

Vision

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Sonia's Special



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Edlines

Bournemouth, Copenhagen, Hasselt ... it's certainly been an exciting autumn for the Eurovision enthusiast, and as the cold winter nights take hold what better opportunity to snuggle up with your favourite contest songs and start preparing for the warmer temperatures of Athens in just a few months!

Incredibly this is Vision's fourth artist special and this time we take a look at Sonia, as well as including many of our regular features. It's even more incredible to realise that it is now 10 years since I was appointed Editor, and so I would like to thank you all for your support during the last decade.

Here's to the future we now share together ... and a very Happy New Year too.

Gordon Lewis

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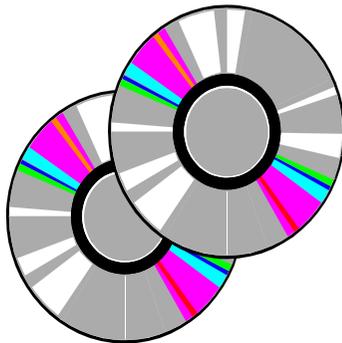
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Beautiful Bournemouth



As the warmth of an October sun bathed the golden sands of Bournemouth beach, Eurovision fans from across the United Kingdom began to descend on the seaside town's popular cabaret restaurant Rubyz. Taking advantage of a tourist destination, several delegates had already spent one night at the Manchester Hotel, while others chose to arrive during the Saturday morning in time for a welcoming cup of coffee.

For many the annual convention had commenced a few weeks earlier when voting commenced in OGAE UK's own "Congratulations" show. Ten songs were chosen in advance by those who took part, while delegates were given the opportunity to vote on a further 14 songs from which four wildcard entries were selected.

Once all songs were known convention organiser Paul Marks-Jones, ably assisted by Andrew Moffatt, introduced each participating video in turn and, with the aid of a large screen, those present cheered, clapped and sang as they remembered songs from the past and present prior to voting for their individual top 10.

As each vote was announced the leader board initially registered high levels of support for "Let's Get Happy"

and "Diva", but by the midway point "Waterloo" and "Love Shine A Light" started to pull away with both neck and neck after the penultimate vote had been confirmed. When the final set of votes were announced everyone thought that the United Kingdom's last winner had won, but "Apres Toi" stole an unexpected victory by taking the lead at the very last moment. A nail biting finish and 'congratulations' to Paul and Andrew for devising such a contest one week ahead of the official show in Copenhagen.

After lunch the day continued with Marcus Keppel-Palmer's annual quiz which sought to confuse and confound once again. In preference to the individual responses of previous years, Marcus divided those assembled into teams of four allowing everyone the chance of winning as part of a joint effort. Having found their way through the maze of song clips, photographs and trivia the four winners were confirmed as Jeremy Hands, Wayne Holden, Michelle-Louise Lewis and John Lysons, with each receiving a free subscription to Vision.

The quiz was followed by a viewing of Sonia's 1993 Song for Europe and her eight potential Eurovision entries. Although everyone knew that "Better The Devil You Know" had been the viewers' choice, it was clear that this was not necessarily the right song for Eurovision. In particular "So Much Of Your Love" was identified as the winner that never was, and even Niamh Kavanagh has been quoted as saying that "In Your Eyes" would have come second had Sonia been given the opportunity to sing a different song.

Following a rest break delegates reconvened at Rubyz early in the evening for the second part of the first day, and "Stars In Their Eurovision Eyes" has never had such a flamboyant

host than Dame Kitty Glitter, the Queen of Rubyz if not Bournemouth itself! With subtle suggestive humour each act was introduced by the glamorous lady herself, beginning with Andrew Moffatt and his near accurate interpretation of "Love Me Tonight" complete with costume changes! Andy Owens followed this with his own rendition of "Volare" from the early days of Eurovision.

Paul Marks-Jones then performed the classy ballad "Je N'ai Que Mon Ame" ahead of Gary Garland's performance of "Dan Najlepsih Sanj". An intruder then appeared in the form of David Onion who provided his own unique take on Melodifestival's Shirley Clamp and "Att Alska Dig". Returning to a Eurovision theme, Paul was joined by Wayne Holden for "Straight Or Curly Hair", this being the English version of the 1981 Danish entry, while David Blunt encouraged everyone to come closer for the final song "Boom Bang-a-Bang".



