



# Eurovision

Composer of the Week





The Eurovision Song Contest will take place in Liverpool on Saturday 13th May, 2023.





37 countries will take part in this year's competition, which will be held at the Liverpool Arena.



The **set** (the staging) was revealed recently by King Charles III and the Queen.

It has been designed on the principles of '**togetherness, celebration and community**'.

Each country will perform on the same stage, which will change slightly for each act.

It consists of 220 square metres of independently moving and turning video screens, as well as over 700 video floor tiles and more than 1500 metres of LED lights.





The first competition was held in Lugano, Switzerland in 1956.

7 countries took part and sang 2 songs each – the only time this has happened.

The winning song, **Refrain**, was sung by **Lys Assia** from Switzerland.



The competition was developed after World War 2 to promote cooperation between European countries and broadcasters.

It was used as an experiment in live television and a way to produce cheaper programmes for the national television companies.

The Eurovision Song Contest is the longest-running annual international televised music competition and one of the world's longest-running television programmes.

Since 1958, it has been traditional for the winning country to host the following year's competition.

In 2022, the **Kalush Orchestra** from Ukraine won the competition but, due to the Russian invasion of their country, it became impossible for this to happen. Since **Sam Ryder** from the UK came second, it was decided that the competition should be hosted by Liverpool, on behalf of Ukraine.





Some famous Liverpool performers are supporting Ukraine.

Do you remember the name of this famous group?

They are wearing traditional Ukrainian shirts called **Vyshyvanka**. The embroidered shirts are traditionally worn on Vyshyvanka Day.



**The  
Beatles**

52 countries have participated at least once. Ireland have won the most times – seven.

Ireland is the only country to have won on three successive occasions in 1992, 1993 and 1994.

The Irish singer, **Johnny Logan** is the only performer to have won twice, (1980 - **What's Another Year** and 1987- **Hold Me Now**) he also wrote the winning song in 1992.

The first Irish winner was **Dana** in 1970. The song - **All Kinds of Everything**, became a world-wide hit.

Dana used her fame to become a politician and was a member of the European Parliament.





In the 1960's there were between 16-18 countries participating every year but, as more nations joined, it became necessary to have semi-finals.

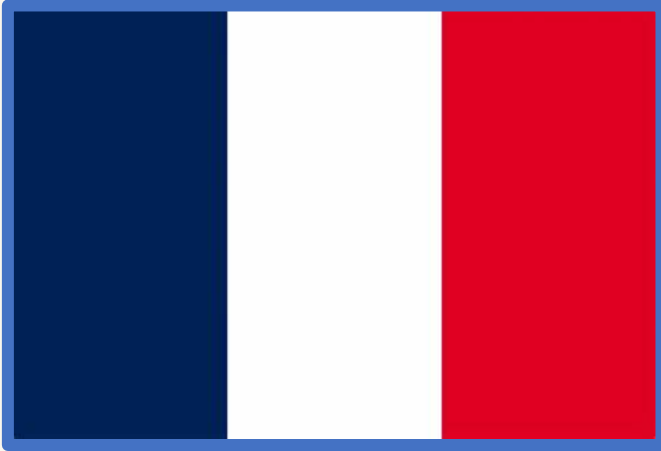
The big-five countries, who have always contributed the most money to fund the competition, get automatic entry to the final.

The host nation also gets through to the final.

The semi-finals are held on Tuesday and Thursday and the Grand Final on Saturday.



The Big Five Countries are:



France



Germany



Italy



Spain



















UK



## SEMI-FINAL 1

	Croatia		Azerbaijan
	Ireland		Czech Republic
	Latvia		Finland
	Malta		Israel
	Norway		Moldova
	Portugal		Netherlands
	Serbia		Sweden
			Switzerland

## SEMI-FINAL 2

	Armenia		Albania
	Belgium		Australia
	Cyprus		Austria
	Denmark		Georgia
	Estonia		Lithuania
	Greece		Poland
	Iceland		San Marino
	Romania		Slovenia

10 countries from each of the two Semi-finals will qualify for the Grand Final that will feature a total of 26 countries: 10 from Semi-final 1, 10 from Semi-final 2, Big-5 and Ukraine.

The Eurovision Song Contest is watched by approximately 180 million people every year. Due to this the songs need to be popular in many different countries that have very different tastes in music. This means that, over the years, there have been many songs which are quite simple in structure, often just **verse** and **chorus** and some using very few words.

Listen to **La, la, la**, performed by the Spanish singer **Massiel**, when she won the 1968 contest, held in London.





Another way to make songs popular in many countries is by having memorable costumes and performances. The first UK winner was **Sandie Shaw**, in 1967 singing '**Puppet On A String**', but she is remembered by many people for singing the song barefoot (without any shoes)! This was the last time the contest was broadcast in black and white.





