



Music Teaching Matters

January 6, 2026 - No. 82

Welcome to **Music Teaching Matters**: Transforming music teaching with 21st century ideas and strategies you won't find anywhere else.



Do you ever feel like the real value of music lessons gets pushed to the side? Many times we highlight aspects like improved math and reading skills, or increased coordination and perseverance, discipline and memory. All valid points, but these traditional talking points don't really tell the whole story. What if we consider how music lessons... Read more [HERE...](#)

Wishing you confident directions in your teaching,

Merlin Thompson

Creator & Founder of Teach Music 21C

Podcast Recommendation



#73 Planning Ahead

It's the first week of lessons in 2026 - the perfect time to gather the most up-to-date information and plan for the months ahead. Lorrie Merrell and Merlin Thompson share how this activity is a main-stay for effective teaching. Enjoy!! [Listen HERE.](#)

Words are Important

As students return to lessons after the holiday break, music teachers can anticipate varying levels of things forgotten and things still intact. So how can we support our students no matter how things turn out? What words can we use?

"Thank you for playing" might be the best way to recognize where students are today as the necessary step to where they could be at their next lesson.

Teach Music 21C Certification

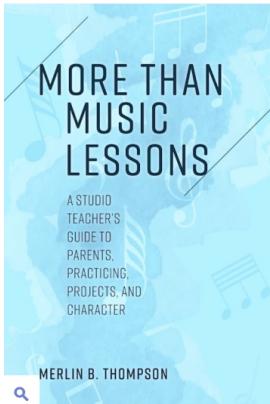


Do you have 5 hours to invest in your own professional development?

Teach Music 21C Certification is more than just adding trendy activities to your already busy studio. It's about redefining what music teachers actually do. TM21C Certification is for music teachers who want their work to matter beyond the studio walls. If that sounds daunting - and exciting - you're exactly who this program is for. Our next cohort starts January 13 and tuition is only \$99 CAD. It could be the foundation for an incredible teaching future!

Click [HERE](#) for more info.

More than Music Lessons



Would you like to take a look at **More Than Music Lessons?** You can find copies of this marvellous resource in more than 100 libraries around the world. From Canada to Hong Kong, Sweden, South Africa, Vietnam, New Zealand, USA, Germany, Ecuador, Belgium, Great Britain, and more. Of course, you can always order your copy [HERE](#).

Expand Your Suzuki Foundation

The music studio teaching world is changing fast.

For Suzuki teachers, the Suzuki Philosophy remains timeless, but how we live it in today's studios must evolve. **Expand Your Suzuki Foundation** is a 10-hour Teacher Enrichment Course that encourages thoughtful Suzuki teaching evolution to meet the realities of today's music teaching world. If you're a Suzuki teacher ready to expand—not

replace—your Suzuki foundation, this course is for you. For more information click [HERE](#). Register [HERE](#) for \$149 CAD.

Upcoming Dates

January 9: Presentation for Abbotsford BCRMTA.

January 12: Start date for Suzuki Teacher Enrichment Course.

Register [HERE](#).

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

January 21: Presentation for Port Moody BCRMTA.

February 14: Presentation for Texas Music Educator's Association Conference.

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

New Year & New Directions

Here are a few questions you might want to consider -

- What excites you most about the new year?
- What makes you nervous?
- Which student needs you to change your direction?
- What's on your mind?

If you've got a moment, [CLICK HERE](#) to drop me a line about what's going on as your new year gets underway. It would be great to hear from you.



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