



MASTERCLASS

ARMIN VAN BUUREN

TEACHES DANCE MUSIC

A LETTER FROM **ARMIN VAN BUUREN**

I strongly believe there is a hit record in every human being. That is because I believe we're all unique—no other human being is the same as you. That's why there will be no second Einstein, Mozart, or Nelson Mandela. When I started as a music producer in 1991, I had my doubts. There was a lot of passion for music in my family, but my grandfather wasn't Beethoven. And I didn't have any big success with my tracks until 2013 when I released "This Is What It Feels Like." So it took me 22 years to get from buying my first synthesizer to my first Grammy nomination! Believe me, a lot of music producers get there faster! I made a lot of records that didn't do anything in the charts. I've been praised and criticized. My point is that I never gave up and I kept following my heart and my passion.

This is my MasterClass. It's the first time I share a lot of my techniques and "secrets." It's my approach on making dance music and being a DJ. Learn and use whatever you like but realize: your path is unique. You are your own sound. Listen to that inner voice and you can get there! Good luck!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Armin', with a stylized flourish at the end.



ABOUT

ARMIN VAN BUUREN

Armin van Buuren is a dance music DJ, record producer, remixer, and label owner from the Netherlands. Throughout his career, Armin has won 12 DJ Awards, 27 International Dance Music Awards, and has been named the number one DJ by *DJ Mag* five times, four times in a row. Armin became the fourth trance artist to receive a Grammy nomination for his 2014 single “This Is What It Feels Like” featuring Trevor Guthrie.

Armin’s passion for music began at a young age. He used money from his paper route to buy records and a sampler. Soon he was making mixtapes for all his friends. The joy he found in making music for others has persisted through a 25-year career. Armin has performed at some of the world’s biggest and best festivals, clubs, events, and shows. He has performed for the newly crowned king and queen of the Netherlands, and he became the first solo dance artist to play Madison Square Garden, an event which sold out in under an hour.

In 2001, Armin aired the first episode of his radio show, *A State of Trance*. In the years since, ASOT has amassed a following of over 41 million listeners and is broadcast to over 100 FM stations with fans from over 84 countries. In this weekly two-hour show, Armin presents the biggest tunes of the moment and provides an interactive way for fans to discover new music. In 2017, Armin opened a brand-new radio studio in the Armada Music headquarters in Amsterdam, from which the *A State Of Trance* episodes are broadcast live.

Armin’s label, Armada Music (five-time consecutive winner of the International Dance Music Award for Best Global Record Label), is home to more than 40 sub-labels and releases productions by some of the industry’s biggest names and rising talents. Within the 14 years of its existence, Armada Music has become one of the most musically diverse record labels in electronic music, with over 80 employees contributing to its enormous growth. In 2017, Armada Music was voted #7 in *Mixmag*’s “Label Of The Decade” poll.

Armin’s loyalty to fans, creativity and collaboration in the studio, and dedication to the craft of dance music continue to make him one of the world’s top DJs and producers 25 years into his career.



INTRODUCTION

ABOUT THIS WORKBOOK

The MasterClass team has created this workbook as a supplement to Armin's class. In each chapter you'll find a review of Armin's video lesson, explanations of key concepts, opportunities to learn more, and assignments to test your skills. We have also included a Fundamentals Guide for you to reference basic terminology, equipment, and a list of tracks Armin will use throughout the class.

MASTERCLASS COMMUNITY

Throughout, we'll encourage you to discuss elements of the class and your work with your classmates in [The Hub](#). You can also connect with your peers in the discussion section beneath each lesson video.

YOUR CLASS PROJECT

Armin believes to be a great DJ today, you must create your own tracks. Throughout the class you will be asked to apply his advice, techniques, and best practices to your own original tracks. We recommend you create at least three tracks that demonstrate your growing skills. After you've chosen your best work, create a three-track EP you can submit to your favorite record label.

IN THE STUDIO WITH ARMIN

Armin and his producing partner, Benno de Goeij, collaborated on an original instrumental trance track for this MasterClass. We have divided their process into eight In the Studio chapters throughout the class. You'll get a chance to watch Armin's creative process, unfiltered and in realtime. It'll also be a chance to see some of the key concepts from Armin's lessons put to practical use. As you watch Armin and Benno producing, take notes, try to re-create some of the things they do in your home studio, and ask yourself, Why did they make that decision? Or, What would I have done differently?

If you have questions, either ask your peers in [The Hub](#), or ask Armin on Twitter using #AVBMasterClass.