



# Music Teaching Matters

October 1, 2024 - No. 29

Welcome to **Music Teaching Matters** - your source of ideas & inspirations for today's music teachers from Teach Music 21C.



Have you noticed how busy your students' families are? How there seems to be a trend for today's parents to keep their children (and themselves) as busy as possible? What happens as a result? Is there an alternative? It's a topic that's got me thinking about my own childhood and the striking shift that's taking place in family dynamics. [Read more...](#)

All the best in your teaching,

*Merlin Thompson*

*Creator & Founder of Teach Music 21C*

## Myths about Practicing

### **Myth #1 Students don't like practicing.**

What students don't like is: being told what to do, how to do it, when to do it, and how often. And who would?

### **Myth #2 Efficient practice guarantees student engagement.**

Efficiency is often what adults consider to be most important. After all, they want to get a lot done. Efficiency isn't something that figures prominently in students' mindset. Joy is more likely!

### **#Myth #3 Daily practice is necessary.**

Taking a day off is a great way for students to challenge their learning process. In contrast, daily practice may create the illusion that all's well when it's not.

## Student Stories

My phone rang at 6:00 a.m., and I was annoyed to be woken up so early. But when I answered, a little voice on the other end exclaimed, "I just learned Chant Arabe!" Instantly, my mood shifted to happiness and excitement and we celebrated over the phone! His mom was still sound asleep! From Lorrie Merrell's studio.

If you have a Student Story you'd like to share, please do.

## Thoughts about Change



Change occurs most readily after we've seen someone else do it.

Sudden change may be scary.

Incremental change may take place without even knowing it.

## Idea of the Month Webinar

**Do you have questions about music teaching? Are you looking for inspiration?**

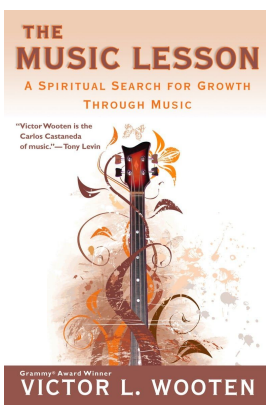
Then be sure to attend the upcoming **Idea of the Month Webinar** to hear the latest music teacher ideas from Merlin B. Thompson, Founder of Teach Music 21C. Each session consists of a presentation, Q&A, and discussions on a wide variety of music teacher topics: practicing, parents, communication, performance, and more.

The next **Idea of the Month Webinar** will be held Thursday, October 17, from 10-11 a.m. Calgary time.

To register and submit your questions, [Click HERE.](#)

Hope to see you there!

## The Music Lessons by Victor Wooten



A first-hand journey of musical discovery by the acclaimed Grammy Award-winning musical icon and legendary bassist Victor Wooten. This is an inspiring parable of music, life, and the difference between playing all the right notes and feeling them. Available on [Amazon.](#)

## Upcoming Dates

### **October 17**

Idea of the Month Webinar. [Register HERE.](#)

### **October 18-19**

Saskatchewan Registered Music Teachers Conference

### **October 25-26**

Music Conference Alberta

## Podcast Recommendation

Daily Practice. Lorrie Merrell and Merlin Thompson explore the benefits and drawbacks of daily practice for our music students. Also a quick look at what neuroscience research has to say. Available on [Youtube](#) or [Spotify](#).



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