



# Music Teaching Matters

February 17, 2026 - No. 88

## Where visionary music teaching comes to life!



How can music teachers decide the number of pieces our students should practice during the week? What's an appropriate amount? Of course, it depends on age, level, and personality — but what else should we keep in mind?

For answers to these questions, click [HERE](#) and continue reading.

With vision for what music teaching can be,  
*Merlin Thompson*

*Creator & Founder of Teach Music 21C*

## Podcast Recommendation



### **#79 Making the Most from Music Lessons**

How can music teachers teach so that our students get the most they can from our teaching? What strategies are helpful? Join Lorrie Merrell and Merlin Thompson as we dive into this compelling topic. [Listen HERE.](#)

## Lethbridge Teacher Sessions

**Are you a music teacher in the Lethbridge area?**

**Do you know about the upcoming Expand Your Music Teacher Skillset workshops with Dr. Merlin Thompson?**

Session 1: The 20-year Question - March 28

Session 2: Create the Student's Journey - April 25

Session 3: Music Lessons for Trust - June 4

For complete details please click [HERE](#). Hope to see you there!

Sponsored by the Lethbridge Branch of ARMTA.

## Shout Out to TMEA



This year's **Texas Music Educators Association Conference** was attended by over 30,00 music enthusiasts including teachers, students, and exhibitors. It was an honour to share **Curriculum Models** with all the enthusiastic and curious music educators at my session. Thanks so much for your thoughtful questions and feedback. And of course, the **All-State Mariachi Ensemble Concert** was absolutely amazing!

## Expand Your Suzuki Foundation

**Are you ready to deepen your Suzuki teaching?**

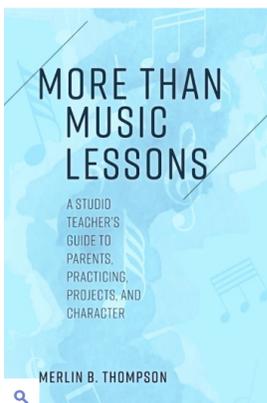
**Have you enrolled?**

This **10-hour enrichment course** is the only one of its kind and a must-have for today's vocal and instrumental Suzuki teachers. If you're a Suzuki teacher ready to expand - not replace - your Suzuki Foundation, **this course is for you.**

We meet for 2.5 hours online on four Monday mornings: March 16, March 30, April 13, and April 27.

For more information and to register: [Click HERE](#).

## 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.

Order your copy [HERE](#) or spend a few moments of refreshment if you already have a copy.

# Change is Here

The music teaching world is experiencing phenomenal transformation and change. Not simply a few minor tweaks or adjustments. We're in the midst of a major turning point. What's driving this change is the growing awareness among music teachers that doing what we've always done is no longer sufficient.

That's where **Teach Music 21C** is stepping forward, driven by a vision of lifelong music makers, a music teaching community that embraces change, and the belief that music lessons are a place of infinite possibilities!

## Upcoming Dates

**February 26 & 27:** Presentations for Suzuki Association of the Americas Conference.

**March 17:** Start date for Expand Your Suzuki Foundation. Register [HERE](#).

**March 28:** Start date of Three Sessions for Lethbridge Branch of ARMTA. Register [HERE](#).

## Recommended ReVisiting

Would you like to ReVisit some of the topics explored in previous newsletters? Here are a few of the most popular topics:

- The Real Benefits of Music Lessons. Click [HERE](#).
- What To Do When Student Commitment Seems... Click [HERE](#).
- How Piano Breaks Help With Student Engagement. Click [HERE](#).



As always - if you'd like to share your thoughts on anything in this newsletter, please click [HERE](#) to send a message to Merlin Thompson. Thanks!

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