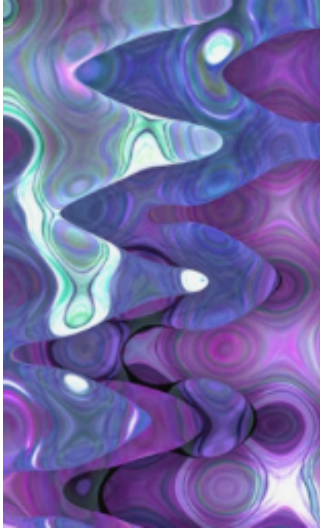




# Music Teaching Matters

March 3, 2026 - No. 90

## Your weekly inspiration for lifelong music making.



It seems like I talk a lot about accepting our students for who they are. For me, acceptance feels like a basic pedagogical stance - not just some kind of sentimental gesture. If we expect neat, compliant, predictable learners, there's a good chance teachers will constantly feel frustrated. But if we expect humanity — complexity, experimentation, and occasional chaos — then those same moments become opportunities for... [Click HERE](#) to continue reading.

Here's to lessons that shape lifelong music making,

*Merlin Thompson*

*Creator & Founder of Teach Music 21C*

## Podcast Recommendation



### **#81 Let's Talk About Repertoire**

Music teachers recognize that finding the "right" repertoire can have a huge impact on students' ongoing musical development. So what do we do? Where do we go? Join Lorrie Merrell and Merlin Thompson as we explore 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.

## SAA/ASTA Conference



Nearly 4,000 Suzuki/ASTA enthusiasts recently came together in San Francisco.

There's nothing more dynamic than a group of dedicated music teachers sharing ideas, collaborating on strategies, and working through the many layers of music teaching.

Let's keep the conversations going!

## Enrol now for Suzuki Enrichment

### Expand Your Suzuki Foundation

This **10-hour enrichment course** tackles 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.

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

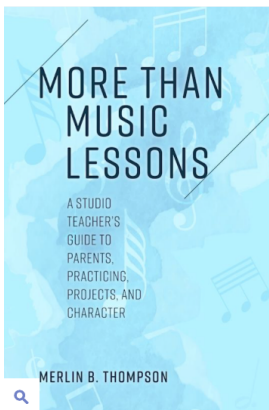
For more information and to register: [Click HERE](#).

## More than Music Lessons

### From Chapter 15

Reflective space may be hard to achieve in a world where global connection is just a click away.

Musicians need space to think for themselves outside the tunnel of virtual reality and



convenience of social networking. Kudos to those who routinely disconnect from the noisy insistence of modern technology.

Order your copy [HERE](#) or spend a few moments of refreshment if you already have a copy.

## Best Phrases

Here are a few Best Phrases to support meaningful music lessons:

1. When you'd like to have more information from parents, try this phrase - **"What can you share about your child that would help me to provide the best I can for them?"**
2. When your student isn't sure what to do, try this guidance - **"Let's experiment a few different ways and see what happens."**
3. When your student responds with an answer you never anticipated, try this affirmation - **"I can see why you'd think that way."**

*Do you have a Best Phrase you'd like to share?*

*Click [HERE](#) to send me your ideas.*

## 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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