

Merlin B. Thompson, Ph.D.

Academic Qualifications

Doctor of Philosophy

Thesis title: *Authenticity, Teaching Relationships, & Suzuki*
Graduate Division of Education Research
Faculty of Education, University of Calgary, Alberta

Maître ès Arts (M.A.) Musicologie

Université de Montréal, Montréal, P.Q.

Bachelor of Music – Piano Performance

University of Regina, Regina, Saskatchewan

Certification

Suzuki Piano Teacher Trainer

Suzuki Association of the Americas

Suzuki Piano Teacher Certificate

Talent Education Institute, Matsumoto, Japan

Awards

2017 Article of the Year – *American Music Teacher*

Nominations

2018 Music Teaching Award, Schulich School of Music, McGill University
2018 Award in Teaching Excellence, Students' Union Association, U of Calgary
2017 Teaching Excellence Award, Werklund School of Education, U of Calgary
2016 Teaching Excellence Award, Werklund School of Education, U of Calgary

Relevant Work History

2018 Winter Instructor – Werklund School of Education, U of Calgary
EDUC 450 – Diversity in Learning, EDUC 556 – Professional Development
B. Education students (3 credits)

2017 Spring Instructor – Schulich School of Music, McGill University
MUPG 475 – *Fundamentals of Vocal and Instrumental Studio Pedagogy*
B. Music students (3 credits)

2017 Winter Instructor – Werklund School of Education, U of Calgary
EDUC 450 – *Diversity in Learning*
B. Education students (3 credits)

2016 Spring Instructor – Schulich School of Music, McGill University
MUPG 475 – *Fundamentals of Vocal and Instrumental Studio Pedagogy*
B. Music students (3 credits)

2016 Winter Instructor – Werklund School of Education, U of Calgary
EDUC 455 – *Professional Development and Lifelong Learning*
B. Education students (3 credits)

- 2012-present Research Associate – Werklund School of Education, U of Calgary
 1986- present Teacher Mentor & Suzuki Piano Master Instructor: Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, and USA
 2001-2004 Instructor, Mount Royal University, Calgary, Alberta
 Taught all courses in an 18-credit two-year piano pedagogy certificate for post-Bachelor of Music students.
 1988-2004 Artistic Director, MRC Suzuki Piano Program, Calgary, Alberta
 Program Director & Teacher of Suzuki Piano students ages 3 to 20

Books

- Thompson, M.B. (2018). *Fundamentals of piano pedagogy: Fuelling authentic student musicians from the beginning*. Springer Briefs.
 Thompson, M.B. (2018). *PLAY & READ*.
 Thompson, M.B. (2018). *What every music teacher needs to know about practising*.
 Thompson, M.B. (2006). *The Five Treasures*. Calgary, AB: Clear Sky Publishing.

Articles: Peer-Reviewed

- Thompson, M.B. (2017). Triggering and holding onto students' interest. *American Music Teacher*, August/September: 26-30.
 Thompson, M.B. (2016). Understanding and nurturing parents. *American Music Teacher*, February/March: 25-29.
 Thompson, M.B. (2016). Authenticity, Shinichi Suzuki, & "Beautiful tone with living soul, please". *Philosophy of Music Education Review*, 24(2): 170-190. DOI: 10.2979/philmusieducrevi.24.2.04.
 Thompson, M.B. (2015). Authenticity in teaching: From narcissism and freedom to the messy interplay of self-exploration and acceptable tension. *Studies in Philosophy and Education*, DOI 10.1007/s11217-015-9459-2.
 Thompson, M.B., Gereluk, D., & Kowch, E. (2016). School identity in the context of Alberta charter schools. *Journal of School Choice*, 10(1), 112-128, DOI: 10.1080/15582159.2015.1132934.

Articles: Non Peer-Reviewed

- Thompson, M.B. (2018). Practical & personal: An inquiry into what teachers do, *American Suzuki Journal*, 46(1).
 Thompson, M.B. (2016). Pictures of Suzuki parents. *American Suzuki Journal*, 44(2).
 Thompson, M.B. (2016). Tone and more tone: Reflections on the Matsumoto talent education institutional theme. *American Suzuki Journal*, 44(1).
 Thompson, M.B. (2015). Peers, tension, and more: Reflections on working with Suzuki parents. *American Suzuki Journal*, 43(2).
 Thompson, M.B. (2015). Going beyond yet through the repertoire. *American Suzuki Journal*, 43(3).
 Thompson, M.B. (2014). "Don't rush, but don't rest": Reflections on Dr. Suzuki's affirmative guidance. *American Suzuki Journal*, 43(1).

Educational Research Conference Presentations: Peer-Reviewed

- Thompson, M.B. (2013). *Authenticity as precursor to freedom*. Victoria, B.C. Canadian Society for the Study of Education. June, 2013.

- Thompson, M.B. (2013). *Suzuki revisited: Authenticity and the implications of music, sound, and tone*. Victoria, B.C. Canadian Society for the Study of Education. June, 2013.
- Thompson, M.B. (2012). *Authenticity and trust: An investigation into the individual's social context*. Manchester, UK. British Educational Research Association Conference. September 2012.
- Thompson, M.B. (2012). *Freedom and authenticity: Emancipation or personal affirmation*. Cadiz, Spain. European Conference on Educational Research. September 2012.

