on all the strings with the same fingers, and utilises the same fingering on all strings, as is to be

seen from an examination of the following outline of the system.

This method includes the following advantages :

- (a) The beginner has no difficulty in finding the intervals since the stopping is the same on each string. This helps him considerably in developing pure intonation.
- (b) This ease in stopping allows the student to devote his whole attention to the holding of his instrument and the manipulation of the bow.
- (c) The system automatically prescribes the order in which the various stoppings—whether the stopping be single or double—are to be practised, and in what manner the diatonic scales—whether major or minor—the various chromatic intervals, and the chromatic scales, should be managed.