

WORKING WITH LYRICS AND VOCALS

"We've used a human voice as a synthesizer...it sounds weird, it sounds off, it sounds unconventional, it sounds great."

—Armin van Buuren

SUBCHAPTERS

- Don't Be Afraid of Lyrics
- Trust Your First Idea
- Create Your Own Vocal Samples: "I Live For That Energy"
- Manipulating a Vocal Sample: "Be in the Moment"

CHAPTER REVIEW

Audiences love lyrics. Even in mostly instrumental music like trance, the right words can add a layer of emotion that makes a song unforgettable. Even if you've never worked with words and lyrics before, that shouldn't stop you from experimenting. Armin isn't a native English speaker, but he put pen to paper and wrote the rap for "You Are," as well as a trance music preach for "I Live for That Energy," which was based on "My House" by Chuck Roberts. Listen to what you've produced, let it lead you to an emotion, and then the words will come.

Creating your own vocal samples can also be a great way to add excitement to your tracks. It also saves you from having to worry about the legal implications of sampling someone else's work.

LEARN MORE

- Armin says the chorus of "Sunny Days" reminded him of "Lovely Day" by Bill Withers. You can listen to that track [here](#). Do you hear any similarities?
- The rap for "I Live for That Energy" was inspired by Chuck Roberts's "My House." Listen to the a cappella [here](#).
- Armin highly recommends the Alchemy Synth which is now a part of Logic Pro. Alchemy coupled with the [ArtsAcoustic Reverb](#) created the unconventional sound in the intro of "Be in the Moment."

ASSIGNMENT

- Experiment with lyrics for at least one of your tracks-in-progress. If you're intimidated by the writing process, remember ABBA's approach to lyrics—they ad-libbed gibberish melodies then wrote lyrics to fit. You can take this approach, but remember to save your first idea and come back to it periodically.