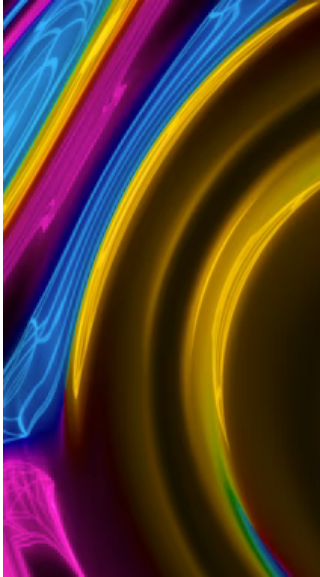




# Music Teaching Matters

April 7, 2026 - No. 95

## Your weekly music teacher inspiration.



Earlier this year, two parents contacted me about music lessons for their children. They visited my studio. We chatted. They had questions. So did I. After some time, the reassuring look on their faces told me we had arrived at an important commonality. We had zeroed in on something remarkable that would provide momentum and meaning for their boys' music lessons. What was it? What did our conversation reveal? [Click HERE](#) to continue reading.

Here's to impactful conversations,

*Merlin Thompson*

*Creator & Founder of Teach Music 21C*

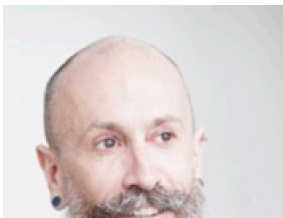
## Podcast Recommendation



### **#85: Real Life Students**

Sandy Chen and Merlin Thompson get personal about what's involved when music teachers work with "real life" students. It's all about helping students become the best of their own brand and explore their own musical identity. [Listen HERE.](#)

## Free Webinar

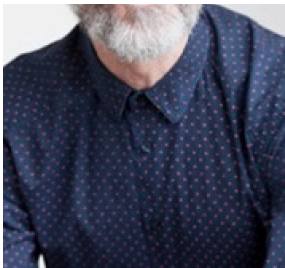


### **"Inspiring Today's Music Students"**

with Dr. Merlin Thompson

generously sponsored by

Long & McQuade



Would you like to inspire **deeper engagement and participation** in music lessons?

Join this session to get an inside look at how music teachers may inspire today's music students in a world of constant distraction and endless choice. Hope to see you there!

**When: Thurs., April 9, 10-11 a.m. MST**

**Where: Online**

[Click HERE to save your spot.](#)

## Best Music Teacher Phrases

Try these "**Instead Of**" strategies to bring clarity and momentum to your teaching.

**1. Instead of** "Make sure you practice these pieces for next week" try "Tell me which selections you'd like to play for enjoyment, distraction, or challenge anytime".

**2. Instead of** "That was a great job" try being more specific with something like "I noticed you kept a steady beat, nailed the ending, and kept your posture".

**3. Instead of** asking "How many days did you practice this week?" try "What do you need help with? What's going well?"

## 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 7:** Presentation for East Carolina University music students.

**April 9:** "Inspiring Today's Music Students." Presentation sponsored by Long & McQuade. [Click HERE](#) to save your spot.

**April 23:** Start date for the Teach Music 21C Spring Cohort. [Click HERE](#) for more information.

**April 30:** Meet With Merlin webinar. [Save your spot HERE.](#)

## Recommended ReVisiting

Here's a post that explores the impact of "peer teaching" - when teachers put students in charge of sharing their musical interests with other students. A super activity for students of all ages and levels.

- How to Integrate Student Peer Teaching in Group Music Lessons. Click [HERE.](#)



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