



# Music Teaching Matters

January 20, 2026 - No. 84

## Changing the tone of music teaching one lesson at a time.



Most of us teach the way we were taught—at least at first. Why? Because those lessons live in our hands, our ears, our habits, and our comfort zones. The teaching we experienced shaped how we think, how we listen, and how we show up in our studios. We can honour the role those lessons played in forming our lifelong relationship with music, while also gently acknowledging that what worked for us years ago may not fully serve the students sitting in front of us today. Read more [HERE...](#)

Looking forward to more explorations,  
*Merlin Thompson*

*Creator & Founder of Teach Music 21C*

## Podcast Recommendation



### **#75 Music Teaching Goals**

Where are we headed? What inspires our teaching? What's the point of music teaching. Paul McGlinchey and Merlin Thompson explore these important questions and more in this informative podcast. Be sure to check it out. [Listen HERE.](#)

## FREE Music Teacher Mentorship

**Attention university music students currently teaching private music lessons!**

Did you know Dr. Merlin Thompson is available to guide your music teaching process? So there's no need for you to go it alone! Click [HERE](#) to contact Dr. Thompson today and start your FREE Teacher Mentorship. You'll find out how to -

- Nail your first lessons.
- Handle tricky situations with students/parents.
- Build confidence fast in your teaching.
- Get the results you're looking for.

Behind every confident music teacher is an experienced mentor.

## Next Week - Meet With Merlin

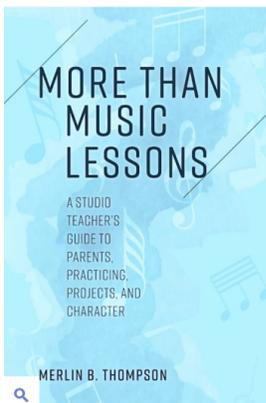


### **10 a.m. MST, Thurs., Jan. 29**

Do you have questions that never seem to go away? Would you like to think out loud with someone who understands the highs and lows of music teaching? Then please join **Meet with Merlin** for a focused, generous conversation that helps you slow down, clarify what matters most, and leave with your next thoughtful step.

[Click to Register and Reserve Your Spot Now!](#)

## More than Music Lessons



### **Teaching Tip: Uplift students' musical journeys.**

1. Help students see what they can't see.
2. Help students work through the mismatch between vulnerability and confidence.

Spending time with "More than Music Lessons" is a great way to invest in your own resilience.

Order your copy [HERE](#).

## Thought for Today

Every so often something shifts in our teaching and suddenly something becomes crystal clear. Recently it's been the idea of **game**

## changer.

- A **game changer** in music lessons isn't a new app, method, or clever activity. It's the moment a teacher sees more clearly what the student actually needs, what's getting in the way, and what matters most .
- **Game-changing** lessons require teachers to move from habit to awareness. It's about replacing what we've always done with clarity for where we're headed and what actually supports getting there.
- Often, the real **game changer** is an internal conversation - sometimes uncomfortable and frequently exhilarating - as we uncover, explore, and refine the tools that empower our students as lifelong music makers.

*How do you feel about **Game Changing Music Lessons**?*

*If our goal is to empower students as lifelong music makers, how can you be a **game changer** in this week's lessons?*

*What internal conversation might be the **game changer** you've been postponing?*

## Upcoming Dates

**January 21:** Presentation for Port Moody BCRMTA.

**January 29:** Meet With Merlin. 10-11 a.m. Calgary time. Register and submit your questions [HERE.](#)

**January 30:** Presentation for Trail/Castlegar BCRMTA.

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

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

## Thank You Music Teachers

Thanks so much to all the music teachers who have attended, supported, and continued to reflect following my presentations. It's an honour to share ideas with a community interested in



changing the tone of music lessons.

If you've got a moment, [CLICK HERE](#) to drop me a line about your changes as we continue this amazing journey. It would be great to hear from you.



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