

# Busy Teens:

## Should They Stay or Should They Go?

Christina Whitlock, M.M., N.C.T.M.

beyondmeasurepodcast@gmail.com

### A Few Core Beliefs:

- There is nothing more powerful than a shared experience
- We must often remind ourselves: The lesson experience is not about us.
- You know a lot about your instrument, and can teach many things, regardless of their practice or choice of materials
- Communication of expectations between parents, students, and teacher is key at this stage
- Teenagers appreciate when you are straight with them
- High School Graduation presents many unique opportunities

### Recommended Reading:

- Under Pressure, by Lisa Damour

### Decisions to be Made:

- What matters most to you about the study of your instrument?
- What systems do you have in place to communicate regularly with parents of teens?
- How can you help a student's transition out of your studio NOT feel like a personal failure?
- Are you teaching how to play repertoire, or how to play this instrument?
- What do you want your legacy as an educator to be?

### Practical Alternatives to **Occasionally** Deviate from the Assign-Practice-Pass-Repeat Cycle:

- Playback patterns and other aural skills training
- Short, nearly-sightreadable repertoire collections
- Program duets with their peers
- Play for them yourself
- Watch/Listen to different interpretations of the literature