

"In all the teacher development courses I have taken with Dr. Thompson, I have left feeling challenged, inspired, and always closer to knowing my own deeper understanding of my teaching style and relationship with my students. In the classes, he posed thoughtful questions and expected us teachers to spend time finding our own answers. He provided clear direction in assignments and was always available for discussion, or to answer questions."

"Merlin is one of the most thorough teachers I have ever encountered. Months before teacher training began, I received a comprehensive course packet to review before classes began. The format included questions that led to a thoughtful examination of the material and inspired me to take my role as a teacher more seriously. During class, he involved each and every student in discussion and performance, and responded to each person's questions and comments with serious thought. He shared his written work freely, often emailing us extra material when we discussed things outside of the Suzuki method. Since our program ended in the summer, he has checked in at least three times to answer questions or discuss my application of newly learned skills to my teaching, and remains available via phone, email or SKYPE."

"Dr. Thompson is an engaging, highly knowledgeable, and inspiring instructor. Each course I took was well structured and covered a wide range of relevant and practical topics. Dr. Thompson demonstrated a strong commitment to meeting the needs of the teacher trainees and was always happy to cover additional topics as they arose. He always addressed our questions thoughtfully and thoroughly. During discussions and presentations, Dr. Thompson continually asked for the input of the teacher trainees, creating a collaborative and enjoyable learning environment. His knowledge about the history of western music education as well as current trends was very thought provoking. He also shared with us a wealth of practical teaching tools gained from years of teaching experience."

"Dr. Thompson has a great depth of knowledge when it comes to piano pedagogy which is rooted in 30+ years of professional experience, the unique mentorship of the legendary Dr. Shinichi Suzuki and Dr. Kataoka, and his own exhaustive research on the subject. This is clearly evident in his teaching, and as his student, I felt I was able to rely completely on his expertise. He engages the members of the class by appealing to each class member's personal experience (from their childhood lessons and teaching experience) and to each person's own ability to think critically. He invites much active discussion, and this highly stimulating exchange forms an elemental part of his approach. The excellent materials that he wrote for the class now form an integral part of my own teaching reference library. The courses that I have taken with Dr. Thompson are the most useful that I have participated in, and I count him as one of my closest mentors. He has influenced and informed my teaching profoundly!"