



# Music Teaching Matters

September 1, 2026 - No. 110

## Music Lessons After the Summer Break



What an exciting time of year. It's the end of summer. Music lessons are resuming. And music teachers everywhere are thinking about how to help students following their summer break. How can music teachers effectively help students transition? What steps are productive? What steps are less effective? Are you anxious or excited about students resuming lessons?

[Click HERE to continue reading....](#)

All the best as your teaching resumes --

*Merlin Thompson*

*Creator & Founder of Teach Music 21C*

## TM21C Podcasts



**#96: Music Teacher Practice.** We all know how practicing is essential in mastery of performance skills. But what about teaching skills? What kind of practicing can music teachers incorporate to build our own teaching skills? Join Paul McGlinchey and Merlin Thompson as we explore music teacher practice. [Click HERE to listen](#)

## Why do we make music?

People have many reasons for making music. Here are some of the many reasons music students and teachers have identified -

***Expression. Tradition. Friend. Ritual. Soul food. Completeness.  
Art. Community. Inner life. Entertainment. Escape. Challenge.  
Energy. Movement. Acceptance. Family.***

What comes to mind when you consider why you have music making in your life?

If you've got a moment, please share your thoughts. We'd love to listen and learn from your experiences.

[Click HERE to share.](#)

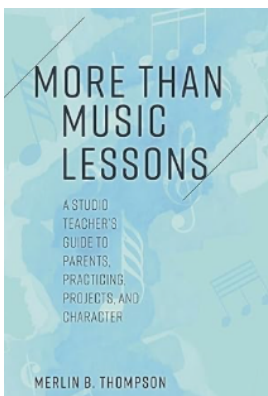
## Best Teacher Phrases

Here are five must-share invitations music teachers can use to set the tone for what's coming in the months ahead...

1. What music has been part of your life lately?
2. What would you like us to explore this year?
3. What's the best thing we want to keep from last year?
4. What should we change or try differently?
5. What do you hope music will bring your life this year?

As lessons resume, music teachers' communication with student shapes the environment of partnership, curiosity, ownership, and possibility for the entire year. Now's the time to get things moving in an inspiring direction!!

## More than Music Lessons



### **On sale for 30% off!**

Order "More than Music Lessons" directly from the publisher Bloomsbury and get 30% off.

Filled with over fifty practical and inspirational teaching tips, this book is a must-read for today's music studio teacher.

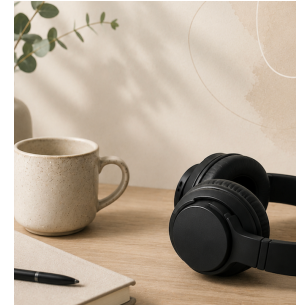
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## Resources For You

Here's a trio of tried-and-tested tools, templates, and ideas to make your September start a little easier. Explore these resources, adapt them to your own teaching, and make them work for you and your students. Click on each one to access --



- [Vision Letter](#)
- [Student Profile Sheet](#)
- [Studio Policy](#)

## On the Calendar

**October 5:** Start date for Expand Your Suzuki Foundation

**October 13:** Tools & Strategies of Inspiring Lessons. Presentation sponsored by Long & McQuade.

**October 15:** Start date for TM21C Certification

**November 4:** Presentation for Richmond Branch BCRMTA

**November 18:** Workshop on Universal Technique for Coquitlam Branch BCRMTA

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