



# Music Teaching Matters

April 30, 2024 - No. 10

Welcome to **Music Teaching Matters** - your weekly collection of ideas and inspirations from Teach Music 21C.

# Gratitude

Two years ago, for New Years 2022, I decided to make Gratitude the overarching theme for my teaching. Over the course of that year, I routinely asked my students to share their thoughts on Gratitude. As you might imagine, students had lots to be grateful for that they previously never talked about. When they focused on what learning to play the piano brought to their lives, things got really interesting. They talked about everything from the ordinary and routine to sophisticated and totally unexpected. The whole process inspired me to create a presentation on gratitude and music. Here it is for you to watch... [Gratitude in the Shadow of a Global Pandemic](#).

All the best with your teaching,

*Merlin B. Thompson*

*Creator & Founder of Teach Music 21C*

## Teach Music 21C Certification

**Why Teach Music 21C Certification?** For music teachers like you interested in using music making to exercise body, heart, mind, and

soul in our students.

**What will Certification do?** Our goal is to guide, inform, and inspire you as a catalyst for your students' lifelong journey with music.

## 5 Things to Improve Your Music Teaching

1. Get a good night's sleep.
2. Write down what you want to get done.
3. Exercise your compassion & empathy.
4. Read materials that inspire you.
5. Be grateful for your students.



## Podcast Recommendation

[Podcast #25:](#) Distractions and Lifelong Music Making. Check out this discussion between Paul McGlinchey and Merlin Thompson on the impact of technology and evolution of music teaching. Listen on [Spotify](#).



## Teach Music 21C

**What is Teach Music 21C?** A dynamic community where music teachers fulfill their students' own musical dreams, wish lists, futures.

**What do TM21C teachers do?** They use flexible 21st century teaching strategies to meet their students' musical needs.

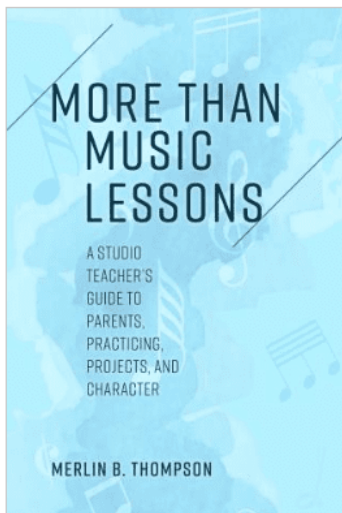
**How do long does TM21C Certification take?** The online program consists of 5 one-hour sessions. Would you like to join?

## Thoughts on Gratitude

Gratitude emerges from our awareness of things outside ourselves and an appreciation for how people, places, and activities magnify our capacity for living well. Through experiences and expressions of gratitude, we are moved, opened, and humbled. There's a lot going on.



From "More than Music Lessons"



### Teaching Tip

Making music is the perfect workout for human character.

1. Play with gratitude. Be generous.
2. Blend vulnerability with genuineness.
3. Cultivate joy and self-forgiveness. Light and shadow.

(Kindle & paperback available on [Amazon](#) & from the publisher [Rowman & Littlefield](#).)

## Upcoming Dates

### May 14

Presentation at U Calgary

### Saturday, June 1

Presentation for Calgary Music Teachers

### Sunday, June 16

Presentation for Texas Music Teachers Conference

## Teach Music 21C Certification Spring/Summer Schedule

Our Spring/Summer Schedule includes May, July, and August start dates. [Click here](#) for Start Date info and register for the timeline that works for you.

Teach Music 21C professional development is an investment in your career that pays dividends in students' retention, satisfaction, and success. Please join us in changing the tone of music teaching.

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