International Presentations, Conferences, Seminars

I have given over 60 presentations in Australia, Japan, New Zealand, and the USA. The following is a partial list of recent international presentations:

- Thompson, M.B. (2010). *Student ownership*. Rotorua, New Zealand: New Zealand Suzuki Institute Teachers' Conference. September 2010.
- Thompson, M.B. (2004). *The inside and outside of Suzuki volume one*. Suzuki Association of the Americas Conference. Minneapolis, MN. May 2004.
- Thompson, M.B. (2002). *Teaching the big picture*. Suzuki Association of the Americas Conference. Minneapolis, MN. May 2002.

Canadian Presentations, Conferences, Seminars

I have given over 100 presentations in Alberta, B.C., Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, and Saskatchewan. The following is a partial list of recent selections:

- Thompson, M.B. (2017). *Suzuki piano teacher course volume 6*. Suzuki Institute Montreal, CEGEP Marie Victorin, Montreal, P.Q. July 23-28.
- Thompson, M.B. (2017) *Suzuki piano teacher course volume 3*. Langley Community Music School, Langley, BC. July 16-20.
- Thompson, M.B. (2016). *Suzuki piano volume 3 teacher course*. Calgary Suzuki Institute, Mount Royal University, Calgary, Alberta. August 8-12.
- Thompson, M.B. (2016) *Communication for studio music teachers*. Langley Community Music School, Langley, BC. July 17-21.
- Thompson, M.B. (2015). *Thank you Suzuki Parents*. Suzuki Association of the Americas blog.
- Thompson, M.B. (2015). *What can parents do?* Southern Ontario Suzuki Institute, Kitchener, Ontario.
- Thompson, M.B. (2014). *When learning involves acceptable tension*. Suzuki Institute Montreal, Concordia University, Montreal, PQ.
- Thompson, M.B., (2014). *Suzuki piano teacher course volume 1 & 2*. Suzuki Institute Montreal, Concordia University, Montreal, PQ.
- Thompson, M.B. (2013) *Getting to the Core of the Suzuki Method*, Suzuki Institute Montreal, Concordia University, Montreal, PQ.
- Thompson, M.B. (2012). *Suzuki piano teacher course volume one*. Suzuki Institute Montreal, Concordia University, Montreal, PQ. July 2012.
- Thompson, M.B. (2012). *Suzuki piano teacher course volume one*. Langley, B.C.: Langley Community Music School. July 2012.
- Thompson, M.B. (2012). *Journaling X 5*. Young Writers Conference, Calgary, Alberta. March, 2012
- Thompson, M.B. (2011). *Suzuki piano teacher course volume two*. Langley, B.C.: Langley Community Music School. July 2011.
- Thompson, M.B. (2011). *Lessons from a Suzuki piano apprenticeship*, Langley, B.C: Langley Community Music School. July 2011.

- Thompson, M.B. (2011). *Suzuki piano teacher course volume three*. Calgary, Alberta. August 2011.
- Thompson, M.B. (2011). *Suzuki piano teacher course volume two*. Langley, B.C.: Langley Community Music School. July 2011.
- Thompson, M.B. (2011). *Servant leadership 101*. Western Canada High School, Calgary, Alberta. February 2011.
- Thompson, M.B. (2010). *Bullies need friends*. Calgary, Alberta: Citizens in Action Conference, Terry Fox School. November 2010.
- Thompson, M.B. (2010). *Suzuki piano teacher course volume one*. Calgary, Alberta: Mount Royal Conservatory. August 2010.
- Thompson, M.B. (2009). *Be who you are*. Calgary, Alberta: Calgary Arts Academy Jr. High. March 2009.
- Thompson, M.B. (2009). *Journaling for change*. Edmonton, Alberta: Live Your Dream Conference, Alberta Child and Youth Services. November 2009.
- Thompson, M.B. (2009). *Parents are pillars*. Langley, B.C.: Langley Community Music School. July 2009.
- Thompson, M.B. (2009). *Suzuki piano practicum*. Langley, B.C.: Langley Community Music School. July 2009.
- Thompson, M.B. (2008). *Telling stories*. Calgary, Alberta: Impact Society Heroes Training. May 2008.
- Thompson, M.B. (2008). *The motivator's mindset*. Calgary, Alberta: Bands of Calgary Leadership Team. October 2008.
- Thompson, M.B. (2008). *Wordapalozza*. Calgary, Alberta: Calgary Arts Academy. February 2008.
- Thompson, M.B. (2005). *How to teach like a musical genius*. Calgary, Alberta: Palliser District Teachers Convention & Calgary Teachers Convention. February 2005.

Scholarships

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| 2012 | Open Doctoral Scholarship, University of Calgary |
| 2012 | Faculty of Graduate Studies Travel Award, University of Calgary |
| 2012 | Faculty of Education Travel Award, University of Calgary |
| 2011 | Faculty of Education Endowment Graduate Scholarship, U of C |
| 2011 | Leadership & Student Engagement Office Bursary, U of C |
| 2008, 2010 | Artist Grants, Alberta Foundation for the Arts |
| 2006 | Artist's Residency, Banff Arts Centre |
| 2005 | Graduate, Leadership Calgary, Calgary |
| 2000 | Kahanoff Academic Grant, Calgary |