Writing a new scale system only makes sense when it has something different to offer from countless others. Slawomir Tomasik's scale system offers a new approach to the playing of scales and double stops. He advises that scales should be played always on one string or in the case of double stops - on one pair of strings. This avoids the fundamental characteristic of all other methods in which one plays only as far as third or fourth position on the G, D and A strings and then continues on the E string. It is dear that practising higher positions on each string is vital in obtaining complete mastery of the fingerboard.

The second innovation of Tomasik’s system involves a new approach to fingering, different from that used in other methods. He has moved away from the traditional 1,2 - 1,2 succession of fingers, replacing it with 1,2,3 - 1,2,3 fingers. In spite of possible discomfort the player may experience in the early stages of work with fingering, eventual improvement in dexterity and manoeuvrability around the fingerboard can be dramatic. The same principals apply to double stops. Although this method appears to contain few scale and double stop exercises, I stress again that these unique exercises are more beneficial in their conciseness than other more extensive collections of scale, arpeggio and double stop exercises.

I suspect that this scale system will be an essential help to talented violinists aiming for excellence in their playing. My best wishes on his path for my pupil, Slawomir Tomasik.

Professor Tadeusz Wroński*

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The Scales edited by Slawomir Tomasik are among the best I know.

The author puts much emphasis on practicing the scales on one string, or – in the case of double stoppings – on two strings, thus allowing us, even “forcing” us to enter and work in this part of the violin which is rarely involved in our daily technical routine. Moreover, the author of the edition put his scales in three and four octaves – yet another rarity. The edition as whole is clear and comprehensive, which makes me reach for it frequently in my work on the technique.

I encourage all violinists who wish to develop and perfect their violin skill to include The Scales by Slawomir Tomasik into their daily “technical program”.

Professor Krzysztof Jakowicz**

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Everyone seriously engaged in violin teaching is aware of importance and fundamental role that rational and systematic scale practicing plays in building on technical skills of a violin player. There have been several scale systems created differing in thoroughness, difficulty level as well as their usability for the learning process.

Comparing the “Scales Study” by remarkable violinist and teacher at The Frederick Chopin Academy of Music – Professor Slawomir Tomasik, to existing publications of this kind, shows qualities that make this one universal. Its author who studied with Professor Tadeusz Wronski, recognized as one of the best among violinists and teachers, is a pedagogue with experience gained teaching in countries across the world. In my opinion the Scales by Professor Slawomir Tomasik is a very modern collection of exercises, that include all up to date knowledge concerning violin techniques.

I would like to recommend the Scales by Professor Slawomir Tomasik this very valuable and useful work for every violin player and teacher.

Professor Roman Lasocki***

* Tadeusz Wroński – an outstanding Polish violin virtuoso, Professor of the Frederic Chopin Academy of Music in Warsaw, and the Indiana University School of Music in Bloomington (USA), doctor honoris causa and the former Rector of the Frederic Chopin Academy of Music in Warsaw, author of many music editions and books on violin teaching.
** Krzysztof Jakowicz - world famous Polish violin virtuoso, a Professor of the Frederic Chopin Academy of Music in Warsaw.
*** Roman Lasocki – an outstanding Polish violin virtuoso, a Professor and Vice-Rector of the Frederic Chopin Academy of Music in Warsaw.