Non-participants were then given the opportunity to cast their votes while Dame Kitty provided an unexpected interval act of Frank Sinatra songs. Jurors were invited to announce their top three, with "Love Me Tonight" taking an early lead that was sustained throughout. It was therefore appropriate that Andrew aka Angelica was presented with his winning trophy by Kitty, pictured opposite, before a reprise that was even more enthusiastic than the first performance.

Following an amazing meal created from only the finest and freshest ingredients – Rubyz is an award winning restaurant – Dame Kitty returned once again, this time accompanied by special guest and chart topping singer, Sonia. After performing her Eurovision entry, Sonia spent nearly 30 minutes answering questions, signing autographs and posing for photographs before being whisked away as quickly as she had arrived.

Delegates also had to leave the restaurant, taking the short walk to Rubyz 2 where a private Eurovision aka Melodifestival disco awaited ahead of the popular nightclub opening its doors to the general public and a further appearance by Sonia. Dressed in pink the Liverpool songstress performed four numbers, including "I'll Never Stop You Loving Me" and "Hopelessly Devoted To You", but after just 15 minutes many were left disappointed that the show did not continue.

As always Sunday dawned far too quickly for many people, but a further disappointment awaited those who had hoped to extend their Eurovision collection at the annual record fair; the main stallholder having been unexpectedly prevented from reaching Bournemouth. However, there were still a few items to be purchased

alongside the annual raffle, but the variety of things on offer this year was a shadow of previous conventions.

The other morning activity, originally planned to form a backdrop for the fair, was the viewing of a montage of video clips spanning 50 years of Eurovision. Although some would have preferred each song in its entirety, the compilation brought back many memories of the world's biggest live music event, prior to the showing of selected Israeli entries over lunch. It was then time for delegates to start making their respective journeys home, amid affectionate hugs, tearful goodbyes and a realisation that the weekend had drawn to a close once again. But it was not really the end; merely another beginning as, aided by Bosnia's 2005 video, those present promised to "Call Me" and each other while lighting "50 candles on the party cakes". See you next time!



Sonia speaks to her assembled fans at the OGAE UK Convention 2005

Congratulations – OGAE Style – The Results!

<i>Song</i>	<i>Performer</i>	<i>Points</i>	<i>Position</i>
"Hallelujah"	Milk & Honey	150	7 th
"Eres Tu"	Mocedades	122	12 th
"Un Banc, Un Arbre, Une Rue"	Severine	49	8 th
"Waterloo"	ABBA	197	3 rd
"Ein Bisschen Frieden"	Nicole	138	10 th
"Det Lige Det"	Hot Eyes	101	13 th
"Tu Te Reconnaîtras" *	Anne-Marie David	178	5 th
"Après Toi"	Vicky Leandros	203	1 st
"Gente Di Mare"	Umberto Tozzi & Raf	89	14 th
"Lane Moje"	Zeljko Joksimovic	181	4 th
"Diva" *	Dana International	129	11 th
"La Det Swinge" *	Bobbysocks	165	6 th
"Let's Get Happy" *	Lou	144	9 th
"Love Shine A Light"	Katrina & the Waves	200	2 nd

* *wildcard entries*

Congratulations Europe



Although the build up to the 50th anniversary show in Copenhagen was on a much smaller scale to that which is now common place at the actual contest, there was little doubt that Eurovision fever had descended on the Danish capital during the second half of October 2005. With welcoming signs at the city's international airport, Frederiksberg Town Hall also hosted a welcome party at which hosts Katrina Leskanich and Reynars Kauper joined forces with Copenhagen's mayor and the Olsen Brothers to greet a small group of journalists ... and several hundred more people invited from the general public!

Later that Friday evening Eurovision fans descended on a private club for their own celebration of 50 years and, courtesy of OGAE Denmark, an amazing six hour party crammed with the best songs that the contest can offer. The organisers had also arranged several celebrity appearances, beginning with 1986 winner, Sandra Kim, who performed a new and rockier version of "J'aime La Vie". Anne-Cathrine Herdorf followed

with "En Lille Melodi" from 1987, before Russian singer and OGAE Song Contest winner, Varvara, performed songs from her latest album "Grezy".

