



Music Teaching Matters

October 21, 2025 - No. 74

Welcome to **Music Teaching Matters**: Practical and inspirational strategies for today's music teachers from Teach Music 21C.



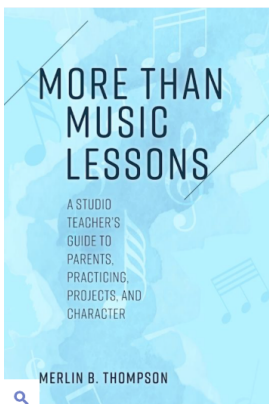
What do you say to a teen student with lots on their plate and no sign of that changing any time soon? Their practicing has shrunk considerably. They have a ton of homework. Every day seems to be scheduled to the maximum with extracurricular activities. Do they ever have a moment to themselves? What can I do when we only spend 30 minutes together on a weekly basis? Is it an impossible situation? You may be surprised about my latest response to this type of situation. Read more [HERE](#).

Hope you're enjoying your teen students!

Merlin Thompson

Creator & Founder of Teach Music 21C

More than Music Lessons



Teaching Tip - Make caring relationships the trusting backdrop for good and bad news.

1. Listen with empathy and understanding.
2. Advocate for honest reflection and genuine follow-up.
3. Celebrate achievements and support setbacks.

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

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 #67: Ear Before Eye (part 3)

This is the third in our series of podcasts on the topic of Ear Before Eye. In conversation with Merlin Thompson, piano teacher Sandy Chen shares the extraordinary transformation that occurred when she introduced Ear Before Eye to her studio. 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.](#)

Ear Before Eye

Did you know that prominent educators and musicians throughout history have consistently advocated for learning to play by ear as the first step in music learning? According to Swiss educator Pestalozzi (1746-1827), educational processes should always proceed from "known to the unknown" and that direct experience is the basis of all education. Here are a few benefits of Ear Before Eye music learning:

1. Students explore their own experiences of pitch, beat, and rhythm without having to decipher written information on a page.
2. Students make fewer mistakes because they can hear when things don't sound right.
3. Students often feel more comfortable with memorization processes because their musical understanding is grounded internally. They play from what's inside.

Upcoming Dates

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 5: "Parental Involvement that Works". Presentation for Edmonton ARMTA.

November 6: Presentation for UBC music students.

November 7: "Dr. Suzuki's Pioneering Mindset: Fuel for 21st Century Teaching". Presentation for Suzuki Music Teacher Conference.

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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