

# AMORPHOUS

# BASSNECTAR

Bassnectar is one of the longest standing and most respected artists in American electronic dance music. He is the original long hair behind the tables, having been in the game well before most of his contemporaries and amassing an epic fan base and having sold over 160,000 tickets to his solo shows alone in 2013. His art brazenly oversteps the bounds of contemporary EDM, pulling from a dynamic array of source material and attracting lovers of all genres, from dubstep to metal, punk rock, hip hop, and all forms of EDM (drum & bass, trip hop, etc) and beyond. His art is more than just an auditory experience; it serves to evoke all human senses with live shows that feature unparalleled light shows and awe-inspiring visual queues. Bassnectar intends to not only foster its own community of loyal Bass Heads, but also contribute to the global community at large through charity and social change by giving one dollar from every ticket sold to a non-profit, as part of his “Dollar Per Bass Head” Program

Bassnectar is the brainchild of Lorin Ashton, a San Francisco-based DJ, producer and artist. Lorin, who released his first album in 2001, began the project as an open-sourced musical experiment exploring the interplay between music and community. His music fuses everything into an electro-synthesis of intense basslines and hypnotic soundscapes. Coming from a background in death metal, Ashton was not intent on approaching EDM from a traditional standpoint and it was a very natural and unique progression. It is this openness to exploring new ways of creating dance music that has attracted droves of loyal fans to Bassnectar’s recordings and live performances. Being purposely limitless, Bassnectar is as diverse as it is heavy, as raw as it is meticulous, and as fierce as it is imaginary. This explorative take on music led to a deep involvement in the death metal scene of the nineties. Ashton started a band called Pale Existence and began playing and promoting underground shows.

In 1995 Ashton went to his first rave and was instantaneously switched on to electronic music and its culture. In the following years, he became exceedingly more involved in the scene, promoting shows, distributing food and assistance to concertgoers, buying records and eventually learning to DJ after studying electronic music production. Lorin equated the turntables to drumming and could match beats immediately in an almost savant-like way. He started to throw parties in venues ranging from dorm buildings and warehouses to beaches and artichoke fields, where he spun psychedelic trance (which was most similar to his familiar death metal in his opinion). As he entered college, Ashton began to

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refine his skills as a producer, splicing up a wide array of music and experimenting with old school synthesizers. Taking cues from his metal background, Ashton decidedly kept all of his musical workings strictly underground, a sentiment that he has continued to foster throughout his career. As time progressed Lorin garnered more and more notoriety and started to play larger parties, first in the Bay Area and then eventually nationally and internationally. All this hype led to appearances at large scale festivals in the early 2000s, including Burning Man and Shambala. Always a very hands-on artist, Ashton climbed the rungs of the EDM ladder on his own, starting proudly from his own unique standpoint.

Ashton went on to found and be the head-producer of Amorphous Music and has utilized his label as a launching pad for a series of groundbreaking releases, including 2010's *Wildstyle*, 2011's *Divergent Spectrum* (reached #3 on the main iTunes chart as well as #1 on the electronic chart for months) and 2012's *Vava Voom* featuring the self titled single featuring Lupe Fiasco. Through his self-run Bassnectar Labs studio, he has collaborated with the likes of KRS-One, Perry Farrell, Gogol Bordello, Fever Ray, Spearhead and STS9, and has worked on remix projects with the likes of esteemed producers Z-trip, Diplo, BT, 6Bloc, DJ Vadim, and RJD2. In particular, his remix of Ellie Goulding's "Lights" was a major hit (was in the top 10 on iTunes Electronic chart for 28 weeks straight and at #1 for 12 weeks) and helped to expand his fan base into the global realm of indie-pop lovers.

Bassnectar's 2012 Album *Vava Voom* has been critically acclaimed by the likes of Rolling Stone, Spin, The New Yorker, NPR and many others. It was followed by a sold out North American tour that brought 80,000 attendees to solo shows in just under three weeks, plus two sold out nights at Denver's Red Rocks Amphitheatre (10,000 cap). The fall of 2012 saw the release of the *Freestyle EP* and *Mixtape* which teamed Ashton up with acclaimed artists such as Angel Haze, Mimi Page and DC Breaks while in the midst of his fall tour. In 2013 Ashton also sold out his third consecutive New Years Eve show at Nashville's Bridgestone Arena bringing his year end ticket count to just over 160,000.

In 2014, Bassnectar shows no signs of slowing down. On June 24, he will release his follow-up record, *Noise vs Beauty*, with features from Rye Rye, Fashawn & Zion I, and Donnis among others. Lorin will also kick off the summer with two sold out shows at Red Rocks, his fourth sold-out appearance in as many years. Additionally he will play headlining sets at Tomorrowland, The Hudson Project, North Coast Music Festival, TomorrowWorld, EDC New York and Paradiso Festival, among others.

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Bassnectar is particularly infamous for incomparably raucous live shows that feature state of the art lightshows and enough bass to work crowds into palpable frenzies. His performances are so successful and sought out that in 2011 he made the top 3 hard ticket sales along with fellow EDM artists Deadmau5 and Tiesto. The Bassnectar tour, which travels with its own custom sound rig, has headlined stops at some of the most noted venues and festivals in the country and always attracts massive sold-out crowds, some numbering over 10,000 for non-festival solo show dates. In addition to celebrated sets at Coachella, Lollapalooza, ACL, Bonnaroo, Hang Out, HARD and Ultra Music Festival, Ashton has inaugurated his own daylong extravaganza for EDM lovers of all ages. Dubbed the Bass Center has featured the likes of Zedd, A-Trak, Glitch Mob, Wolfgang Gartner, and Big Gigantic.