



Music Teaching Matters

May 27, 2025 - No. 58

Welcome to **Music Teaching Matters**: where today's music teachers connect, grow, and thrive.



Have you ever experienced an uncomfortable moment when a music student says something inappropriate? Sometimes? Here and there? For music teachers, these moments can be unsettling, especially if you're caught off guard or unsure how to respond. Whether it's a rude remark, an off-colour joke, or an insensitive comment, knowing how to handle these situations with professionalism and care is essential for maintaining a safe and respectful learning environment. Read [more...](#)

With appreciation for all you do in your studio and beyond!

Merlin Thompson

Creator & Founder of Teach Music 21C

21st Century Music Teaching

Today's music teachers know how music making resonates in our students' lives. It's more than background noise or an accidental encounter. Music making is a personal, lifelong, and creative practice that nourishes the human spirit, nurtures identity, and fosters connection. That's the legacy we carry forward.

TM21C Podcasts



#53 Let's Talk About Listening - Learning to



play by ear and listening to repertoire recordings are mainstays of the Suzuki Method. Join Lorrie Merrell and Merlin B. Thompson as they explore how they have evolved in their Suzuki Piano teaching from "back in the day" to the present. Audio link [HERE](#). Video link [HERE](#)

Student Story

At a recent studio concert, my last student shared that he'd be performing the third movement of Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata. *"Please forgive any mistakes,"* he said, *"because I'm a little nervous. But I really love this piece, and I hope you love it too."* His words were simple, but they landed with a kind of quiet power. In that moment, he wasn't just a student giving a recital—he was a musician inviting us into something deeply personal. His vulnerability, his love for the music, and his wish for connection turned the performance into something more than notes and technique. It became a shared experience. These are the moments that remind me why I teach. (From Lorrie Merrell's Studio)

TM21C Certification



Are you looking to enhance your music teacher skillset? Would you like to join forward-thinking music teachers from across Canada & USA? The summer schedule for Teach Music 21C Certification is here.

You'll explore 5 one-hour modules:

- Module 1 - 21st Century Mindset
- Module 2 - Curriculum Models
- Module 3 - Communication
- Module 4 - Practicing
- Module 5 - Expanding Success

July Cohort:

- July 16 - 10-12 a.m. MST
- July 17 - 10-11 a.m. MST

- July 18 - 10-12 a.m. MST

August Cohort:

- August 13 - 10-12 a.m. MST
- August 14 - 10-11 a.m. MST
- August 15 - 10-12 a.m. MST

Only \$99 CAD

👉 [Click here to register](#)

Summer Workshops

Summer 2025 is filled with an entire array of Music Teacher Workshops from Teach Music 21C.

- July 6 & 7 - Beginner Music Teacher Workshop (Montreal)

More Information & Registration [HERE](#)

- July session - Suzuki Enrichment Workshop (online 10 hours)
- July 26 - Beginner Piano Teacher Workshop (Calgary)

More Information & Registration [HERE](#)

- August session - Suzuki Enrichment Workshop (online 10 hours)
- August 9 - Beginner Piano Teacher Workshop (Calgary)

More Information & Registration [HERE](#)

Upcoming Dates

June 12: 10-11 a.m. Calgary time

"Teaching June Lessons with Summer and September in Mind"

Sponsored by Long & McQuade.

June 19: 10-11 a.m. Calgary time

Idea of the Month Webinar with Merlin B. Thompson

Questions, Thoughts

Do you have questions?
Would you like more info?
How about chatting with Merlin Thompson?

SEND me a message at
Admin@TeachMusic21C.com
and we'll get together!



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