



# Music Teaching Matters

September 8, 2026 - No. 111

## Teacher Comfort & Student Curiosity



I must admit - I'm someone who appreciates a certain amount of comfort and stability in my teaching. I like knowing what time my students are having lessons. How many weeks I'll be teaching. When the concerts will be held. I settle into my comfort zone because these things give me confidence and make certain that my teaching is manageable and productive. At the same time, I'm also aware the more time I spend in my comfort zone, it becomes increasingly likely that I'll be unable to get out of my comfort zone. And that's not something I want to sign up for. [Click HERE to continue reading....](#)

Hoping your teaching is off to a great start --  
*Merlin Thompson*

*Creator & Founder of Teach Music 21C*

## TM21C Podcasts



**#97: Music Teacher Letting Go.** As music teachers, we all start teaching with what we know. Then over the years, we "let go" of certain teaching aspects. Join Connie Bell and Merlin Thompson as we explore what we decided to "let go" of after years of teaching. [Click HERE to listen](#)

# Real life students

Music students come in all sizes and shapes.

**Extroverts. Introverts. Neurodiverse. Independent explorers. Checklist followers. Talkative. Shy. Risk-takers. Play-it-safe learners. Over-scheduled. Relaxed.**

What do you real life students look like in your studio?

If you've got a moment, please share your thoughts. We'd love to listen and learn from your experiences.

[Click HERE to share.](#)

## Meet with Merlin - Next week!!

**FREE Online Webinar  
Thursday, September 17, 10-11 MST**

### **Teaching the Year We Imagined**

September often begins with good intentions: *This year I'm going to...* But by mid-September, schedules, parent expectations, practice problems, repertoire demands, and old routines can have a way of taking over.

### **What can music teachers do?**

Meet with Merlin is here to help. Join this timely webinar to explore how small, purposeful strategies can help get things back on track.

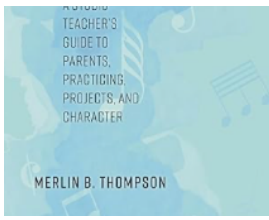
[Register for this FREE webinar HERE](#)

## More than Music Lessons



### **Teaching Tip**

Mistakes aren't the problem. Mistakes are part of the solution.



the solution.

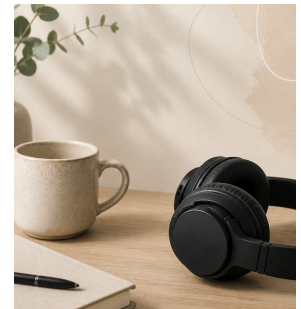
1. Empower students to identify mistakes.
2. Empower students to clarify mistakes and what's correct.
3. Empower students to resolve mistakes.
4. Be patient.

"More than Music Lessons" is on sale for 30% off.  
Get your copy from the publisher [HERE](#).

## Resources For You

Here's a trio of tried-and-tested tools, templates, and ideas to make your September start a little easier. Explore these resources, adapt them to your own teaching, and make them work for you and your students. Click on each one to access --

- [Vision Letter](#)
- [Student Profile Sheet](#)
- [Studio Policy](#)



## On the Calendar

**September 17:** Meet with Merlin. [Register HERE](#).

**October 5:** Start date for Expand Your Suzuki Foundation. [Register HERE](#).

**October 13:** Tools & Strategies of Inspiring Lessons. Presentation sponsored by Long & McQuade.

**October 15:** Start date for TM21C Certification. [Register HERE](#).

**November 4:** Presentation for Richmond Branch BCRMTA

**November 18:** Workshop on Universal Technique for Coquitlam Branch BCRMTA

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