



# Music Teaching Matters

December 2, 2025 - No. 80

Welcome to **Music Teaching Matters**: Ideas for music teaching with confidence and understanding from Teach Music 21C.



Many, many years ago, when I was a youngster and piano student, my piano teacher decided it would be beneficial for me to play for our church services once a month. Not just one tune here and there, but the whole church service from beginning to end. It was an immense opportunity!! So let me tell you what's my takeaway all these years later. Read more [HERE...](#)

With appreciation for all that you do,  
*Merlin Thompson*  
*Creator & Founder of Teach Music 21C*

## Podcast Recommendation



### **The Versatile Music Teacher**

Recorded in 2020, this podcast covers a lot of ground and explores the various layers that music teachers take on in teaching. It's lengthy but well worth the listening time. Enjoy!! [Listen HERE.](#)

## Carl Rogers

Are you familiar with the American positive psychologist Carl Rogers (1902-1987)? He's an amazing resource for today's music teachers. His book - **Freedom to Learn** - has gone out of print but you can find used copies through the [Carl Rogers website](#). Rogers constantly reminds teachers how students appreciate it when they feel they're

understood - not evaluated, not judged, but simply understood from their own point of view, not the teacher's. As music teachers in this week's lessons, what steps can we take to make sure our students feel **we understand where they're coming from?**

## Idea of the Month Webinar



### **Continuing in January 2026.**

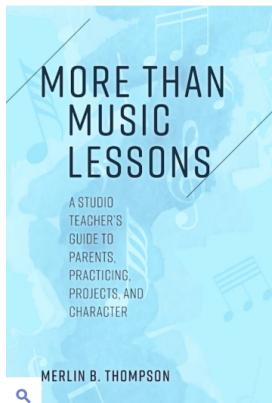
Our popular Idea of the Month Webinar will be back in January 2026! Each month we explore a fresh, practical teaching idea you can use to spark student engagement in your studio. Stay tuned for upcoming dates, times, and registration.

## This Week's Lessons

Here are a few questions to keep ready at hand -

1. Would you like to keep refining this piece or is it time to move on?
2. Which of your pieces do you want to use for chilling out this week?
3. What does your favourite way of playing this piece sound like?
4. Can you show me the teacher's favourite way of playing this piece?

## More than Music Lessons



### **Teaching Tip**

#### **Build on and exercise what's already there.**

1. Be curious.
2. Listen.
3. Collaborate.

"More than Music Lessons" makes for a great read during the holiday break. Order your copy [HERE](#).

## Teach Music 21C Certification



Have you thought about your professional development in 2026?

**Teach Music 21C Certification** is for teachers just like you. We offer clear guidance, practical tools, and a supportive cohort to help you teach



with more confidence and clarity.  
Join us in **January 2026** and strengthen the foundation of your teaching year.  
**Click [HERE](#) for more info.**

## Suzuki Teacher Enrichment Course

### **Expand Your Suzuki Foundation**

This 10-hour Suzuki Teacher Enrichment Course is all about exploring 21st century music teaching tools that go beyond instrument-focused unit training. Join us on four Monday mornings: January 12, January 25, February 9, and February 23.

For more information click [HERE](#).

Register [HERE](#) for \$149 CAD.

## Upcoming Dates

**January 9:** Presentation for Abbotsford BCRMTA.

**January 12:** Start date for Suzuki Teacher Enrichment Course.

Register [HERE](#).

**January 13:** Start date for TM21C Certification. Register [HERE](#).

**February 14:** Presentation for Texas Music Educator's Association Conference.

**February 26 & 27:** Presentations for Suzuki Association of the Americas Conference.

## Questions, Thoughts

What topics are on your mind?

Is there a question you'd like to ask?

How about chatting with Merlin Thompson?

SEND me a message at  
Admin@TeachMusic21C.com  
and we'll get together!



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