

Bio Tom Baartmans

I was born in 1997 in Boxmeer, the Netherlands, and grew up in a musical family. My father, BJ Baartmans, is a guitarist and producer, so music was always a big part of my life. When I was eleven, I heard *Another One Bites the Dust* by Queen — that's when I fell in love with the bass guitar. I soon picked up the guitar as well. After some practice and playing in cover bands with friends, I realized I wanted to turn my passion into a profession.

After high school, I took a gap year and traveled to the United States. That experience inspired me to audition for the Herman Brood Academy, where I started studying in the summer of 2016. During my time there, I met a lot of new people and got involved in various projects — including becoming the regular bassist for Laura Sjin.

In 2017, I started playing with American singer-songwriter Levi Parham. I've since toured with him in Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden, and Norway.

In 2019, I graduated from the Herman Brood Academy and enrolled in the Rockacademie in Tilburg for my bachelor's degree in music. In 2020, I started working with Dutch singer-songwriter Banner, recording an album at Wisseloord Studios in Hilversum. That same year, I joined the party band PROOST!, where I played until the end of 2023.

As of 2024, I'm the bassist and music director for *The Unplugged Experience* — a special tribute to the iconic MTV Unplugged sessions of the '80s and '90s. Alongside this project, I play with a variety of original artists and work as a session musician, both live and in the studio.



Artists and bands I've worked with (live and/or in the studio) include:

- XXJULIA
- Ellece
- Ruby Mus
- Mus Damé
- Jayah
- Banner
- BJ Baartmans
- The Unplugged Experience
- Hermes House Band Int.
- PROOST!
- Prezz