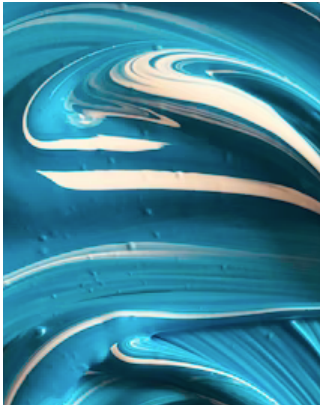




# Music Teaching Matters

November 25, 2025 - No. 79

Welcome to **Music Teaching Matters**: small shifts with big impacts for music teachers from Teach Music 21C.



If you've ever caught yourself thinking, "*My students this year just don't seem to be as committed as a couple of years ago,*" you're not alone. These days it feels like I routinely hear from music teachers who wonder why today's students seem less focused, less prepared, or less resilient. At first glance, it might be tempting to conclude that something fundamental has changed in students themselves. Read more [HERE...](#)

Hoping your teaching reaches a steady patient rhythm this week,

*Merlin Thompson*

*Creator & Founder of Teach Music 21C*

## Podcast Recommendation



### **Podcast #71 Review & Refinement**

Where do you spend the most time with your students: new pieces or old pieces? For insight into the Review & Refinement teaching strategy, join Lorrie Merrell and Merlin Thompson as they take on this important topic. [Listen HERE.](#)

## This Week's Tip

What do music teachers do when a student plays something uneven, hesitant, or half-prepared? Is our instinct to fix it immediately? How

about -- ***Pause. Listen again. Ask a clarifying question.*** Small moments of slowing down can widen our awareness and may reveal the issue isn't what we first thought. It might be coordination, confidence, misunderstanding, or simply fatigue. Five extra seconds of music teacher observation can feel like giving the student five extra breaths of possibility.

***Pause. Listen again. Ask a clarifying question.***

## 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.

**Registration is closing soon. Be sure to reserve your spot [HERE](#).**

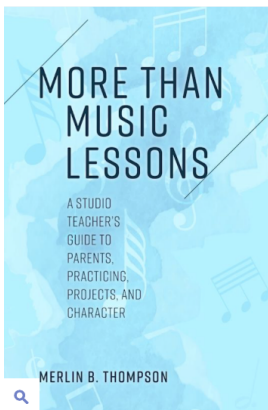
## Inclusive Music Teaching

**Inclusive music teaching** isn't a repertoire choice - it's a teaching mindset. It's the belief that every student, regardless of personality, practice habits, or motivation, deserves a music making journey that feels authentic and worthwhile. 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 27:** Idea of the Month Webinar. Register [HERE](#).

**January 9:** Presentation for Abottsford BCRMTA.

**January 12:** Start date for Suzuki Teacher Enrichment Course.

Register [HERE](#).

**January 13:** Start date for TM21C Certification. Register [HERE](#).

**February 14:** Presentation for Texas Music Educator's Association

Conference.

**February 26 & 27:** Presentations for Suzuki Association of the Americas Conference.

## 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](mailto:Admin@TeachMusic21C.com)  
and we'll get together!



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