

A Music Teacher's Testament

By Merlin B. Thompson

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I am a music teacher. Whether by intention, by accident, or by calling.

Honored to nurture musical journeys.

Privileged to walk alongside my students.

My days are rich with meaning and value.

I open doors. I show the way. I jostle. I step aside.

I treasure when students take the reins.

Smiles bind us one to another.

Conversations expand our mutual understanding.

Gestures tell stories of their own.

Dreams abound in the twinkle of an eye.

Rhythms of certainty and uncertainty punctuate the path.

Safety and security cushion the journey, while

Risk fills the space of predictability with fresh horizons.

Willingness sparks the flame of exploration.

Fear inflicts wounds on success and shame on failure.

Surrender is not an option.

Fear is my friend the whistleblower.

Music teaching resonates with energies of the universe.

We hold it in our hands and in our imaginations.

It fuels our love for each other.

It anchors homes and communities.

My commitment is to serve all with grace and generosity.

The enthusiastic. The dedicated.

The busy. The stressed out. The troubled.

No matter the twists and turns, celebrations and setbacks,

I play my part for music and humanity.

I affirm the wonder of who students are.

I bring empathy, dignity, and gratitude

to the work that needs to be done.

This is my testament.