



Music Teaching Matters

June 9, 2026 - No. 104

June ideas, insights, & inspirations.



Can you believe June is already here!? Where has the time gone? I really appreciate this time of year as an opportunity to look back and see what's happened over the past few months. All the big goals have come and gone. Now June is a month where we can just relax. It's not a "growth" time of the year. It's time for "rest". Later this month, I'll remind parents of our Check In meeting. For now, I'm just organizing my thoughts and thinking back on my students' most recent journeys. [Click HERE](#) to continue reading.

Thank you for the important work you're doing,
Merlin Thompson

Creator & Founder of Teach Music 21C

Podcast Recommendation



How to calm your anxiety, from a neuroscientist

Here's an informative presentation from Ted Conferences. Neuroscientist Wendy Suzuki shares two evidence-based activities - breathing and movement - that can soothe your nervous system and fuel creativity and connection. [Click HERE.](#)

Summer TM21C Certification



Book Your Summer PD NOW!

Invest in your growth as a music teacher with TM21C Certification. **Five informative hours** to explore fresh ideas, deepen your teaching approach, and connect with a forward-thinking music teaching community.

Tuition: \$99 CAD.

Dates: August 12: 9-11 MST, August 14: 10-11 MST, & August 17: 9-11 MST.

Hope to see you there.

[For more Info & to Register: CLICK HERE.](#)

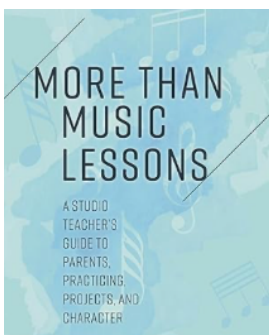
Best Phrases

As things wind down in June, music teachers shift the language we use in our teaching. Here are a few phrases to support our students as we finish out the term -

- "Let's make sure our musical goals match what's doable at this time of year."
- "What kind of music practicing will fit your schedule this week?"
- "With everything you've got going on - school, sports, family - let's keep an eye on manageable assignments."
- "This might be a good time of year to bring in "music making breaks" to keep your schedule from taking over."

The goal is to communicate in ways that confirm how music teachers genuinely understand, accept, and care for our students.

More than Music Lessons



Teaching Tip

Get to know your student's character, sense of self, and authenticity.

1. Watch what students do.
2. Listen to what students have to say.

3. Be prepared for students to gradually evolve.
A super resource for your summer reading.
Get your own copy [HERE](#).

Beginner Piano Teacher Workshop

Back this summer by popular demand!

Workshop length: 4 hours

Dates: Wednesday, August 19, 9-11 MST and Friday, August 21, 9-11 MST.

Tuition: \$149 CAD

Location: Online

Would you like to know how to create successful beginner piano lessons? **Beginner Piano Teacher Workshop** is here to support your teaching with tools and strategies specifically designed for beginner lessons. Hope to see you there!

Here's the link for more info and to register - [Click HERE](#).

Teach With Vision - Inspire For Life

Music Teacher Webinar

Thursday, August 20, 10-11 MST.

A groundbreaking workshop designed to introduce you to an amazing workbook resource:

Teach With Vision - Inspire For Life.

Helping music teachers clarify, communicate, and live out the vision behind our teaching.

Would you like to teach with greater intention?

How about inspiring with greater impact?

Stay tuned for more details!

Upcoming Dates

June 11: "Inspiring Music Teachers". Presentation sponsored by Long & McQuade. [Register HERE](#).

July 13: "Reframing the Why: Humanistic Reasons for Music

lessons", 2026 Virtual String Teachers Summit.

July 24-31: Four presentations for the ISME World Conference in Quebec City & Montreal.

July 27: Repertoire Review/Refinement, presentation for Connecting Canada 2026.

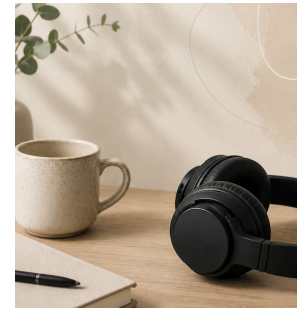
August 12: Start date for TM21C Summer Certification. [Register HERE.](#)

August 19: Start date for Beginner Piano Teacher Workshop. [Register HERE.](#)

August 20: Teach with Vision, Inspire for Life Workshop

Recommended ReVisiting

When you first started teaching, did you ever feel like you needed to share everything you know with your students? Every insight. Every technique. Every shortcut to success. Check out this reflective blog -



- What I Wish I'd Know From the Start: [Click HERE.](#)

Follow Teach Music 21C On



Overwhelmed by emails? We understand.

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