



# Music Teaching Matters

December 9, 2025 - No. 81

Welcome to **Music Teaching Matters**: Reflections, ideas, and notes for grounded and joyful teaching from Teach Music 21C.



I must admit I really appreciate this time of the year. With the holiday break just weeks away, the pace in my studio has slowed down. The big concert was a success in November. An informal family concert held online at the beginning of December brought everyone together. But we're not quite finished yet. Read more [HERE...](#)

With appreciation for all that you do,

*Merlin Thompson*

*Creator & Founder of Teach Music 21C*

## Podcast Recommendation



### #72 Reflections & Reports

It's December and that means it's time to wrap things up for another term. Join Lorrie Merrell and Merlin Thompson as we explore the simple routines of reflecting on our teaching, making out report cards, and meeting with parents and students to share our thoughts. Enjoy!! [Listen HERE.](#)

## Curiosity

Using phrases like "**I wonder what would happen if...**" or "**I'm curious to hear...**" are simple ways music teachers can shift students' participation from passive followers to active explorers. Curiosity invites **experimentation** and encourages **imaginative listening** as students develop awareness of their own decision

making processes. When music teachers cultivate our students' curiosity, we highlight how much we value how students think, what they have to say, and the inner workings of their own musical persona. It's **an amazing teaching tool!!**

## 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.

## End the Year with Reflection

Before you finish off your teaching for 2025, now is a good time to reflect back on what's happened. Here are a few good questions to get things rolling --

1. **Which habits or routines** supported you this year -- and which ones held you back?
2. Where did your students **surprise** you, **challenge** you, or **remind** you why you teach?
3. What new ideas, resources, or collaborations would you like to **explore in 2026?**

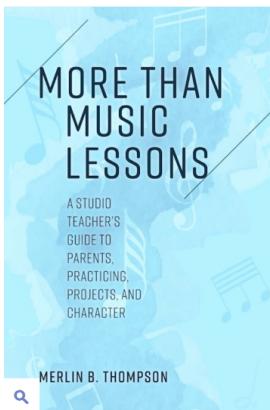
Reflection is a great way to honour your professionalism and sets the stage for gentle, sustainable adjustments to your teaching. It's also an invitation to pause, acknowledge what's going on, and validate the teacher you are - one thoughtful decision at a time.

## More than Music Lessons

### **Teaching Tip**

**Use student report cards to track student progress and teacher effectiveness.**

1. Include pertinent information
2. Refer to previous year's student report cards.
3. Adjust as necessary.



"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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