Performances have changed quite a lot over the years. Listen to **Give That Wolf a Banana** sung by **Subwoolfer** from Norway in 2022.





When the contest was held in Birmingham in 1998 the winner was **Dana International** (**Sharon Cohen**) from Israel, singing the song **Diva**.

She became the first transgender singer to win the competition.

Dana was born a boy but is now female.





Many singers have become internationally famous after appearing at Eurovision.

When the contest was held in Brighton in 1974, the winners were, a little-known group from Sweden with their song '**Waterloo**'.

**ABBA** went on to become one of the most famous groups in history, selling over 380 million albums and singles.





After all the finalists have performed their songs, people from all participating countries are asked to vote by telephone, text or the Eurovision app.

You are not able to vote for your own country.

This public vote makes up 50% of the marks. The other 50% is made up by the marks of each country's professional jury.

## The Eurovision Trophy



A stylized illustration of a tree with a brown trunk and branches. The branches are filled with various musical notes, clefs, and instruments like trumpets and harps in different colors (blue, green, yellow, red). The entire scene is set against a light beige background.

While all these votes are being counted there is an interval act, sometimes by a big star like **Madonna** or **Mika**.

At other times there have been presentations about the history and culture of the host nation.



In 1994 when the contest took place in Dublin, Ireland, the interval act was **Riverdance**.

It was a presentation of **Irish Folk music** and dance and has been widely recognized as one of the best interval acts in Eurovision history.

The 7 minute dance was turned into a stage show and dancer **Michael Flatley** became a superstar .

Since then, the show has visited 450 venues worldwide and been seen by over 25 million people.





One of the most Memorable performances was that of **Conchita Wurst** when she won the competition in Denmark in 1994.

Notice how dramatic the performance is, even though Conchita hardly moves at all.

The performer, Thomas Neuwirth uses the stage name Conchita. Conchita is an Austrian drag queen – a female character noted for her beard.

Her song, **Rise Like a Phoenix**, tells us that, like a phoenix, we can overcome anything.





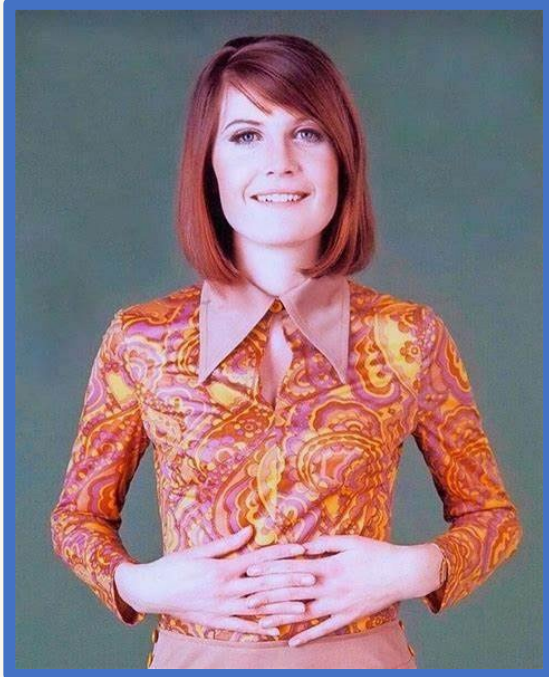
The UK holds the record for the longest run of consecutive appearances in the Grand Final, 59 times in a row.

The UK has come second 15 times.

The UK also holds the record for most Top 10 (41) and Top 5 placings (29) over the years.

The UK has won the Eurovision Song Contest on five occasions.

The winners were:



**Sandie Shaw –**  
**Puppet On A**  
**String (1967)**



**Lulu –**  
**Boom**  
**Bang A**  
**Bang**  
**(1969)**



**Brotherhood of**  
**Man – Save Your**  
**Kisses For Me**  
**(1976)**





**Bucks Fizz – Making Your Mind Up (1981)**



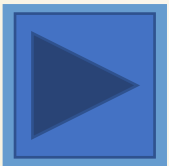
**Katrina and the Waves – Love Shine A Light (1997)**

**Bucks Fizz** also produced a memorable performance – watch out for the skirts!

The song **changes key** for each verse – the **pitch** moves up.



In a recent poll of people's favourite UK Eurovision songs, **Making Your Mind Up** came second. Surprisingly, the top song was not one of the winning songs at all. It was **Space Man**, sung by **Sam Ryder**, who came second in 2022.





The artist representing the UK in Liverpool in 2023 will be **Mae Muller** singing **I Wrote A Song**.



**GOOD LUCK  
MAE!**