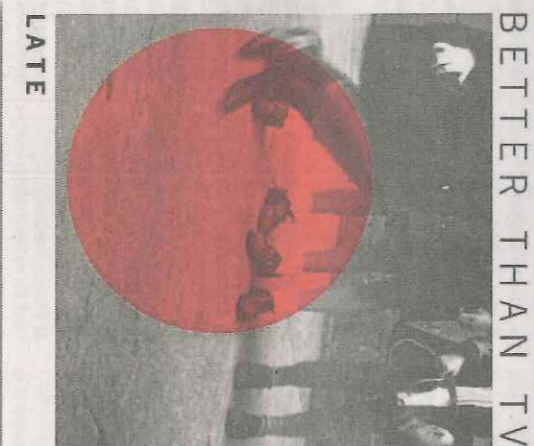


Better Than TV

the music



LATE

Jazz @ John's, St John's College, November 6, Jazz at the Bar, Churchill College, November 24 (tbc) and Anchor Pub (as part of the Cambridge Jazz Festival), November 29.
betterthantv.co.uk
[facebook.com/betterthantv](https://www.facebook.com/betterthantv)
open.spotify.com/album/2r1W2EWpNSfKdNYZgGHCf



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Want your band to be featured? [Get in touch](#)

Sergio Contrino of Better Than TV describes their jazzy, bop-based sound, tells us about their most popular songs, and explains why it's great being a musician in Cambridge.

1: How long has the band been together?

We have been playing occasional gigs and functions since 2010, but we had the first real gig with our own compositions and in this set up at Clare Jazz, a very atmospheric club at Clare College in 2011, more than four years ago!

2: Describe your sound/style in a nutshell

We have never thought much about this, but we have been described as 'post-bop', 'Mingus-ish, bop related', with a strong bop sensibility, so it must have something to do with bop!

3 members: what do they do and what are they like?

The line-up of the band evolves with time as a good number of us are students that then move away, and we enjoy collaborating with other musicians.

David is a multi-instrumentalist who plays piano but is mostly known as a drummer. Louis is a very talented trumpeter from Manchester, who this year will finish a degree in physics; Joe plays drums, and is starting a masters.

Simon plays trombone and works in the science park. Gavin plays trumpet and works as a surgeon. Alastair often plays sax with us and is a researcher.

Many others have played in the band during the years, and remain close to us: we should mention at least Ed, drummer, and Tom, trombone, who both played on our first CD, *Late*. Lastly, my name is Sergio, I play the bass and composed the songs on *Late*.

4: Why the name?
Because we hope that listening

to our music is better than watching telly!

5: What is the best thing, and from Cambridge?

The best thing is the musicians: there are really good ones and the student population is full of fresh ideas and talents. The drawback is that Cambridge is relatively small with fewer opportunities to play live gigs.

6: What's your best song?
Judging by downloads and online plays the most popular are *1,000 And One* and *Standing With Sally*. Personally I like *Morse* and *FEAB*.

7: A dream collaboration would be...?

Cassandra Wilson? Paolo Fresu? Plan B? George Ezra? Trinity College choir?

8: If you could nominate one band to re-form, who would it be?

We are great fans of EST, but unfortunately ES died, so it is unlikely...

9: If you had to cover one song, what would it be; if you could pick any band or artist to cover one of your songs

We like doing covers from EST, but I think the one we enjoy most is *Black Bats And Poles*, a tune by Jack Walrath. He is a trumpeter who played with Mingus. You usually hear it at our gigs. And I like DM Smith, a singer from New York. I think we will try to cover his song *To Hold Back*. For the second part of the question, we would love Led Zeppelin to play *Standing With Sally*!

10: Can you suggest another local band or artist that we should feature on this page?
Gesualdo Six

behind the scenes

exhibition of music images displayed at the Corn Exchange back here in Cambridge (he's been an in-house photographer there since 2011). So if you've been at a show there and spotted some of his brilliant shots adorning the walls in the St John's Bar, you'll understand just why he's so highly rated.
danielackerley.co.uk



PHOTO FINISH: Daniel Ackerley and, inset, one of his pictures of Frank Turner



Daniel Ackerley: Music photographer

CAMBRIDGESHIRE-based photographer Daniel Ackerley is literally shooting the stars.

His brilliant music photography takes in both the kind of artfully-posed band shots that, somehow, don't end up **LOOKING** artfully posed and some of the most high-octane, make-you-wish-you-were-there live gig pics.

Having built up his reputation and career since starting out in 2007, when he would at first offer local

promoters free photos in return for access to shows, he has now had his pictures published in Europe and the US, in respected music publications like *Kerrang!*, *Total Guitar* and *Rock Sound*.

He's shot everyone from Metallica to the Manics, Iggy Pop to Stereophonics, and 'hard-partying' Andrew WK liked his pictures so much he used one of them on the poster for his latest tour. Daniel has also had his own