



Music Teaching Matters

May 12, 2026 - No. 100

Celebrating 100 information-packed & forward-thinking explorations.



Have you ever had this situation? Your student arrives with a selection they'd like to learn that's clearly beyond their current level. They absolutely can't wait to get started. As music teachers, we know what could happen next. On one hand, we worry that students' decision may result in technical strain, inefficient habits, or even long-term damage. On the other, we recognize there's something powerful at work: curiosity, ambition, and personal connection to music. [Click HERE](#) to continue reading.

Grateful for your support on this amazing journey,

Merlin Thompson

Creator & Founder of Teach Music 21C

Podcast Recommendation



#90: Vocabulary

Helping students develop their own musical vocabulary is a lengthy journey. Join Paul McGlinchey and Merlin Thompson as we explore the different ways vocabulary comes into play. [Listen HERE.](#)

Inspiring Lifelong Music Makers



Thursday, May 14, 10 a.m. MST



Long & McQuade

Sponsored by Long & McQuade, this engaging webinar explores what it truly means to inspire lifelong music making. We'll shift the focus from completing assignments to personal meaning, identity, and musical ownership.

Hope to see you there.

[Click HERE to Register.](#)

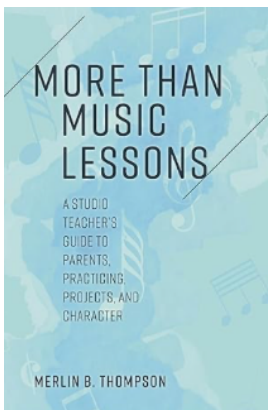
A Major Milestone

So EXCITED to announce that with this edition of **Music Teaching Matters**, we celebrate **100 information-packed and forward-thinking explorations**. Thank you for being part of this journey and for helping shape the future of music teaching one lesson at a time. Over the past 100 publications, our conversations have inspired music teachers to **rethink lessons, nurture students more deeply, and reimagine what music learning can accomplish**. It's an honour and pleasure to bring together a community of music teachers committed to thoughtful, meaningful, and forward-thinking teaching.

Thank you for your support and continued readership.

Stay tuned for the next 100!! There's more to come!!

More than Music Lessons



"For today's music teachers, sharing their students' learning journey entails drawing from the various nuances of student-centered teaching. This means teachers envision teaching as a partnership whereby they learn and work *with* students, in contrast to teaching *at* them. Somehow, teachers need to lead the way, walk alongside, get behind, and let go of students, which is an extraordinary undertaking by any means."

Take a few moments. Let this book rekindle your teaching.

Get your copy [HERE](#).

Coming Soon!

Something exciting is taking shape at Teach Music 21C.

The soon-to-be-released **Teach With Vision - Inspire For Life** project is growing out of a simple belief: that music lessons can carry messages far beyond technique and repertoire.

- If you've ever struggled to put your **teaching philosophy** into words...
- If you want parents to immediately **understand the value** of what you do...
- If you're ready for your lessons to **reflect a bigger purpose**...

You'll want to watch for what's coming next.

More details coming soon.

Upcoming Dates

May 14: "Inspiring Lifelong Music Making". Presentation sponsored by Long & McQuade. [Register HERE.](#)

May 28: Meet With Merlin webinar. [Save your spot HERE.](#)

June 4: Music Lessons for Trust. Presentation for Lethbridge, ARMTA.

Recommended ReVisiting

Here's a podcast from The Music Educator's Crucible (which led to the creation of Teach Music 21C). Find out more about how two principles Excellence and Messiness provide anchors and fuel for music teaching.

- Podcast #2: Philosophy of Music Teaching. [Click HERE.](#)



Follow Teach Music 21C On



[Instagram](#) [Youtube](#) [LinkedIn](#)

Overwhelmed by emails? We understand.

Click here to [Unsubscribe](#). Come back when you can.