



Music Teaching Matters

November 4, 2025 - No. 76

Welcome to **Music Teaching Matters**: where lifelong music making is our top priority.



It seems like there's one topic I'm always circling back to more than any other - lifelong music making. As we move through the changing landscape of music teaching - what we prioritize, how we connect with our students, how we listen - all play roles in cultivating a future generation that sees music not just as a skill, but as a source of lifelong meaning and belonging. Why is music making so important to our lives? Why are human beings so enraptured by music making? Read more [HERE...](#)

Let's make lifelong music making a reality!

Merlin Thompson

Creator & Founder of Teach Music 21C

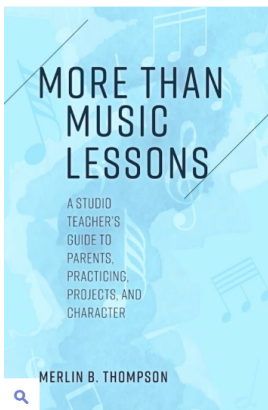
Ear Before Eye Video Presentation

First of all - thanks to all the enthusiastic and curious music teachers who attended last week's **Ear Before Eye** presentation! It was super to have your interest and participation.

Would you like to catch up on the topic? The recording is only 30 minutes long. Just enough to get your **Ear Before Eye** music teaching journey underway. Click [HERE](#) for the recording. It's our top recommendation on the page... Cheers!!

More than Music Lessons

This week's tip from "More than Music



Lessons".

Humour is a great way to strengthen connections between teachers and students.

Humour may help students overcome resistance to learning routines, provide temporary relief from overexertion, and introduce playfulness as a way to express the truth even when it may be hard to take. Humour often succeeds where other methods have failed.

1. Which of your students likes to tell jokes? Why?
2. Which of your students might appreciate a joke from you this week?
3. How do you feel about using humour as a teaching strategy?

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

Idea of the Month Webinar

Ear Before Eye

Idea of the Month - November 27

Reserve the date now and continue to find out more about Ear-Before-Eye music teaching. If we accept that children learn to speak before they read and write, shouldn't music learning follow the same path? What can we learn by examining the timeline of language learning? Join this session for the next instalment and find out how Ear-Before-Eye music teaching can nurture confident, expressive, and lifelong music makers. Stay tuned for the registration process...

Lifelong Music Makers

Music teachers often promote the vision of our students as lifelong music makers. But what does that mean?

1. Is it someone who chooses music as a professional career?
2. Is it a student who continues to play on their own as an adult?
3. Is it someone who integrates making music into their social life?

Clarifying our vision can help music teachers figure out what we need to include in this week's lessons and what might not be all that important.

What will you do in this week's lesson to support your students as lifelong music makers?

TM21C Podcast



Podcast #68 Shared Curriculum

Join Lorrie Merrell and Merlin Thompson as they take a quick dive into this dynamic 21st century teaching tool: Shared Curriculum. You may be amazed at the impact of this strategy on student enthusiasm, confidence, and independent musical curiosity. [Listen 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.](#)

Suzuki Teacher Enrichment Course

From Mother Tongue to Modern Teaching: Expanding Your Suzuki Foundation with 21st Century Teaching Tools

This 10-hour Suzuki Teacher Enrichment Course is all about exploring 21st century music teaching tools that go beyond instrument-focused unit training. This includes such areas as: teaching for lifelong music making, the role of curriculum models, the strategy of reflective partnership teaching, understanding today's context, and more. It's a

must-have course for Suzuki teachers interested in broadening your scope of knowledge and experience. Coming in January 2026. Stay tuned for more information.

Upcoming Dates

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.

November 14: Online workshop for Vernon music teachers.

November 21: Online workshop for U Alberta music student pedagogy group.

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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