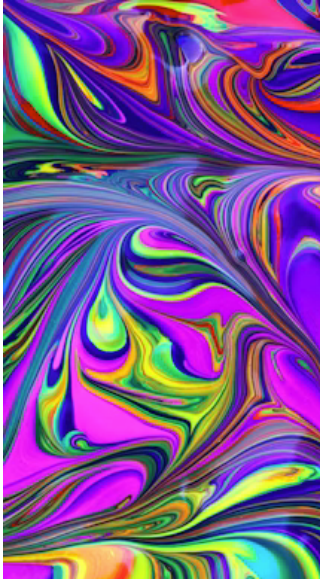




Music Teaching Matters

April 21, 2026 - No. 97

Music teaching that shapes lives.



What if the most effective strategies in your teaching didn't require new materials, new repertoire, or a ton of planning? This article is inspired by a recent conversation with a music teacher colleague who highlighted two simple tools that significantly elevate the quality of teaching and the depth of student learning. They're not new tools. They don't require training or technology. But when used consistently, these strategies can transform how a teaching week unfolds. [Click HERE](#) to continue reading.

Wishing you a week of meaningful teaching and inspired conversations,

Merlin Thompson

Creator & Founder of Teach Music 21C

Podcast Recommendation



#87: A Humanitarian Event

Hear how Sandy Chen organized an amazing humanitarian fundraising event for her studio and what inspired her to reach out to the world beyond her immediate studio. A heart-warming conversation with Merlin Thompson. [Listen HERE.](#)

Free Webinar



Meet With Merlin -- April 30



Are you looking for a place to ask questions or think out loud with someone who understands the work? Then look no further. These sessions are for you. Hope to see you there.

[Register HERE](#) with any questions you may have.

Attitude & Mindset

Attitude and mindset shape everything, yet may often be the last place music teachers look for solutions.

Two music teachers can face the same situation -- **one sees an opportunity, the other an obstacle** -- one sees a student with problems, the other looks to identify student success. Opportunity and obstacle often exist in the same moment - the **difference lies in how we see.**

Where will your attitude and mindset lead you? How do your attitude and mindset influence what you see in your teaching?

Teach Music 21C Certification



Registration closes

Tuesday, April 21, @ midnight.

What if the way you teach could feel clearer, more intentional, and more effective—every single week? TM21C Certification is designed to help you build exactly that.

Our spring cohort begins

Thursday April 23.

Tuition is only \$99 CAD.

Five one-hour modules.

[Register HERE.](#)

Coming Soon!

Something new is unfolding at Teach Music 21C.

Lately, I've been thinking a lot about what truly makes music lessons *stick*. Not just in the moment—but over time, in the way

students carry music into their lives. It's more than the pieces we teach and the progress we track. It's the message behind it all.

- If you've ever struggled to put your **teaching philosophy** into words...
- If you want parents to immediately **understand the value** of what you do...
- If you're ready for your lessons to **reflect a bigger purpose**...

You'll want to watch for what's coming next.

More details coming soon.

Upcoming Dates

April 23: Start date for the Teach Music 21C Spring Cohort. [Click HERE](#) for more information.

April 25: Webinar for Lethbridge ARMTA music teachers.

April 29: Presentation for East Carolina University music students.

April 30: Meet With Merlin webinar. [Save your spot HERE.](#)

May 14: "Inspiring Lifelong Music Making". Presentation sponsored by Long & McQuade.

Recommended ReVisiting

Do your students ever get frustrated during their lessons? What do you say? What do you do? Take a look at this informative post:

- Student's Frustration and Music Teacher's Language. Click [HERE.](#)



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