

# Guitar! The Practice Show (with THAO NGUYEN)

EPISODE LENGTH: 20:12



**SUMMARY:** It's a very fun guitar-drawing episode, featuring beautiful new intro animation and lyrics to the DrawTogether theme song by Thao Nguyễn! First, we take a field trip to visit musician Thao, where she talks to us about practicing, and teaches us our new song. Then we're joined by six awesome DrawTogether kids: Liam, Octavio, Ohio, Rosa, Sora, and Teddy! Now it's time to *draw*. We shake it out, do a light/dark line warm-up, and draw Thao's guitar "Gibson." We practice

drawing all sorts of lines and then do a show for Suso. The DrawTogether kid chorus joins us as we practice our theme song one more time. Stay until the end: Suso sings along.

**SUPPLIES:** paper, pen/pencil, coloring materials (crayons, markers, watercolors)



**SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING:** the role and importance of practice, patience, self-motivation, and goal setting

**CASEL COMPETENCIES:** self-management

**CREATIVE SKILLS:** fine and gross motor skills, (drawing, coloring), line, light and shadow, exploring and controlling tools.

## Guiding Questions:

- Thao practices her guitar all of the time. What is something you enjoy that you want to practice more often?
- When practicing gets hard, we sometimes feel like giving up. What can we do to keep going and develop a "growth mindset"?
- Describe a time when you kept trying to do something that was hard? How did it feel?

## Key Moments:

**00:00** Notice anything new? It's the first episode with the new DrawTogether intro and theme song!

**2:03** Thao Nguyễn joins from "out there!" Wendy asks what pronoun she prefers, and then they talk about what it's like to be a real deal rock star, and how much she had to practice guitar as a little kid.

**5:00** Thao, Wendy, and DrawTogether kids sing the new theme song.

**6:12** Do a quick scribble warmup, and then get started on drawing Gibson, Thao's guitar.

**13:32** Consider how the light creates shadow on a stage, and add a shadow to your drawing. Then start coloring, add people, and create a special background for your guitar.

**19:15** DrawTogether theme song reprise!



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(continued)



## Book recommendations:

- ***Drum Dream Girl: How One Girl's Courage Changed Music*** — words by Margarita Engle, pictures by Rafael López  
*A tale about Millo Castro Zaldarriaga, a Chinese-African-Cuban girl in 1930s Cuba who overcame many challenges to become a world-renowned drummer. An enchanting account of pursuing dreams, advocating for what we want, and committing to what we love to do.*
- ***The Listening Walk*** — words by Paul Showers, pictures by Alike  
*Listening walks are amazing ways to observe the world around us and use different senses, especially our ears. What music and sounds do you hear around you?*
- ***The Magical Yet*** — words by Angela DiTerlizzi, pictures by Lorena Álvarez  
*A beautifully-illustrated book about growth mindset and persisting even when you are frustrated about what you cannot do...yet. It's super relatable and, while geared for younger kids, contains a message all of us need to hear again and again throughout our lives.*

## Older Kid Riff: Practice Makes...?

Let's dig into something called "deliberate practice." This is when you intentionally spend time practicing a skill so that you can improve, whether playing an instrument or a sport, writing poetry or drawing alligators, learning algebra or doing magic tricks. Even becoming a better friend! What do you want to learn to do better? Once you pick something, choose one specific aspect of that activity or skill (dribbling a ball, a certain dance move, etc). Then, practice it! Make a practice journal and note down what you practiced and for how long each day. Practice with a friend or family member or teacher and ask them for feedback. Reflect on what you have learned and how you have grown each week. Keep doing this for a few weeks (or a month or more) and note your



improvements in your practice journal. Does deliberate practice make us better at things?

For more on the learning zone, practice, and growth mindset, check out **HOW TO GET BETTER AT THE THINGS YOU CARE ABOUT BY EDUARDO BRICEÑO** (TED Talk)

## Activities and Explorations



**PODCAST CONNECTION: WHAT DOES SOUND LOOK LIKE?** with special guest Colin Meloy is the most wonderful multi-sensory multi-material drawing activity. (page 72)

**INTERLUDE: DRAWTOGETHER THEME SONG LYRICS**

**SPECIAL GUEST:** learn more about Thao Nguyen

**CLASSROOM POSTER:** Practice by Julia Rothman



# The DRAWTOGETHER Song

I was **LOOKING**  
I was **SEARCHING**  
for my **PAPER,**  
**PAINTS** and **PENS.**

And then **I SAW YOU,**  
and now **YOU SEE ME.**

Now **WE** are  
**DRAWTOGETHER**  
**FRIENDS!**

lyrics by  
by Thao Nguyen



## Learn More About Thao Nguyen



## A note from WendyMac:

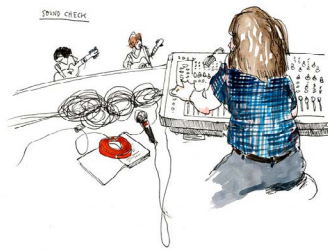
Thao and I first met over ten years ago when I joined her on tour to create a drawn story about the life of independent musicians. I spent four days following them around 24/7, drawing everything they did. Not only performing and practicing, but driving in the van, hauling equipment, stretching at rest stops, eating road snacks, checking into hotels at 3 a.m. I turned it into a little zine called “Meanwhile, Musicians in Their Own Words.”



WITH AN OLD FRIEND.

TAKE ALL THE EQUIPMENT OUT OF THE VAN.  
LOAD UP SOME PLACE.  
SOMETIMES PEOPLE ARE THERE + HAPPY TO HELP.  
SOMETIMES NOT.

ONE TWENTY AT THE REAR



STAND CHECK



GET FOOD AT THE NEAREST CO-OP.

While drawing on tour is different than what we do in DrawTogether, there is much that is the same. We explore. We look. We draw. We appreciate. During DrawTogether, we are making things to learn, to create, and to connect. I am proud that Thao and I have continued to make art through many ups and downs. She is an inspiration to me and a dear friend and I feel honored to continue our collaboration.

## Three questions for Thao Nguyen:

**What did you want to be when you grew up?**

“I didn’t know then what a multi-hyphenate was, but I wanted to simultaneously be an actor, writer and musician.”

**If you could draw anything that would become magically real, what would it be?**

“I would draw a machine that immediately delivered my mom’s cooking to me as soon as I craved it.”

**What is the one piece of advice you’d like to give to DrawTogether kids?**

“Your ideas are very good; do not pass them up for someone else’s.”



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