

PRODUCER's BIO BJ BAARTMANS

Dutch multi talented musician/producer BJ Baartmans was born in 1965.

In the early 80's, as he began writing and performing his songs, he also developed a strong desire to record and capture this original music on tape. Armed with two cassette decks, a hi-fi and a radio shack microphone the possibilities to overdub guitar, vocal or drum parts to a simple song form opened up a fascinating world of sound for him.

With his finger nail, he would tap out bass parts on the neck pickup of his Japanese Strat with all the treble rolled off, or construct rhythm parts with his mom's frying pans (great cowbellsound) and salt shakers (shake it baby!), playing the part on one speaker, while recording a new instrument on the other. School days were soon to end....

Within a couple of years he managed to get his hands on a real Tascam four track cassette recorder, making man and machine a perfect match. Soon he added a budget Lexicon reverb and a real AKG mike and an endless stream of home made demos, with wild sound experiments and freaky little guitar symphonies began to appear.

In the meantime, gigging, rehearsing and writing turned his love of rock, jazz, folk and blues music into a real job, with recording being still mostly a side project. But more and more, musician friends would ask BJ to help them make demos or self-released tapes.

The art of production slowly revealed itself, as he learned to make better use of microphones and studio equipment and the manipulation sound. By 1993 his small, but musician friendly home studio contained a budget 16/8 Soundcraft board, an 8 track Tascam 38, a collection of inexpensive, but solid working microphones, plus a few funky effect units, in tandem with his growing stash of stringed instruments. Some of BJ's recordings began to make their way onto real albums and not just as bonus tracks.



BJ Baartmans has not yet become a high profile commercial record producer. But then, it has never been his intention. To try and combine it with an average of 100 concerts a year as a singer/songwriter/guitarplayer, would be a tall order, but not impossible.

Nevertheless, his productions, or albums he's participated on as a session player, have found their way around the world, via retail and radio. Reaching music fans of Americana, blues and folk music alike. His work is naturally crafted, well recorded and tastefully mixed, ask any of his clients!. Baartmans has the character and ability to coach a great performance out of any player or singer.

In 2001 he began recording in an old rented farmhouse, just outside the town of Venlo. Occasionally assisted by sound wunderkind/engineer and co-studio owner Leon Bartels. That 'home studio' set-up was soon upgraded and some very cool production jobs began to appear, providing for a couple of additional great tube mics, some classy preamps and the much needed high end outboard gear. The farm's huge loft turned out to be a beautifully sounding room and the easy country vibe of the location made for a very inspiring recording environment. Musicians loved it the minute they walked in.



Right there, at Leon's Farm, but also in other well equipped studio's there have been quite a few well-known musicians in front of a microphone with BJ behind the desk. His production skills, often combined with his outstanding playing, can be found on recordings by folk rock icon Iain Matthews, British song writing collective Plainsong, New York singer/songwriter Eugene Ruffolo, Canadian singer songwriter Shannon Lyon, Nashville's Billie Joyce, and Irish mandolin virtuoso Ray Barron. Coupled with a list of some of the finest established Dutch musicians and bands, such as JW Roy , Arno Adams, Frans Pollux, Bart de Win, BJ also somehow manages to find the time to record and coach new promising acts like Johnny Blackthorn White, Etan Huijs, Clean Pete, David Savage just to name a few.

And then there's BJ's own music ofcourse, as his playing and writing is still the fuel behind it all... And his love for genuine instruments, vintage or new, electrified or acoustic. BJ has maybe never been much of an authority on equipment, but knows more than a thing or two about microphones, preamps and compressors and in the meantime he has build up a pretty decent collection. Added to that there's all kinds of stringed instruments, keyboards and drums at hand where BJ's working right now, all in good working order and usually very appealing to who ever drops by. Since 2008 BJ's working mostly in his small homestudio, Studio Wild Verband. An incredibly busy schedule so far failed to quieten a very creative soul..



