



Music Teaching Matters

October 7, 2025 - No. 72

Welcome to **Music Teaching Matters**: Shaping today's music lessons with insights from Teach Music 21C.



What is the best approach for beginning students? Should music students start with learning to read? Is it Ear-Before-Eye? These are compelling questions because how music teachers respond will definitely impact our students' musical journey for years to come. So what's the best answer? What do music academics have to say about this integral first step? You may be surprised to know that music academics... Read more [HERE](#).

Hope your teaching is going well!

Merlin Thompson

Creator & Founder of Teach Music 21C

Thoughts for Today

When music teachers only teach pieces, we may miss the person.

When we teach the person, the music follows.

Students may not need more repertoire details.

Students need music teachers who understand them.

Idea of the Month Webinar

Ear
Before
Eye

Set the date - October 30 - Idea of the Month

Would you like to know more about Ear-Before-Eye music teaching? Did you know there are two reliable sources for Ear-Before-Eye music teaching - Suzuki Method and E. Gordon's Music Learning Theory?

Join the October Idea of the Month to find out more about this very practical music teaching approach. You won't want to miss it! Register [HERE](#).

Student Choice/Interests

Are you interested in knowing more about the various layers of Students' Choice/Interests? This video presentation from Merlin Thompson takes a look at this compelling topic from multiple angles including: The Big Picture, Who finds the repertoire, What about difficult repertoire, Making adjustments, and the Back up plan. Enjoy!! Click [HERE...](#)

TM21C Podcast



Episode #65: Ear Before Eye

This is the first in a series of podcasts on the topic of Ear Before Eye. Check out this episode to get some background on this important topic. Click [HERE](#).

Teach Music 21C Certification



Fall Certification is here!!

- Monday mornings - Our November Cohort meets November 10, November 17, and November 24

Register for Certification 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.](#)

Beginner Lesson Basics

Which of these four basics do you include in your beginner music student lessons?

#1. Singing - Sing the piece before playing it and singing upcoming

pieces in order to increase student readiness/familiarity.

#2. Playing by ear - Explore your own repertoire list or consult the Suzuki Method and E. Gordon's Music Learning Theory.

#3. Student's own choice - Students come to music lessons with their own musical experiences. Let's explore them.

#4. Technique - Help students gain technical proficiency with appropriate explorations.

Where do you spend the most time? What might be missing from your beginner music lessons?

Upcoming Dates

October 20: "Music Lessons for the Future: Strategies for Lifelong Music Making". Sponsored by Long & McQuade. Register [HERE](#).

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.

October 27: "Have You Noticed? Times have Changed." Presentation for North Island music teachers.

October 30: Idea of the Month. Join this free webinar to learn more about Ear Before Eye. Register [HERE](#).

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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