

Merlin B. Thompson

Academic Qualifications

- **Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)**
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

Website

www.merlinthompson.com

- **Idea of the Month Webinar**
 - January 2022: Gratitude
 - February 2022: Play
- **Music Teacher Professional Development**

Video Series **Fundamental Piano Technique** - available on Youtube

Podcast Series

The Music Educator's Crucible

- #1 A Matter of Chemistry
- #2 Philosophy of Music Teaching
- #3 How to Guide Students' Practicing
- #4 The Versatile Music Teacher
- #5 Life Skills Meet Love of Music
- #6 Technique On A Universal Scale
- #7 A Music Teacher's Testament
- #8 Learning As Living Network

Books

- Thompson, M.B. (2022). *More than music lessons: A studio teacher's guide to parents, practicing, projects, and character*. Rowman & Littlefield.
- Thompson, M.B. (2019). *PLAY & READ: Play what you know and read what you play*. Van Nuys, CA: Alfred Publishing.
- Thompson, M.B. (2018). *Fundamentals of piano pedagogy: Fuelling authentic student musicians from the beginning*. Springer Briefs.

Thompson, M.B. (2006). *The Five Treasures*. Calgary, AB: Clear Sky Publishing.

Articles: Peer-Reviewed

Thompson, M.B. (2019). Everyday musical connections and project-based learning: Bringing together music lessons and students' private musical worlds. *MTNA E-Journal*.

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.

Awards

2017 Article of the Year – *American Music Teacher*

Articles: Non Peer-Reviewed

Thompson, M.B. (2018). Practical & personal: An inquiry into what teachers do, *American Suzuki Journal*, 46(1): 55-60.

Thompson, M.B. (2016). Pictures of Suzuki parents. *American Suzuki Journal*, 44(2): 82-85.

Thompson, M.B. (2016). Tone and more tone: Reflections on the Matsumoto talent education institutional theme. *American Suzuki Journal*, 44(1): 65-68.

Thompson, M.B. (2015). Going beyond yet through the repertoire. *American Suzuki Journal*, 43(3): 59-64.

Thompson, M.B. (2015). Peers, tension, and more: Reflections on working with Suzuki parents. *American Suzuki Journal*, 43(2): 64-66.

Thompson, M.B. (2014). "Don't rush, but don't rest": Reflections on Dr. Suzuki's affirmative guidance. *American Suzuki Journal*, 43(1): 46-48.

Review of Book

Ramsay, L. (2020). Review of play and read: Play what you know and read what you play by Dr. Merlin B. Thompson. *American Suzuki Journal*, 49(1): 19.

Relevant Work History

2022 Music Teacher Professional Development - Foundations course

2022 January Piano & Violin Student Workshop

New Zealand South Island branch

2021 March - November Professional Development Facilitator

Grand Prairie Music Teachers' Association

2020 October - present Mentor and Professional Development Facilitator

Calgary Suzuki Talent Education Society

- 2020 July Online Instructor - Character Development 101
Suzuki Association of the Americas
- 2020 April Keynote Speaker & Suzuki Piano Master Instructor
Australia National Suzuki Teachers' Conference (online)
- 2019 September - October Keynote Speaker & Suzuki Piano Master Instructor
New Zealand Suzuki Teacher Conference October 3-6
Wellington Suzuki Workshop September 28 - October 1
Auckland Suzuki Workshop October 7-9
- 2019 Spring Instructor – Schulich School of Music, McGill University
MUPG 475 – *Fundamentals of Vocal and Instrumental Studio Pedagogy*
B. Music students (3 credits)
- 2019 Winter Instructor – Werklund School of Education, U of Calgary
EDUC 450 – Diversity in Learning, EDUC 556 – Professional Development
B. Education students (3 credits)
- 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)
- 1986- present Teacher Mentor & Suzuki Piano Master Instructor: Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, and USA
- 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
- 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

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.

Judge

2018 Steinway & Sons Piano Competition, Calgary

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

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. (2022). *Enhancing our teaching foundation*. Christ Church, New Zealand.
- Thompson, M.B. (2019). *The versatile Suzuki teacher*. Rotorua, New Zealand: New Zealand Suzuki Institute Teachers' Conference. September 2019.
- Thompson, M.B. (2010). *Student ownership*. Rotorua, New Zealand: New Zealand Suzuki Institute Teachers' Conference. September 2010. 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 |