



Music Teaching Matters

September 22, 2026 - No. 113

Music Teaching With the Future In Mind



Are you busy these days? Do you find it's easy to get caught up in the immediate work of teaching: the next piece, the next page, the next technique, the next recital, the next exam. Music teachers have so much to accomplish that it can be challenging to slow down for a moment and remind ourselves of - Who are we doing this for? [Click HERE to continue reading....](#)

Here's to teaching with the future in mind,
Merlin Thompson
Creator & Founder of Teach Music 21C

TM21C Podcasts



#99: How Long Should Music Students Practice? How many minutes? How much time? What is a good length for students' practicing? Join Connie Bell and Merlin Thompson as we explore what's involved in this important topic. [Click HERE to listen.](#)

Expand Your Suzuki Foundation

Your Suzuki training gave you a foundation.

But your teaching continues to evolve.

Expand Your Suzuki Foundation starts October 5, 2026 and is an opportunity step back and look at your teaching from a new

perspective. It's not about leaving Suzuki behind. It's about expanding what you can do with the foundation you already have.

Online * Interactive * Tuition \$149 CAD

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

Poster of the Month



Displaying this Month's Poster is an easy way to let people know what your teaching is all about. Print it off, put it up on your studio door/wall, share with a colleague, or keep nearby as a reminder for everyone of the kind of teacher you are. [Download this month's poster HERE](#).

Meet with Merlin - Thank You!!

A big note of appreciation goes to all the teachers from across North America who came together to explore and share at last week's **Meet With Merlin**.

We had some pretty amazing discussions!

Be sure you join next month's event coming Thursday, October 22.

Teach Music 21C Certification



Teaching for the 21st Century starts here!

The next **Teach Music 21C Certification cohort** begins **Thursday, October 15**. Three live, interactive, online sessions with practical ideas and forward-thinking perspectives. Join a community of teachers rethinking what music lessons can be - and discover ways to create meaningful lessons for

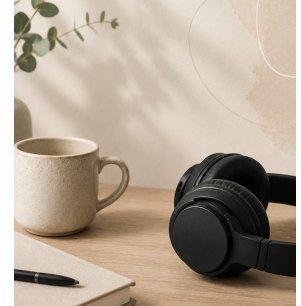
the students in front of you.

Register [HERE](#) for only \$99 CAD.

Best Teacher Phrases

The words music teachers use can have a huge impact on our students. Instead of saying, "That was great! You did a super job!" try these intentional alternatives:

1. "You nailed" Be descriptive in sharing information with students.
2. "I noticed ..." Take a moment to share details that can be easily overlooked.
3. Ask a question. Encourage students to use their reflective thought processes.
4. "Tell me more." Invite students to expand on their impressions.



On the Calendar

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 14: What Makes Music Stick. Presentation for Edmonton ARMTA.

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

October 21: Group Class Signature Activities. Presentation for Edmonton ARMTA.

October 22: Meet With Merlin webinar.

November 4: Presentation for Richmond Branch BCRMTA.

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

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