Then, to everyone's delight, Sertab Erener arrived to perform "Everyway That I Can" to the enthusiastic crown. Shortly after her departure Emilija Kovic, former lead singer of Riva, took the stage for two songs, one of which was the 1989 winner "Rock Me". Two more live appearances would follow, including Nicole & Hugo with "Baby Baby" and Fabrizio Faniello who performed a set that included his latest single, "Bye Baby Bye Bye", as well as his Eurovision entry "Another Summer Night". And after all the stars had left, the fans continued dancing until the early hours of Saturday morning, paving the way for what would unfold on the following evening.

While most of the audience dutifully queued outside the Forum, red carpets and limousines welcomed a host of celebrities from the world of politics, music and, of course, Eurovision itself. On entering the arena seats were quickly filled, but one area was clearly reserved for those who, at some point during the last half century, had represented their country in the festival of song. As performers past and present arrived they were greeted by shouts and cheers, but none as great as that reserved for Brotherhood of Man and delivered by a rather loud army of British fans! Lee, Nicky, Sandra and Martin all responded with a similar enthusiasm, and Lee has since informed Vision that the reception they received on taking their seats was one of the highlights of their time in Copenhagen!

As expected the live broadcast commenced with the familiar sound of "Te Deum", the Eurovision theme tune, ahead of Sir Cliff Richard in a video

broadcast recalling his own "Congratulations" before clips of each of the participating 14 songs were shown. It was then time for the orchestra, reinstated especially for the anniversary show, to accompany the assembled dancers and four piece Eurovision choir in a medley of past hits, before Katrina came onto stage singing "Love Shine A Light" surrounded by the flags of Europe. After her own introductions she welcomed co-host, Reynars Kaupers, and the chemistry instantly flowed between them and the excited audience. The choir were also introduced as Eimear Quinn, Linda Martin, Charlie McGettigan and Jacob Sveistrup.

expertly delivered throughout the evening.

Another video broadcast from Sir Cliff welcomed Massiel who entered the stage to introduce the first of Johnny Logan's two winners, "What's Another Year". Katrina and Reynars then re-appeared prior to the sounds of "Diva" filling the arena. Part way through the song the dancers opened up a feathered walkway revealing Dana International herself, and to audience applause she continued the performance in person before joining the two hosts in introducing "Eres Tu". This amazing song was to conclude with possibly the most emotional moment in the show when Amaya, José and Carlos from the original Mecedades were led onto the stage by three of the dancers to take what became an extended standing ovation. Amaya, who had postponed a knee operation to be in Copenhagen, was visibly moved as she wiped the tears from eyes. A moment for her and everyone to treasure for ever.

Video clips of some of the stranger stage performances then followed, culminating with the 1957 kiss that caused public outcry at the time between Gustav Winckler and Birthe Wilke. Reynars suggested that he and Katrina recreate the moment and, as their lips were about to meet, Birthe herself stole the show and the kiss! The next person to appear on stage was Anne-Marie David, who went on to introduce Germany's only winner to date, Nicole. Unfortunately the singer was not present, but the dance routine to "Ein Bisschen Frieden" included several white guitars for peace, before a recorded message from Nicole was shown on the large screen.

From one young winner to the youngest winner! Sandra Kim was welcomed to the stage ahead of song six, "Nel Blu



Co-hosts Reynars and Katrina

Carola was then welcomed to the stage and, after a brief resume of her own career, the Swedish songstress introduced Sir Cliff Richard and his 1968 entry, "Congratulations". Sir Cliff was unable to be in Denmark, but the audience enthusiastically sang along while watching a recording of his original performance. The dancers, who would perform alongside 13 of the 14 songs, were also fascinating to watch with some amazing routines

Dipinto Di Blu”, and a vintage video presentation from Domenico Modugno. The two hosts then greeted Bobbysocks and, after a brief conversation about Norwegian success, Norway introduced their neighbours from Sweden, but sadly only a 1974 video appearance from ABBA and their winning song, “Waterloo”. The halfway point of the 14 songs was then marked by something unexpected, and certainly different, when Finland were recognised as the longest competing country without a win ... and Huutajat, a Finnish shouting choir, were ANGRY! Let’s hope they don’t get asked to represent their home nation!

