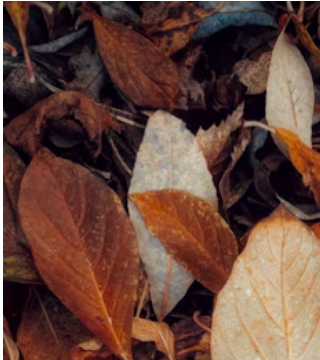




Music Teaching Matters

September 16, 2025 - No. 68

Welcome to **Music Teaching Matters:** Fresh ideas to inspire your teaching from Teach Music 21C.



Communication with our students' families is an important layer in today's music teaching environment. Back-and-forth dialogue between parents and teachers can help bring clarity and purpose to our students' musical journeys. What kind of strategies work best? Email? Text? Phone Calls? In-person meetings? To read more on this topic from Michelle Kennedy Hawkins, click [HERE...](#)

Hoping your teaching year is off to a great start! Cheers,

Merlin Thompson

Creator & Founder of Teach Music 21C

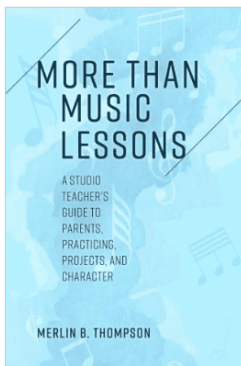
Active Listening

The key to being an active listener lies in making a sincere effort to absorb what someone else is saying and feeling. Active listening is a deliberate attempt to grasp and understand the facts and underlying feelings of what is being said. Music teachers can show how much we understand by giving appropriate feedback. Listen with your eyes. Listen with your body. Nod your head. Look at the person. Provide verbal encouragement. There's a lot involved. How are you at active listening?

More than Music Lessons

Teaching Tip

Make it work for real life families.



1. Find out what's already there.
2. Come up with multiple destinations and possible routes.
3. Be prepared for detours.

More than Music Lessons is available [HERE](#).

September Resource Package

Have you checked out the TM21C September Resource Package? It's filled with FREE downloadable resources for today's vocal and instrumental music teachers. We've got Best Practice Cards, Best Teacher Phrases, Student Profile and Info Sheet, Getting Ready for September Video, and more. Click [HERE...](#)

TM21C Podcast



Episode #60: Talking to Parents

Such an important topic for today's music teachers and it's a huge part of the TM21C Certification program. Click [HERE](#).

Teach Music 21C Certification



Fall Certification Cohorts are here!!

- Tuesday mornings - Our October/November Cohort meets October 7, October 21, and November 4
- Monday mornings - Our November Cohort meets November 10, November 17, and November 24

Register for the Cohort that matches your schedule and join our community of forward-thinking teachers. Together, we'll explore practical strategies, innovative tools, and new perspectives to empower your teaching.

👉 [Click here to register.](#)

Tips for This Week's Lessons

1. **Look for success** - Notice and celebrate small moments that may easily be missed.
2. **Try a fresh approach** - Encourage yourself and your students to hear/explore/perform familiar pieces from a new perspective.
3. **Choose one focus** - Instead of trying to fix everything at once, choose one element and return to it several times during the lesson.

Upcoming Dates

September 19: "What Music Teachers Need to Know about Practicing". Presentation for Chilliwack BCRMTA.

September 22: "Repertoire that Resonates: Connecting with Student Choice". Presented by Long & McQuade. Click [HERE](#) to register.

September 27: "Finding the Right Words: Communication from the Start with the End in Mind". Presentation for APTA Conference.

September 30: Start date for Sept/Oct/Nov Suzuki Enrichment. Click [HERE](#) to register.

October 7: Start date for Oct/Nov Certification. Click [HERE](#) to register.

October 25: "We Can Do This: How to Be a Mentor, Facilitator, and Collaborator in Today's Evolving Music Studio Environment". Presentation for Music Conference Alberta.

November 10: Start date for November Certification. Click [HERE](#) to register.

Questions, Thoughts

What topics are on your mind?
Is there a question you'd like to ask?
How about chatting with Merlin Thompson?

SEND me a message at
Admin@TeachMusic21C.com



and we'll get together!



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