



Music Teaching Matters

November 18, 2025 - No. 78

Welcome to **Music Teaching Matters**: simple and intentional strategies that make a difference from Teach Music 21C.



Here's a scenario - You know your student is in their final year of lessons. They hardly have any time to practice. What do you do? Is this a time to push ahead or pull back? How do you help students like this navigate through their last months/weeks of instruction? What's the best approach for music teachers? Read more [HERE...](#)

Wishing you the best in your teaching,
Merlin Thompson
Creator & Founder of Teach Music 21C

Podcast Recommendation



Podcast #70 Parent Conversations

Do you ever struggle with talking to parents? Would you like a few practical tools? Join this podcast with Paul McGlinchey and Merlin Thompson for an insightful look into parent conversations. [Listen HERE.](#)

Thought for Today

Music teachers don't need to have the "perfect" lesson plan. Teaching in the moment is often more valuable than planning ahead. What can you do to be more in tune with your students in this week's lessons?

Listen more. Ask better questions. Observe.

There are lots of options.

Idea of the Month Webinar

Ear Before Eye

Idea of the Month - November 27

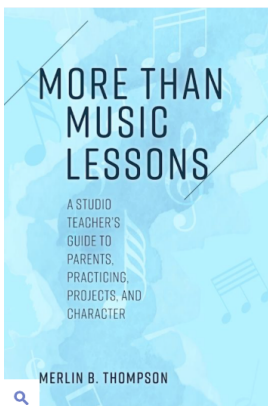
Part Two of Ear-Before-Eye. If we accept that children learn to speak before they read and write, shouldn't music learning follow the same path? What can we learn by examining the timeline of language learning? Join this session for the next instalment in **Ear-Before-Eye** music teaching.

Register [HERE](#).

Inclusive Music Teaching

Inclusive music teaching isn't simply about adding pop songs to the repertoire list. It's about making space for the real life students who walk through our doors. When we teach inclusively, we remind students that they belong in music making - not because they fit a certain mould, but because **music making has room for who they actually are.**

More than Music Lessons



Non-Performance Projects

Do you know about this dynamic strategy for bridging music lessons and students' everyday musical connections? Check out the chapters in **More than Music Lessons** to find out how music teachers can fuel students' musical esprit with **non-performance projects**. A game-changer for today's music teachers.

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

Teach Music 21C Certification



Have you thought about your **professional development** in 2026?

Teach Music 21C Certification is for teachers just like you. We offer clear guidance, practical tools, and a supportive cohort to help you teach



with more confidence and clarity.

Join us in **January 2026** and strengthen the foundation of your teaching year.

Click [HERE](#) for more info.

Suzuki Teacher Enrichment Course

Expand Your Suzuki Foundation

This 10-hour Suzuki Teacher Enrichment Course is all about exploring 21st century music teaching tools that go beyond instrument-focused unit training. 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 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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