

Slur Exercises, Trills and Chromatic Octaves

By Andrés Segovia, Revised and Edited by Larry Snitzler

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Review by Dr. Candice Mowbray, January 2015

The new edition of Andrés Segovia's *Slur Exercises, Trills, and Chromatic Octaves*, published by Columbia Music Company, Inc., edited and revised by Larry Snitzler, is a valuable tool for teachers and students. It is an attractive edition with clear typesetting and a slim profile. It bears the iconic cover design by Vladmir Bobri that also appears on Columbia Music Co.'s publication of Segovia's *Diatonic Major and Minor Scales*. The edition includes the reprinting of a few brief comments from Segovia as well as observations from Prof. Snitzler, a distinguished teacher and performer whose associations with Segovia spanned more than twenty-five years.

Each of the seven slur studies is presented on a single page (with the exception of the sixth study, which comprises two pages) in standard notation ascending and descending the first string chromatically with fingerings provided for the first complete occurrence of the pattern. Variations of string, dynamics, rhythm and tempi can be imagined to transform the focus and difficulty of the exercises. As written, the exercises work left and right hand coordination and dexterity in addition to slur technique.

The publication also includes Segovia's challenging trill studies, which incorporate chords. Prof. Snitzler offers single-note alternatives should the user of the book find Segovia's examples too difficult at first. The edition concludes with a transcription of chromatic octaves in first position and an array of suggested fingerings for the articulating hand.

In addition to its value as a tool of study, this edition is a reminder of the chronicle of classical guitar in the Washington D.C. area. Snitzler's annotations are enjoyable to read and pay homage to the legacies of Sophocles Papas and John Marlow. With its attractive appearance and commentary, this new edition has inspired me to incorporate the studies back into my daily practice and I look forward to using it in the teaching room as well.