



Music Teaching Matters

February 4, 2025 - No. 43

Welcome to **Music Teaching Matters**: strategies to engage and empower music students from Teach Music 21C.



I don't often talk about my age. But these days it seems quite remarkable that I've been playing piano for 66 years and teaching for 47. All that means I've been around long enough to observe some remarkable changes. I've seen trends come and go. Philosophies have shifted. Attitudes evolved. And much to my fascination, I've seen a change to how we think about "motivation". Which has led me to to ask - What's happened to motivation? [Read on for more!](#)

Cheers!

Merlin Thompson

Creator & Founder of Teach Music 21C

Is it working for you?

As a music teacher, you notice a longstanding problem in your studio. You implement your preferred strategy. There's no change to the problem. Here's something to think about -

1. Is it working for you? If not...
2. Why are you holding on to strategies that don't work?
3. How could you rethink your approach?
4. Who might be a good resource to help you broaden your skillset?

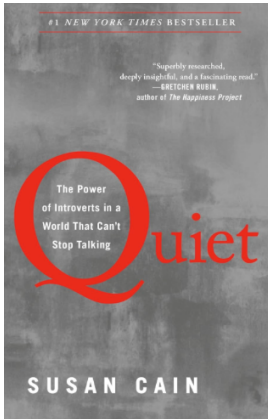
Newsletter Archives

Would you like to read past editions of Teach Music Matters? Are you looking for more music teacher inspirations and ideas?

[Click HERE for the Teach Music Matters ARCHIVES!](#)

Great resources that keep you informed and equipped to teach today's music students!

From author Susan Cain



Would you like to know more about working with students we might refer to as "introverts"? Susan Cain's book "Quiet" will answer many of your questions. Superbly researched and filled with stories of real people, this book has the power to permanently change how music teachers work with introverted students. A must-read.

[Available on Amazon.](#)

Lesson Starters

Try these Best Teacher Phrases to invite your students to share practical information -

1. *What was hardest/easiest in your practice last week?*
2. *What did you spend the most/least time on last week?*
3. *What do you need help with?*

TM21C Certification



Better questions. Helping students to practice. More flexibility.

Student-centered teaching. Working with real life students. Best tools for increased student enrolment & retention.

Keeping students engaged. Professional development.



Time - 5 one-hour online sessions
Materials - you won't find anywhere else

👉 [Click here to Register NOW!](#)

Parting Words

Use this Best Teacher Phrase to inspire your students for their week of personal music making.

"What piece will you play as your Chill Out Piece during the next week?"

Be sure to provide follow up at their next lesson.

Upcoming Dates

February 11

Start date for the next Certification program

[Register NOW](#) and reserve your place. Spots are limited.

February 18: 10-11 a.m. Calgary time

"What Music Teachers Need to Know about Practicing" - Calgary ARMTA

February 21: 7-8:30 p.m. Calgary time

"Beyond the Notes: Collaborative Teaching, Lifelong Impact, and Inspiring Practice" - Calgary Suzuki Strings Association

February 22: 2:3 p.m. Calgary time

"Music Teacher Wellbeing & Self-Care" - Alberta Piano Teachers Association

Questions, Thoughts

Do you have questions?

Would you like more info?

How about chatting with Merlin Thompson?

Schedule your **Conversation with Merlin** [HERE](#).

It's 100% FREE.



What about ideas or thoughts you'd like to share? SEND me a message!



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