



TARRASKA Full Biography

Tarraska are a new hard rock band from the south coast of England. The core of the band gigged acoustically from 2014 and steadily wrote and played their original material. This included hundreds of performances at a multitude of venues and a major festival appearance. As they started recording in 2019, the tracks demanded a heavier sound and TARRASKA was born.

Their original electro/acoustic duo was formed in May 2014 by lifelong friends Ben Parker (29, Lead Guitar) and Jack Lande (26, Vocals and Guitar).

They had a serendipitous start, coming about as a bit of an accident. Ben was the guitarist in a jazz combo with a gig booked at a prestigious venue in Sandbanks, Dorset. When the female singer pulled out at short notice, he asked his friend of 18 years, Jack to step in and learn 30 jazz standards in 2 weeks! Jack was more than happy to help his mate out and they quickly re-designed the whole set to suit Jack's voice and their acoustic duo was born.

From 2014 they played sets of mostly crowd-pleasing covers, spanning a range of genres. Their popularity got them invited to play at better venues and to make live appearances on local radio, requiring them to write and perform original songs. They began the writing process in 2016 and immediately realised that their influences (and therefore their own music) directly mirrored their shared musical history and tastes of hard, heavy, classic and modern rock. One song was even finished in the back of the car as they parked for a local radio show!

In 2016 they started gigging originals separately from their covers circuit. As an acoustic/electric duo they played at a number of local music 'institutions' like Chaplins (Boscombe), Lighthouse (Poole), Railway Inn (Winchester), The Festival Sessions (Southsea) all resulting in festival appearances including 2019's Victorious Festival (which won U.K.'s Major Festival of the Year award) on the same bill as Fun Lovin' Criminals and others.

By the end of 2019 they had played more than 300 gigs in all manner of venues - pubs, clubs, restaurants, festivals and at private events.

Tarraska's musical style is a blend of classic and modern hard rock, focusing on heavy riffs with accessible melodies and lyrics. Ben's lead guitar and solos have been described as 'sublime' and Jack's rhythm guitar as displaying a 'deep musicality and pinpoint timing'. Jack is also an enigmatic frontman with a voice that people actually stop to listen to.

Their influences are wide-ranging and include Alter Bridge, Slash, Metallica, Iron Maiden, Foo Fighters, Van Halen, Tremonti, FFDP, Guns N Roses and a multitude of others.

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Tarraska's vision as a band is to blend their disparate musical influences in their debut album (preceded by a number of singles) and bring their music to the amazing rock audiences and community, hopefully leading to tours in Europe and beyond.

Tarraska's 2019 plan was to independently release a series of singles, followed by a debut album, but COVID lockdown hampered that process. 'Trailblazer', their debut single was recorded pre-lockdown and then mixed, mastered and released during the initial pandemic. The recording of the subsequent tracks had to be put on hold until August 2020.

Tarraska eventually got back in the studio and released their second single, 'Renegade' on December 12th 2020.

The second U.K. national lockdown again put their ongoing recording process on hold until 2021 when Tarraska were able to re-enter the studio with a new drummer, Allan Varnfield. December 2021 saw the release of the third Tarraska single, 'Prose', to critical acclaim. Recording is also well underway for the rest of the debut album, which is due for completion and release in 2022.

2022 will also see Tarraska take to the stage as a 4 piece band with Allan Varnfield on drums and Oliver Lande on bass.

Gigs and appearances will be announced in short order through their website and social media channels.

BENJAMIN JAMES PARKER

Ben's earliest musical memories are of his grandfather's Neil Diamond obsession and his dad's techno and trance tunes.

He started playing guitar when he was 13, mainly loving and learning rock. Once he won battle of the bands at school he started taking music seriously and progressed into more technical rock and metal. He then started taking his Rock School grades and eventually received a distinction at Grade 8.

Ben remembers the first album he ever bought with his own money (accompanied by Jack) was a copy of 'Hybrid Theory' by Linkin Park just before he entered his teens.

Following school, Ben attended Southampton Solent University to study Music Performance. It was here that he discovered John Mayer and fell in love with the blues and many other musical styles. Working with brilliant tutors he then went on to learn jazz, mastered the blues and soon his days of playing only heavy metal began to fade.

