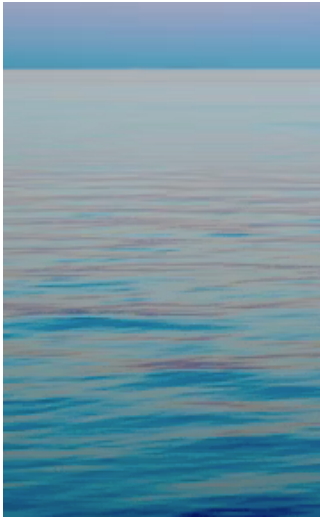




Music Teaching Matters

November 11, 2025 - No. 77

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



Recently I seem to be meeting music teachers with *one student* who really challenges their teaching approach. Not every single student. It could be just one student here and there who doesn't practice all that often. Or the student who never wants to commit to their own choice selection. Or the student who seems perpetually exhausted at their lessons. Focusing on what's going on can feel weighty. Read more [HERE...](#)

Hoping your teaching creates room for calm and curiosity,

Merlin Thompson

Creator & Founder of Teach Music 21C

Who do you know?

Do you know someone who might appreciate receiving this newsletter?

Why not forward it to them right now?

Idea of the Month Webinar

Ear
Before
Eye

Idea of the Month - November 27

Part Two of Ear-Before-Eye. 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 in **Ear-Before-Eye** music teaching.

Register[HERE](#).

Thought for Today

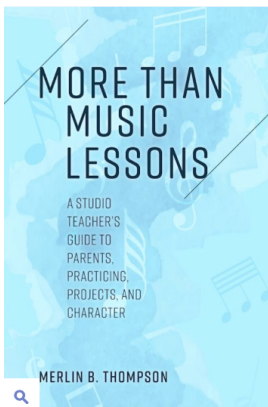
Once music teachers prove that we can be trustworthy, honest, and dependable, students relax in our learning space. Consistency becomes a quiet invitation: *you're safe and you can grow here*.

What can you do during this week's lessons to demonstrate your dependability? What strategy will show your consistency?

Ear Before Eye Video Presentation

Did you miss out on **Part One of Ear Before Eye**? Here's the recording from our recent Idea of the Month Webinar. It's 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



From "More than Music Lessons".

There's a difference between striving for and being obsessed with excellence, between achieving flexibility and giving into haphazardness, between attending to soulful needs and enforcing intellectual ends.

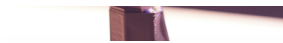
"More than Music Lessons" is available [HERE](#).

TM21C Podcast



Podcast #69 Practice Strategies

Are you looking for practical and engaging practice tools for your students? Here's a quick Teach Music 21C podcast as Lorrie Merrell and



Merlin Thompson explore tools that work!

[Listen HERE.](#)

What about motivation?



Music teachers often say they'd like to increase their students' motivation.

The lesson isn't to wish for more motivation, but to make musical explorations as relevant and personal as possible.

That's something we can all do.

Suzuki Teacher Enrichment Course

Expand Your Suzuki Foundation: Take Your Teaching from Mother Tongue to Modern Teaching 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. We'll explore 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.

Join us on four Monday mornings: January 12, January 25, February 9, and February 23.

For more information click [HERE.](#)

Register [HERE](#) for \$149 CAD.

Upcoming Dates

November 13: From Surviving to Thriving. Online workshop for Edmonton ARMTA

November 14: From Traditional to 21st Century: Exploring Why, How, and What's Next for Music Teachers. Online brainstorming session & workshop for Vernon music teachers.

November 21: What We Can Learn from Language Learning. Online

workshop for U Alberta music student pedagogy group.

November 27: Idea of the Month Webinar. Register [HERE](#).

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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