



Music Teaching Matters

October 14, 2025 - No. 73

Welcome to **Music Teaching Matters**: Ideas and inspirations for today's music teachers from Teach Music 21C.



Lately, I've been inspired by music teachers who are finding creative ways to welcome every kind of learner into their studios. The teachers who pause, listen, and adjust — who see beyond "typical progress" and instead celebrate music making individuality. Their quiet persistence captures what inclusive teaching really looks like in practice. These teachers are showing us that every student can thrive when we build lessons around who they are, not who we expect them to be. For this week's blog/article, I'm grateful to feature Dyane Protzmann Rogelstad as she shares her experiences with neurodivergent students. Read more [HERE](#).

Hope your teaching is going well!

Merlin Thompson

Creator & Founder of Teach Music 21C

Thoughts for Today

The goal of music teaching is more than covering more music.

The goal is to uncover more of what's inside the student.

Why do we keep making music even when it's hard, imperfect, or inconvenient?

Because making music nurtures our sense of self, focuses our minds, and reminds us that we are more than we produce.

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 #66: Ear Before Eye (part 2)

This is the second in our series of podcasts on the topic of Ear Before Eye. Merlin Thompson and Lorrie Merrell explore the easy first steps for setting up Ear Before Eye learning. A super informative session. 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.](#)

Chill Out Pieces

Do you ever talk with your students about their **Chill Out Pieces**? Sometimes? Regularly? Never think of it? I appreciate how a few simple inquiries into students' **Chill Out Pieces** can serve as a great reminder of what music making does for all of us. And it keeps both teachers and students from getting trapped in an over-focus on getting ready for the next lesson, next concert, or next deadline. Why not include a quick conversation about **Chill Out Pieces** with each of your students this week. You may be surprised at what they have to say!

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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