



Music Teaching Matters

February 24, 2026 - No. 89

Your weekly source for visionary music teaching.



I think it's safe to say that music teachers value the process of asking questions as a great way to build student engagement, independence, and understanding. Asking questions can shift lessons from teacher ownership to student discovery and yet - it's not as simple as all that. Sometimes music teachers might hesitate with asking questions. Not because we don't believe in questions - because we do. [Click HERE](#) to continue reading.

All the best in your teaching,
Merlin Thompson

Creator & Founder of Teach Music 21C

Podcast Recommendation



#80 Music Teacher Studio Policy

Having a Studio Policy can make things much more clear for parents and students. Connie Bell and Merlin Thompson explore various must-haves for studio policy and how to respond to requests for make-up lessons in this informative podcast. [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.

SAA/ASTA Conference



Be sure to check out presentations by Merlin Thompson at this week's SAA/ASTA Conference in San Francisco.

10-11 a.m. Thursday - "Suzuki Piano

Twinkles: A Matter of Evolution"

12:30-1:30 p.m. Friday - "Working With Real Life Families"

Hope to see you there!

Expand Your Suzuki Foundation

Are you ready to deepen your Suzuki teaching?

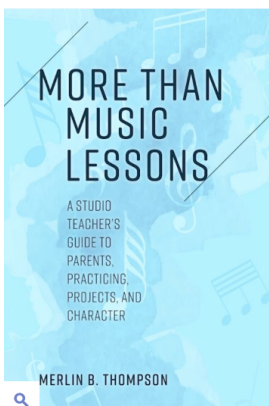
Have you enrolled?

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



More than Music Lessons gets right to the heart of the matter with its twenty-first century instructional philosophy: that teachers build on and exercise what's already there... Music isn't something students explore separately from everything else in their lives. Students' musical development thrives when teachers combine musical knowledge and expertise with the real-life dynamics of students' personal, interpersonal, and

musical lives.

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

Inspiring Music Lessons

What if you only taught **inspiring music lessons** this week?

What would that look like?

Try these tips and see what happens -

1. **Talk about** important things in ways that our students can truly understand.
2. Meet our students where they are and **support them**.
3. **Challenge** our students in explorations they might never find on their own.

This might be the week to move beyond the question: "Did I cover enough material?" Instead, it might be the time to ask: "How can I genuinely help this student explore more of **their musical persona**?"

Upcoming Dates

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

March 16: Start date for Expand Your Suzuki Foundation. Register [HERE](#).

March 17: Presentation for East Carolina University music students.

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!

Follow Teach Music 21C On



Overwhelmed by emails? We understand.

Click here to [Unsubscribe](#). Come back when you can.