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In re-editing these unique and highly original works by Campagnoli I have approached the task from the point of view of what I like to believe is that of the 'present day' violist. Departed are the times when a violist was regarded as one who could no longer make the grade as violinist and, rather than relegate the unfortunate to the trash heap of unwanted things, he was, out of pity and charity, demoted to the alto section of an orchestra otherwise sound in body and in spirit! Earlier editions of the Campagnoli studies, with one exception, appear to me to have reflected such evil times and it is with some justification, I feel, that in this one I present the contemporary student with a somewhat exciting challenge, musically and technically. The fingerings, I dare to think, explore the realms of the virtuoso and are not so much a means to an end as an end in themselves. In turn, if properly surmounted, the difficulties encountered will lead to a more musicianly approach than the earlier 'safety first' methods evoked.

WILLIAM PRIMROSE

