



Music Teaching Matters

September 15, 2026 - No. 112

Music Teachers & Method Books



Over the past few weeks, I've received emails from several teachers with concerns. Lessons that once worked no longer seem to be working. And method books teachers have relied on for years suddenly feel like they're getting in the way rather than helping. One teacher described feeling defeated. Another wondered what had happened to their teaching. So let's take a breath and ask different questions: What if the problem isn't our teaching? What if our comfort with method books is getting in the way? [Click HERE to continue reading....](#)

Let's keep exploring ways to make music lessons work,

Merlin Thompson

Creator & Founder of Teach Music 21C

TM21C Podcasts



#98: Ear Before Eye. What if students learn to play by listening before we ask them to read? Join this podcast as Lorrie Merrell and Merlin Thompson explore the benefits and practicalities of starting with Ear Before Eye instruction. [Click HERE to listen.](#)

Expand Your Suzuki Foundation

Are you a Suzuki Teacher?
Interested in expanding your teaching skillset?

Expand Your Suzuki Foundation starts October 5, 2026 and is the only course of its kind. You'll stay rooted in Suzuki principles while exploring pedagogical strategies Dr. Suzuki couldn't have imagined.

For more information on this **10-hour Teach Enrichment Course** accredited by the SAA, [click HERE](#).

20 Years From Now

What musical activities do you think your students will participate in 20 years from now? Will they...

Play for fun. Chill out. Form a band. Make a music video. Let off steam. Make music with their children. Volunteer for musical presentations. Make music as self-care.

In this week's lessons, how can you sow the seeds for your students' future music making activities?

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

[Click HERE to share.](#)

Meet with Merlin - THIS WEEK!!

FREE Online Webinar
Thursday, September 17, 10-11 MST

Teaching the Year We Imagined

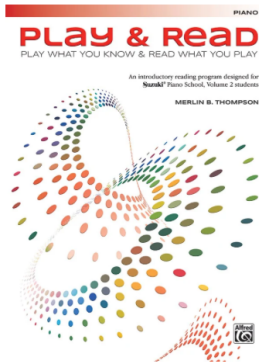
September often begins with good intentions: *This year I'm going to...* But by mid-September, schedules, parent expectations, practice problems, repertoire demands, and old routines can have a way of taking over.

What can music teachers do?

Meet with Merlin is here to help. Join this timely webinar to explore how small, purposeful strategies can help get things back on track.

[Register for this FREE webinar HERE](#)

Attention: Suzuki Piano Teachers



Play & Read

Play what you know and Read what you play

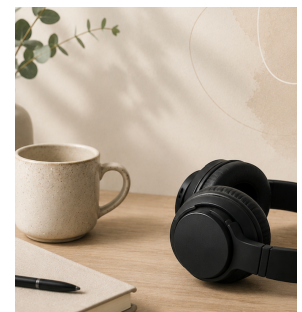
Are you a Suzuki Piano teacher? Do you know there's a workbook specifically designed to introduce Suzuki Piano students to reading music? It's used by teachers all over the world!!

Available through your music dealer.
Or order copies for your students [HERE](#).

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

September 17: Meet with Merlin. [Register HERE](#).

September 21: Presentation for Music Students at UAlberta,

Augustana College.

October 5: Start date for Expand Your Suzuki Foundation. [Register HERE.](#)

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

October 15: Start date for TM21C Certification. [Register HERE.](#)

November 4: Presentation for Richmond Branch BCRMTA

November 18: Workshop on Universal Technique for Coquitlam Branch BCRMTA

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