He then became the guitarist with the band Into The Falls, supporting bands like Room 94, shooting music videos and learning valuable skills in music technology and sound recording. Ben then joined post hardcore band Saint The Sinner, gigging with them in London and supporting Romeo Must Die and Funeral For A Friend. Despite being signed to a UK label, Ben realised this particular music wasn't for him and parted ways with them.

Ben subsequently moved back to Bournemouth and started studying Popular Music at Bournemouth & Poole College. During this time he played with solo artists who were signed to AM Management in Ferndown, Dorset.

In 2013 he started playing gypsy jazz with his tutor Paul Stevenson.

Ben is influenced by all genres of music from classical to metal and loves playing, experimenting musically and constantly pushing his limits. Whilst gigging with Jack, Ben rediscovered his hard rock 'heart' and his heavy riffing and technical shredding now drive the Tarraska sound.

He is also a serious gear and guitar-a-holic!

JACK FRANCIS DANIEL LANDE

Jack started playing guitar at age 10 whilst living in Scotland, with much help from his first tutor Gavin Dixon.

His first public performance was at age 11 in a primary school production of the Sound Of Music as Captain Von Trapp - both singing and playing acoustic guitar as a soloist.

He (along with his younger brother) was always playing and singing at all manner of family functions, spurred on by their mum, who was an accomplished singer herself.

On returning to Bournemouth and joining Ballard School, Jack quickly secured the lead role in Oliver the musical at age 13. He then went on to play main cast roles in Joseph and His Technicolour Dreamcoat and The Boyfriend and culminated his Ballard performing arts journey playing Danny Zuko in Grease with great aplomb in 2012.

During this time at Ballard Jack took peripatetic guitar lessons and performed many times as both a soloist and in collaborations on guitar and vocals, eventually gaining an A* in Music and an A in Performing Arts at GCSE level. His Ballard guitar teacher, Jonny Hepbir brought him on immensely and broadened his repertoire from mainly rock beginnings.

Also during this time Jack was put forward by the Ballard performing arts department for a casting session for an independent British feature film. He made the final shortlist, but the movie is still to be made.

On leaving Ballard at age 16 Jack gained a place at Bournemouth School to study A-Levels. During the following two years he didn't formally study music in any way but continued to play at family events in a number of leading Bournemouth hotels.

Jack then achieved a BSc in Music & Sound Production from Bournemouth University, studying from 2015-2018, whilst gigging with Ben in their acoustic duo.

Jack has known Ben from the day he was born, as their mums have been best friends since their own school days, and Ben was with Jack when he discovered his first taste-defining album 'One Day Remains' by Alter Bridge in 2005.

Allan Varnfield

Allan began playing a little later than most musicians; at the tender age of 14. It was clear from his very first drum lesson the career choice he was going to make. Everything else in life took a back seat to his first beloved drum set, a royal blue 70's Beverley and the decision was made to pursue a life in music. Just 2 years later Allan had his place assured at the prestigious music college, The Academy of Contemporary Music. 3 years later Allan had graduated with an HND and BA Honours degree in Contemporary Music Performance and was ready to take on the world!

Fast forward more than a decade and Allan has forged a strong career as a performer, session musician and teacher. During this time Allan has had the immense honour of working with some incredible musicians and producers along the way, such as Louis Delort (The Voice, France), Alex Hedley (Saturday Sun), The Nordic Giants and John Cornfield (Muse, Oasis) to name but a few.

As a session musician Allan had the honour of playing on the 'Band of Sisters' album project with famed songwriter David Mindel alongside such names as American Soul legend PP Arnold and Jamie Moses (Tom Jones, Queen).

Allan recorded and performed original music with The Longest Day, before joining The Story Of The Guitar Heroes as their touring drummer.

Oliver 'Ollins' Lande

Oliver was born in Ayrshire, Scotland in 2000. He started singing as soon as he could talk and was putting on little 'concerts' for family and friends with his brother Jack before even starting school. He first picked up a guitar (his older brother's ½ sized acoustic) at the age of 8. This guitar was eventually signed for Oliver by Scottish singer Paolo Nutini on stage at a sound check for one of Paolo's sold out shows on his second UK tour, giving Oliver a glimpse of what a professional musician's life looks like.

