

## WARMING UP

A Film by Simon Fischer

Fitzroy Music Press/Edition Peters

www.simonfischeronline.com

In two DVDs totalling three hours and 42 minutes, violin guru Simon Fischer guides two students through 30' lessons. They cover left and right hand technique, vibrato, intonation and shifting.

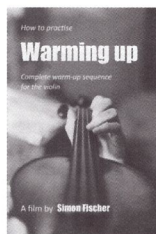
Tone exercises, tapping and lift-off exercises, vibrato in different ways and speeds can all be done in sequence in a few minutes, focusing on one technical aspect at a time.

Here are excellent ways of practising and teaching. If you wish to improve a particular aspect of your technique (and who doesn't?), you will find invaluable tips on everything from trills, drawing a straight bow, pitch, shifting and flexibility, giving you fast-track building tools to underpin your playing.

Fingering on another string while bowing on an open string, the one-minute long bow, different levels of finger and bow-pressure are all carefully explained and the students visibly blossom under Simon's gentle caring tutelage.

In this excellent film Simon Fischer generously shares his pedagogic insights, taking technique to a new level of proficiency. Violin and viola companion books are available separately.

AUSTA members can enter the letters AUSTA on Simon's web checkout site to receive 15% professional discount on the Secrets of Tone Production DVD, Tone book, Warming up book, and Warming up DVD.



## A LATE QUARTET

Curzon Film World CFW645DVD/  
VFD74542

A Late Quartet will strike a chord (pun intended) with many chamber musicians, particularly professional quartet players.

Four excellent actors are convincing in their portrayal as members of the New York-based Fugue Quartet, a (fictional) ensemble that has attracted worldwide acclaim for over 25 years. Despite some slight awkwardness in miming sequences, the actors are persuasive in the considerable passion they bring to their roles. Christopher Walken is especially compelling as the cellist who admits time has finally caught up with him. Philip Seymour Hoffman plays his second violin role with conviction. The elite Brentano Quartet actually supplies the soundtrack.

We witness mounting tension backstage as rivalries take hold and relationships unravel. The Quartet's changing personal dynamics are echoed by the complexities of their swansong piece, Beethoven's Opus 131 quartet, the Grosse Fugue. Their disharmony is reflected in this notoriously difficult piece. However, the music's healing power eventually brings reconciliation.

This is a perceptive, poignant and sensitive film that will especially resonate with string-players.

Mary Nemet



## by Catherine Milligan

### RUSSIAN CELLO

Zoe Knighton- cello, Amir Farid - piano  
MOVE MD 3390

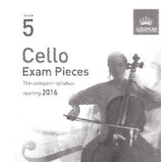


As the duo from Melbourne plays much loved classics along with some unknown treasures, luscious, soaring Russian melodies abound.

Amongst popular works we find the Rachmaninov *Vocalise*, a beautifully shaped and articulated performance of Stravinsky's *Russian Maiden's Song* and the Prokofiev *Sonata*, played with particular sensitivity from Knighton in the second movement. The Glière *Album Leaf No.5* (1910) is nostalgic, while the Glazunov *Elegie* (1888) projects a vast emotional range. The *Preludium* by Nikolay Sokolov (1886-1965) is a pleasing addition. Most interesting for me was the *Sonata Op. 113* (1927) by Alexander Gretchaninov. His musical language is quite idiosyncratic but immediately appealing. The second movement, *Menuetto Tragico* is truly engaging. The Knighton-Farid duo is consistently accurate and secure in ensemble. The recording is tidy & well balanced, but perhaps a little dry acoustically.

### CELLO EXAM PIECES – The complete Syllabus 2016-2019

Margarita Balanas, Tim Lowe,  
Aleksii Kileliov, Gemma Rosefield,  
Alison Moncrieff-Kelly - cello;  
Stephen Ellis, Simon Lepper,  
Dominique Wong-Min, Tadashi Imai, Katrina Gupalo,  
Elizabeth Rossiter - piano  
ABRSM



With the announcement of its new Bowed String Syllabus 2016-2019, ABRSM (Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music) has produced an impressive set of CD recordings of the complete cello syllabus. There is 1 CD at each grade level, with double CDs from grades 5 to 8. These exquisite recordings by various splendid British artists will excite and inspire young cellists preparing for their exams. These high quality performances will inspire students with ideas on interpretation. As well as complete pieces, there is a separate recording of the piano accompaniment for practice purposes. With such extremely fine and stylish performances and beautifully recorded, the CDs of cello repertoire from the upper grades make delightful and rewarding listening, even if not preparing for an exam.

Catherine Milligan

## by Susan Pierotti

### ANGELSTRINGS

Angel String Quartet

www.angelstrings.com.au



Think string quartet, think Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven? Think again! This young Brisbane string quartet is to be applauded for an exceptionally clear recording that demonstrates a string quartet's versatility. Opening boldly with some street music from Madrid by Boccherini and a nod to Vivaldi, they launch into an enjoyably eclectic mix of arrangements from opera to jazz and pop. Cellist Kathryn McKee has skilfully arranged many of the tracks. Joined by a bass and drums, their version of Oscar Peterson's *Lover's Promenade* sounds as full as a big band, and adds a gentle pulse to *If I Ain't Got You* by Alicia Keys. Soloist Lachlan O'Donnell fires up the klezmer *Kali Sara-Tchavolo Swing* by Schmitt.