Fortunately the audience were far from angry in welcoming local boys, the Olsen Brothers, and “Fly On the Wings of Love”, with the shouts and cheers becoming ecstatic as the two Danes appeared live on stage to introduce Emilija Kovic who, in turn, introduced France Gall’s video performance of “Poupee De Cire, Poupee De Son”. The next winner to appear was Marie Myriam who had been given the task of introducing Sertab Erener with “Everyway That I Can”, and Turkey’s only winner so far was enthusiastically greeted when she appeared during the song. Afterwards Sertab introduced “Ne Partez Pas San Moi” but, like ABBA, there was not even a video message from Celine Dion to celebrate the last Swiss winner and international superstar.

With three songs left to go, Johnny Logan’s second winning entry, “Hold Me Now”, was accompanied by his first live appearance on the anniversary stage. After another video interlude of Eurovision dance moments, Cheryl Baker arrived to introduce Brotherhood of Man and “Save Your Kisses For Me”. The British fans on the front two rows went absolutely crazy, and the cheers

became deafening as the four group members took their place on stage. The BBC may have chosen to ignore the show, but those who had travelled from the United Kingdom for the live event certainly made their presence known!



Katrina and Reynars then introduced a very special guest who was none other than Lys Assia, the winner of the first Eurovision Song Contest in 1956 pictured above. 79 years young, Lys was escorted onto the stage in front of a standing ovation. She recalled her own experience of winning 50 years ago, before adding the emotive and heartfelt words that “many things have changed in the last 50 years, but the main thing is we are still together ... we are still together”. It also provided a link between the past and the present, for Lys introduced the latest winner, Helena Paparizou, who gave a live performance of “My Number One”, ably assisted by her four dancers and, of course, Alex Panayi on backing vocals.

14 songs had been seen and heard, and it was now time for the hosts to continue the voting procedure. But while people voted and votes were counted the audience were treated to a host of Eurovision delights, beginning with the most memorable interval act of all time, "Riverdance". A medley of past songs performed by Eurovision stars then followed, with appearances from Dana International who sang "Parlez Vous Francais?", Carola with "Främling", "Solo" from Alsou, Fabrizio Faniello with "Another Summer Night", "L'amour Est Bleu" performed by Marie Myriam, Richard Herrey with his version of "Let Me Be The One" and, to conclude this section, "Vi Maler Byen Rød" hastily delivered by Tomas Thordarson, replacing Birthe Kjaer who had been rushed to hospital a few days before the show with a heart condition. Johnny Logan then took the stage once again to perform his new single, "When A Woman Loves A Man". Although some were critical of this non-Eurovision song being included, the King of Eurovision cannot be denied such promotion having been involved with a record three winning songs during the last five decades. Next it was time to reveal the results of the first round of voting, and the five songs that would proceed to the second round were confirmed as "Nel Blu Dipinto Di Blu", "Save Your Kisses For Me", "Waterloo", "My Number One" and "Hold Me Now". As the second part of the voting procedure commenced a further medley, this time of Eurovision winners, was offered to the audience beginning with Gali Atari who performed "Hallelujah". She was followed by Bobbysocks and "La Det Swinge" before Anne-Marie David sang "Apres Toi", having replaced Vicky Leandros who withdrew from making a personal

appearance in Copenhagen. Next came Lys Assia and, of course, the very first winner "Refrain". Not wishing to perform live, Lys successfully mimed to a recent re-recording of her song. Sandra Kim then re-appeared with her version of "Non Ho L'eta" before Cheryl Baker, Mike Nolan and Shelley Preston, representing Bucks Fizz, concluded with "Making Your Mind Up".



Baby Baby!