A PEEK INTO STUDIO WILD VERBAND

RECORDING TOOLS

recording system:

Steinberg Cubase Pro 8 (or optional Nuendo 3) multi track Windows7 PC set up: 24 bit/48 khz (opt 96 hz), 16 x in/out

Converters: RME ADI8 dd (2x), RME HDSPe Ray Dat

Plug ins: Nuendo UAD ultra DSP (ao Pullman EQ, SSL busscompressor, Neve 1073 EQ, UREI 1176, LA 2A, EMT Plate 140, UA dreamverb, Fairchild)

Optional recording gear: Yamaha AW 4416 multi track 24 bit/48 khz HD recorder (great location recorder incl. 2 x SPX 900 effects unit)

play back system:

Tannoy 600 active system

EV nearfields

AER AS 281 small active PA system

Beyer, Sony & AKG headsets

microphones:

Neumann M 147 tube, KMS 105

Gonzo Audio U 67 style custom handbuild tubemicrophone (2x, matched)

Octava MK 012/3 diff. capsules (2x, matched), ML 53 Ribbon (2x, matched)

AKG D112, D 14, C 535 (2x), C 3000, C 1000 S, C 451 (omni), 330 BT, 214 (stereo set)

Electrovoice RM20, RE50

Shure SM 57 (3x), SM 58 (4x)

Beyer and AKG handheld vocal mics

Sennheiser 441 (2x), E906 (2x), 855

Aphex Acoustic Exciter & Behringer active DI boxes

Optional: Neumann KM 184, AKG 414



pre amps:

Universal Audio 110 single channel

Universal Audio 4110 four channel

Universal Audio 610 (tube) single channel

TL Audio C1 tube compressor/pre amp, 2 channel

Mackie 1202 VLZ Pro mixer, 4 channel

Yamaha 4 channel mixer

ART dual pre tube

Focusrite Platinum Voicemaster preamp/comp/eq, single channel strip

Joe Meek VC3 preamp/comp/eq, single channel strip

Line6 Bass POD

outboard compressors:

Roger Mayer RM58 handbuild compressorlimiters (2)

2 x Burnie stereo compressor/limiter (Drawner solid state replica)

outboard effects:

Lexicon LXP 1 reverb

Line 6 DDL 4 delayunit

Fender '70's tube reverb unit (2x)

Various (vintage) guitar effects



backline:

Sonor '70's drums (k,t,fl), Premier snaredrum, Paiste cymbals

keys:

Fender Rhodes Mark I 73 , Yamaha Upright Piano, Hammond B3 organ plus Lesley 122 tubeamp
Optional: Steinway babygrand (provided by Jan Huibers from Piano Technica, Beegden)

guitar amps:

Fender Champ (Harvard '58 model), Fender '62 Brown Deluxe, Fender '72 Princeton, Fender Custom Shop Vibroking, Fender Pro Junior, Fender Rumble 30 watt bassamp, Fender Vibroking 2x12" speakercab Marshall JTM 45 2x12" Celestion greenbacks, VOX Nighttrain 50 2x12" speakercab Celestion ,VOX pathfinder 15, Music Man HD 130, Matchless Tornado 15 watt, Silvertone '62 Amp in Case, Pignose, Lab L2 100 watt Bass Amp & 15" Celestion

stompboxes:

BQ Music Klon copy, Roger Mayer voodoo fuzz and univibe pedals, Boss Blues Driver, Boss DDL 4, Boss Compressor, Boss Chorus, MXR Dynacomp Compressor, Ibanez TS 9, Carl Martin Tremolo/vibe, Dunlop Cry Baby, Fulltone OCD, Xcotic RC Booster, Behringer vintage Phaser, Ernie Ball volume pedal, MXR carbon copy, EH Memory man deluxe, Small Stone Phaser, Ibanez WH 10 Wah, Carl Martin Wah Wah, Line 6 Verbzilla

things with strings:

Various Fender Stratocasters, Fender Jazzmaster, Custom build Telecaster, London City Telecaster (nashville setup), St.Blues 61 South, Gretsch 5122 DC with TV Jones PU's, Tokai Firebird, Hanson Chicagno, Cole Clark Lapsteel, Gibson Les Paul Standard, Gibson Les Paul DC, Gibson Melody Maker, Gibson SG, Yamaha SA 2100, Eastwood Classic 12, Duesenberg Starplayer, K.Yairi steelstring, K Yairi F-hole Jazzbox, Collings OM 1, Danelectro DANO '59, Danelectro baritone longhorn guitar, Seagull S6, Silvertone '62, Shergold Masquerador, SMOJO cigarbox guitar, Collings MT and Kentucky 600 Mandolins, Trinity College Bouzouki, Gold Tone Banjo, Regal Resonator tri cone, Aria Classical Guitar, Klein ¾ Classical Guitar, Cordoba Ukelele, Epiphone Beatle bass, Tom Launhardt Jazz Bass, Sitar

