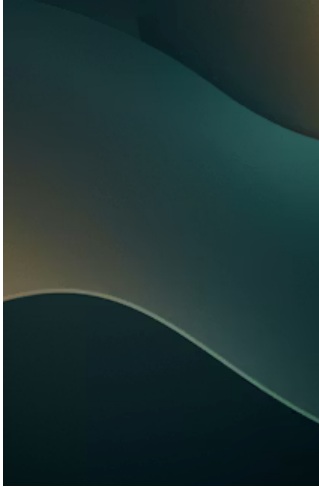




# Music Teaching Matters

May 5, 2026 - No. 99

## Resources for your teaching. Ideas to inspire.



I give a lot of presentations to university-level music majors. And over the years I've noticed several questions are often on their minds. They want to know - Is it possible for students to achieve advanced performance levels without being pushed? Can students achieve excellence without pressure? Can high standards actually be taught through kindness and empathy?

[Click HERE](#) to continue reading.

With appreciation for the work you do,

*Merlin Thompson*

*Creator & Founder of Teach Music 21C*

## Podcast Recommendation



### #89: Goal Setting

Join Connie Bell and Merlin Thompson as we explore goal setting from various perspectives including: long term, short term, changing direction, and more.

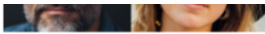
[Listen HERE.](#)

## Free Download



### Student Info Sheet

Here's a great tool to help music teachers guide each student's progress throughout the term - especially with adult students. This template will give you a better picture of where students are headed, what may get in the way, and help set up a more collaborative approach.



Download your [FREE Template HERE.](#)

## This week's teaching tip

**The words** we use in music lessons do more than just describe what students are doing. Words help students understand **why they're making music** and the roles it plays in their lives.

Here are just a few of those **roles making music** can play -  
Companion. Tradition. Expression. Ritual. Soul food. Art form.  
Community. Entertainment. Escape. Challenge. Energy. Movement.  
Friend. Curiosity. Confirmation. Distraction. And more.

**This week, try asking students -**

*Which piece will you play for **expression**?*

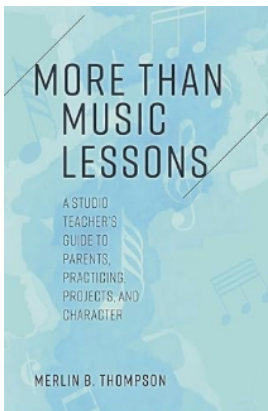
*Which selection is a source of **energy**?*

*Which piece is good for an **escape**?*

Aim for a combination of three explorations.

The options are endless.

## More than Music Lessons



### TEACHING TIP

**Protect students from harmful practice strategies.**

1. Practicing isn't like cramming for an exam.
2. There are limits on students' emotional and physical capacities.

**A few lines from this book can inspire your teaching in just moments.**

Get your copy [HERE.](#)

## Coming Soon!

**Something exciting is taking shape at Teach Music 21C.**

The soon-to-be-released **Teach With Vision - Inspire For Life** project is growing out of a simple belief: that music lessons can carry messages far beyond technique and repertoire.

- 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

**May 14:** "Inspiring Lifelong Music Making". Presentation sponsored by Long & McQuade. [Register HERE.](#)

**May 28:** Meet With Merlin webinar. [Save your spot HERE.](#)

**June 4:** Music Lessons for Trust. Presentation for Lethbridge, ARMTA.

## Recommended ReVisiting

Here's a group of topics I'm always circling back to - the role of music making in our lives, lifelong music making, and how music making contributes to our quality of life. This post is an excellent reminder:

- Why Music Making In Our Lives Is So Important. [Click HERE.](#)



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