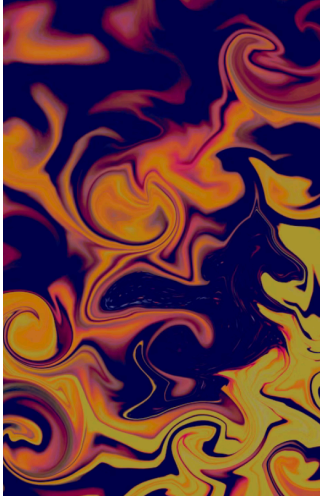




Music Teaching Matters

March 10, 2026 - No. 91

Connecting our music teaching community.



Every once in a while I'm struck by how teaching private music lessons can be a lonely journey for music teachers. That might feel like a surprising statement, especially when we spend so much time working with our students, but music teachers need something more. We're engaged in energy-consuming and rewarding work that's deeply relational and often isolating. We spend lots of time away from the community who understands us the most. [Click HERE](#) to continue reading.

Here's to connecting with our music teaching community,

Merlin Thompson

Creator & Founder of Teach Music 21C

Podcast Recommendation



#82 Accumulated Repertoire

Based on the model of language learning, Accumulated Repertoire is a teaching strategy that builds student fluency in their old/best repertoire as they learn new repertoire. What does that look like? Join Lorrie Merrell and Merlin Thompson for an insider view of this important topic. [Listen HERE.](#)

Lethbridge Teacher Sessions

Registration is now open for the upcoming Expand Your Music

Teacher Skillset workshops with Dr. Merlin Thompson?

Session 1: The 20-year Question - March 28

Session 2: Create the Student's Journey - April 25

Session 3: Music Lessons for Trust - June 4

For complete details please click [HERE](#). Hope to see you there!

Sponsored by the Lethbridge Branch of ARMTA.

Where Are We Headed?



At Teach Music 21C, we keep exploring three core commitments:

- Developing lifelong music makers,
- Fostering collaboration and reflection,
- Teaching in many layers - musical, human, artistic, relational.

Music lessons are how we prepare students for a lifetime of meaningful music making -- not just the next lesson or public performance.

Expand Your Suzuki Foundation

"I finally have permission to teach the way I really feel like I want to teach", participant feedback.

Are you looking for SAA accredited teacher training?

This **10-hour enrichment course** is a mindset shift that may change your teaching forever. We explore topics you won't find anywhere else! Things like flexible curriculum and practicing strategies that Suzuki teachers can use to inspire today's students as lifelong music makers.

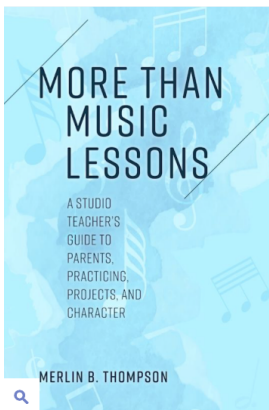
The tuition is only \$149 CAD.

We meet for 2.5 hours online on four Monday mornings: March 16, March 30, April 13, and April 27.

For more information and to register: [Click HERE](#).

More than Music Lessons

From Chapter 9



When my six-year-old student Danielle arrives for a lesson without a smile on her face, I know that she'll appreciate it when we take time to breathe deeply between pieces. She'll feel better after we get up and walk around the bench a couple of times. A couple of stretches with eyes closed may be useful... By the end of lessons, perhaps a smile will have found its way onto their faces. It's not a requirement, but when it happens, I'm grateful. Order your copy [HERE](#) or spend a few moments of refreshment if you already have a copy.

Best Phrases

Are you looking for words when you teach?
Would you like a resource to keep close at hand?

[CLICK THIS LINK](#)

for **Best Music Teacher Phrases** from Teach Music 21C.

Print off the sheet.

Cut along the lines.

Keep the cards so they're readily visible during lessons.

Take your WORDS to another level!!

Upcoming Dates

March 16: Start date for Expand Your Suzuki Foundation. Register [HERE](#).

March 17: Presentation for East Carolina University music students.

March 28: Start date of Three Sessions for Lethbridge Branch of ARMTA. Register [HERE](#).

Recommended ReVisiting

Would you like to ReVisit some of the topics explored in previous newsletters? Here are a few to explore:

- Words Have Power. Click [HERE](#).
- What I Wish I'd Known from the Start.



Click [HERE](#).

- A Universal Approach to Music Technique:
Take a Breath. Click [HERE](#).



As always - if you'd like to share your thoughts on anything in this newsletter, please click [HERE](#) to send a message to Merlin Thompson. Thanks!

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