



Music Teaching Matters

September 23, 2025 - No. 70

Welcome to **Music Teaching Matters:** Inspiration for your music teaching journey from Teach Music 21C.



When asked about their musical interests, many music students have no problem coming up with a whole list of pieces. But certain students, when teachers inquire about their musical preferences, have no idea how to respond. They shrug their shoulders, look away apologetically and say, "I don't know". What can we do? How can music teachers help students work through this situation? Read more [HERE...](#)

Here's to every music student's journey!

Cheers,

Merlin Thompson

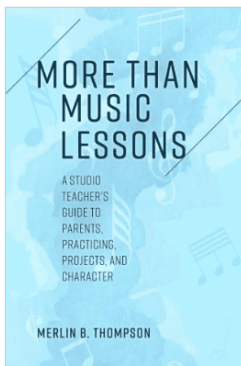
Creator & Founder of Teach Music 21C

Welcome Silence

Sometimes the best learning happens in the quiet moment after playing—a breath to reflect, listen, or reset. Encourage students to take a small pause before repeating a passage. This simple practice helps them process what just happened and choose their next step with intention. Welcoming a few seconds of silence can turn repetition into real growth.

More than Music Lessons

When musicians play with gratitude in their performances, they humbly affirm the visible and invisible beams of goodness in their lives. Practicing gratitude decreases isolation and increases



optimism. It regulates self-indulgence and magnifies community. It's something we can do anytime or place. Not to mention it's 100% free! So go ahead. What are you grateful for?

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 #62: Refresh Music Teaching

Join this conversation as Lorrie Merrell and Merlin Thompson take a close look at the TM21C Certification program. It's a great way to "refresh" your music teaching. 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.](#)

An Idea to Consider

100% perfection isn't always the point.
Sometimes we get further by playing around and letting go.
It can be difficult for music teachers trained for complete
mastery to consider alternate pathways.

Upcoming Dates

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 6: Presentation for UBC music students.

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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