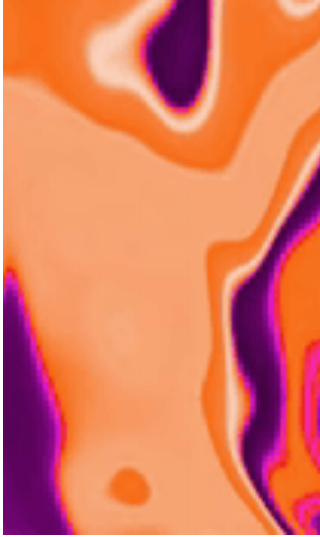




# Music Teaching Matters

April 14, 2026 - No. 96

## **We believe in music making for everyone.**



Join a music teacher discussion group and it most likely won't take long before someone asks the question, "How do I get students to practice?" It's a question music teachers have grappled with for decades that carries urgency, frustration, and a genuine desire to help students succeed. Music teachers feel that practice is something we need to "get" students to do. When students do practice diligently, we feel successful in our teaching role. When students don't practice as we'd like them to, it may be difficult to shake off the disappointment and insecurity we feel. [Click HERE](#) to continue reading.

Grateful to be part of a community that believes in music making for everyone,

*Merlin Thompson*

*Creator & Founder of Teach Music 21C*

## Podcast Recommendation



### **#86: Teacher Challenges**

Today's music teachers recognize that it's our job to figure out to keep students going. And that's why we run into all kinds of challenges. Connie Bell and Merlin Thompson provide timely insight into how music teachers can respond to today's teaching challenges.

[Listen HERE.](#)

## Free Webinar



### "Inspiring Today's Music Students"

with Dr. Merlin Thompson

generously sponsored by

Long & McQuade

Thanks so much to all the enthusiastic music teachers from across Canada that joined this recent webinar. The next session "Inspiring Lifelong Music Makers" is scheduled for May 14.

Hope to see you there.

## Concert Intro

Concerts serve as excellent opportunities for music teachers to guide how families think about learning to sing or play a musical instrument. Take a look at the following opening script:

### "Hello and Welcome to our concert.

Before we begin, I want you to know that what you'll hear today represents students at different stages of their own musical journey. Some moments will feel polished. Others are still in progress. And both matter equally. These students are exploring **what making music means for their own lives** - whether it's a challenge, it's uplifting, or a time for chilling out.

So today, I invite you to **listen beyond the notes**. To listen for the journey, the curiosity, and the courage it takes to keep going.

Thanks for being here."

## Teach Music 21C Certification



Here's what teachers are saying:

*"This program helped me finally put into words what I've always believed about music teaching."*

*"My students are more engaged because I'm teaching with greater intention—and they can feel the difference."*

*"I stopped second-guessing myself. I now have a clear framework that guides everything I do."*

**Our next cohort begins April 23.**

Tuition is only \$99 CAD.

Five one-hour modules.

[Register HERE.](#)

## Coming Soon!

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

- If you've ever wondered how to **talk about your teaching** in a way that truly connects...
- If you want students to **carry music** with them long after lessons end...
- If you're ready to align what you believe with **how you communicate...**

**This is a project designed for you.**

**Stay tuned...**

## 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

What do you say to a teen student with lots on their plate and no sign of that changing any time soon? All kinds of obstacles are getting in the way and their practicing time has shrunk considerably. Take a look at this informative and inspiring post from 2025:

- How Piano Breaks Help With Student Engagement. [Click HERE.](#)



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