



# Music Teaching Matters

March 31, 2026 - No. 94

## Creating success for real life music students.



Lately I've had the topic of real life students on my mind - and how all my students show up for their lessons with any number of individual characteristics. That means I have some students who learn quickly. I also have students who learn slowly. Some have lots of time to practice. Some have many obstacles that get in the way of practicing. Some of my students easily follow teacher's instructions. Some need massive amounts of independence. My studio consists of real life students. [Click HERE](#) to continue reading.

Here's to real students, real lessons, and music making that lasts,

*Merlin Thompson*

*Creator & Founder of Teach Music 21C*

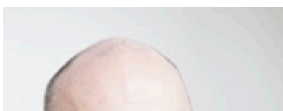
## Podcast Recommendation



### **#84: Our Relationship with Music Making**

How can music teachers help our students deepen their relationship with music making? What's involved? Paul McGlinchey and Merlin Thompson explore these questions and more in this informative episode. [Listen HERE.](#)

## Meet With Merlin - April 30



Thanks to everyone who attended last week's session and contributed to the thoughtful



discussion on reviewing and refining students' repertoire. Meet With Merlin is your opportunity to explore the deeper layers of our work. If you've been craving meaningful dialogue about teaching, this is your invitation. Come with your questions. Leave with perspective.

When: Thursday, April 30, 10-11 a.m. MST

Where: Online

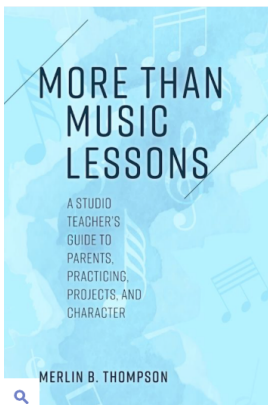
[Click HERE to save your spot.](#)

## Best Music Teacher Phrases

The language we use in teaching can have an amazing impact on our students. Which of the following do you already incorporate in your teaching? Which would be good to include starting today?

1. Thank you for playing for me.
2. What would you like me to help you with?
3. I'm curious to hear your exaggerations, your opposite style, your Dad's favourite way of playing.
4. Tell me more...
5. Should we continue refining this piece or is it time to move on?

## More than Music Lessons



### **From Chapter 13: Character and Music Lessons**

Music performance is perfect for exercising patience. Try performing with the patience of a mountain that's been here since the beginning of time. An immovable solemnity of stone on stone. Or think of patience as the encouragement of warming sun on snow, whose tender rays set in motion a spring rivulet of trickling twists and turns.

Order your copy [HERE](#).

Spending a few moments reading this book is a great way to refresh your teaching.

# Wellbeing & Self-Care

What strategies can music teachers use to maintain our passion, reduce stress, and support our wellness when situations may not be going all that well?

[CLICK THIS LINK](#)

to download six strategies to put into place that promote music teacher's personal and professional wellness.

## Upcoming Dates

**April 7:** Presentation for East Carolina University music students.

**April 9:** "Inspiring Today's Music Students." Presentation sponsored by Long & McQuade. [Click HERE](#) to save your spot.

**April 23:** Start date for the Teach Music 21C Spring Cohort. [Click HERE](#) for more information.

**April 30:** Meet With Merlin webinar. [Save your spot HERE.](#)

## Recommended ReVisiting

Do your students ever seem to get stuck on a plateau? What do you do when it feels like things have ground to a halt? Check out this post from 2025 for an insider view.

- What To Do When Students Hit Plateaus: Action & Awareness. Click [HERE.](#)



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