Oliver released his first original single at age 14 with the full album dropping on his 16th birthday. He went on to complete a BTEC level 3 in Songwriting and Musical Performance at the Bournemouth Academy of Modern Music. Although his solo music is of a different genre, he brings a multi-instrumentalist wealth of recording and gigging experience to Tarraska adding a certain crunch and groove to their low end. Playing bass in a heavy rock band marks a new chapter in Oliver's musical journeys.

TRAILBLAZER

'Trailblazer'; Tarraska's first single, was released on all digital formats on May 6th 2020. Since release, 'Trailblazer' has had 500+ radio airplays in the U.K., U.S., Canada, Spain, South Africa, South America and beyond, been on TV and has had an organic reach of over 60k in 50+ countries, with positive reviews. In Dec 2020 'Trailblazer' was voted as one of the 'greatest hits of 2020' by listeners and DJs at independent music radio station, Radio Wigwam.



'Trailblazer' was written by Jack Lande and Ben Parker of Tarraska.

It was recorded and mixed at Absolute Studios and GMMix both in Bournemouth by Gareth Matthews and produced by Gareth Matthews and TARRASKA. Mastering was completed by Grant Berry at Fader Mastering, Manchester.

Appearing on the track are Jack Lande (all vocals, rhythm guitar, acoustic guitar, bass guitar), Ben Parker (lead guitar, rhythm guitar and bass guitar) and Shaun Brown (drums).

'Trailblazer' draws inspiration from a wide range of musically disparate sources, resulting in a classic hard rock sound that, hopefully, is also listenable. The lyrics detail the struggles of a trailblazer who is outcast and looked down upon for their unorthodoxy, loosely based on the life of Ian 'Lemmy' Kilmister.

'Trailblazer' encapsulates Tarraska's identity and best represents the sound of the album to come.

RENEGADE

Tarraska's follow up single 'Renegade' was released on December 12th 2020. Despite the holiday season and a subsequent U.K. national lockdown, 'Renegade' has had more positive reviews, radio airplay in 4 continents and continues to gain more fans and admirers throughout the rock world.



'Renegade' was written by Jack Lande and Ben Parker of Tarraska.

It was recorded and mixed at Absolute Studios and GMMix both in Bournemouth by Gareth Matthews and produced by Gareth Matthews and TARRASKA. Mastering was completed by Grant Berry at Fader Mastering, Manchester.

Appearing on the track are Jack Lande (all vocals, rhythm guitar, acoustic guitar), Ben Parker (lead guitar, rhythm guitar and bass guitar) and Shaun Brown (drums).

Commenting on 'Renegade', Jack says: ***"For me, Renegade is our most ambitious and musically expansive track to date, incorporating so much of the music we love and outlining what we want the band to become in the future. As for the song itself, the lyric tries to capture the intense and confusing emotions felt when caught up in a whirlwind love that, whilst genuine, may have or lead to destructive consequences."***

PROSE

Tarraska re-emerged from the studio with their third single 'Prose' taken from the forthcoming debut album. Following on from their first two energetic and attention-getting singles in 2020, the choice of 'fan favourite' 'Prose' was the obvious choice for their next release. 'Prose' was always a reflective moment in their sets with its lilting lullaby-like qualities and waltz rhythm. This emotive ballad regularly elicited a passionate response from listeners, with requests for videos and the lyrics of the song commonplace.



Tarraska decided to record 'Prose' with their full rock sound and the resultant track is arguably one of their best yet.

'Prose' was recorded and mixed at Absolute Studios, Bournemouth by Gareth Matthews of GMMix and mastered by Grammy Award winning Brad Blackwood at Euphonic Masters, Memphis TN.

'Prose' was released on December 3rd, 2022 and has already secured hundreds of radio plays on a multitude of channels and shows across 4 continents.

All things Tarraska (website, socials, music links) can be found here: <https://www.linktr.ee/tarraska>

Please contact Tarraska via email at Tarraska@aol.com