Voting over, there was still time for one surprise performance from a Eurovision duo who had been featured several times in the video clips that had interspersed the show. Complete with purple jumpsuits, Nicole & Hugo appeared on stage for a resounding chorus of "Baby Baby". They were followed by former presenter and ex-Boyzone member, Ronan Keating, who performed "Life Is A Rollercoaster". Although this song didn't seem to fit the overall Eurovision theme, Ronan's appearance certainly made some female members in the audience very happy. While the votes were being counted and checked it was left to the Eurovision choir to provide one final medley of past songs, beginning with Eimear Quinn and "The Voice" after what appeared to be a false start.

Jacob Svestrup joined Charlie McGettigan on "Rock'n'Roll Kids" before singing his own recent entry, "Talking To You". Linda Martin then performed "Why Me?" before the Olsen Brothers arrived once again, this time with a new version of their 2001 hit "Walk Right Back". Adapting the words to suit a 50th anniversary theme, Eimear, Linda, Charlie and Jacob joined them in singing "walk right back and be the guest, at this Eurovision Song Contest".

It was finally time for Katrina and Reynars to announce the top three songs and the overall winner of 50 Eurovision years. And to the sound of a Moldavian grandmother beating her drum, third place was awarded to Johnny Logan and "Hold Me Now". Second place went to "Nel Blu Dipinto Di Blu" originally performed by Domenico Modugno and, as many had confidently predicted, ABBA were declared the all time Eurovision favourite with "Waterloo". But in the absence of Benny, Bjorn, Agnetha or Anni-Frid it was left to an unknown representative of Universal Records to receive the prize on their behalf. For some it was an anti-climax to a great show, until all participants took to the stage for the winning video reprise and the continuation of an amazing Euro-party.

A few days later in a Stockholm hotel Benny and Bjorn privately received the "Congratulations" trophy but, if newspaper reports are to be believed, it would seem that the ABBA guys at least have finally consigned "Waterloo" to the 'history book on the shelf'. If true, perhaps it would have been more appropriate for one of the other 13 songs to have taken the prize, especially if performed by those who had personally travelled to Denmark to take part in this 50th birthday

celebration. And yet the first Swedish winner is probably the most well known Eurovision entry of all time and, as a song, deserving of the prize.



Benny & Bjorn receive the Congratulations trophy in a private ceremony

As the audience began to leave the Forum, some of the stars from the show including many past winners mingled with those who had patiently waited to glimpse some familiar faces. Eimear Quinn had been pleased to see so many British and Irish flags in the audience, while Linda Martin recalled her visit to the OGAE UK Convention back in 1998. Reynars Kauper was happy to re-acquaint himself with Vision, the only fan magazine to openly support BrainStorm ahead of the 2000 contest, while Editor Gordon Lewis was treated to a special acappella version of "Lykken Er ..." from Hanne Krogh. "It's been years since I sang that song" she told him, "and tonight I sing it for you!" There can be no denying that "Congratulations" as a live show had worked and had been a great success for the Danish organisers. But those watching on the small screen and subsequent recordings were a little disappointed. At times the broadcast seemed to be disjointed, especially during links to and from the various

video clips. It was also difficult for viewers to fully appreciate the amazing dancing which, on television at least, was mixed with the original performance videos. With hindsight, though, this represents the enormity of presenting 50 years of Eurovision in a three hour show and it is difficult to see how this concept could have been improved. Congratulations are therefore offered to Denmark and, perhaps more importantly, the Eurovision Song Contest itself!

Congratulations - The Official Results

The European Broadcasting Union have confirmed the results for "Congratulations" as follows, but have so far failed to release the positions achieved by the top five during the first round. 31 countries took part in both rounds of televoting and the full results can be accessed at www.eurovision.tv

First Round

	"Nel Blu Dipinto Di Blu"	Qualified
	"Save Your Kisses For Me"	Qualified
	"Waterloo"	Qualified
	"My Number One"	Qualified
	"Hold Me Now"	Qualified
6 th	"Fly On The Wings Of Love"	111 points
7 th	"Ein Bisschen Frieden"	106 points
8 th	"Congratulations"	105 points
9 th	"Everyway That I Can"	104 points
10 th	"Ne Partez Pas San Moi"	98 points
11 th	"Eres Tu"	90 points
12 th	"What's Another Year"	74 points
13 th	"Diva"	39 points
14 th	"Poupee De Cire, Poupee De Son"	37 points

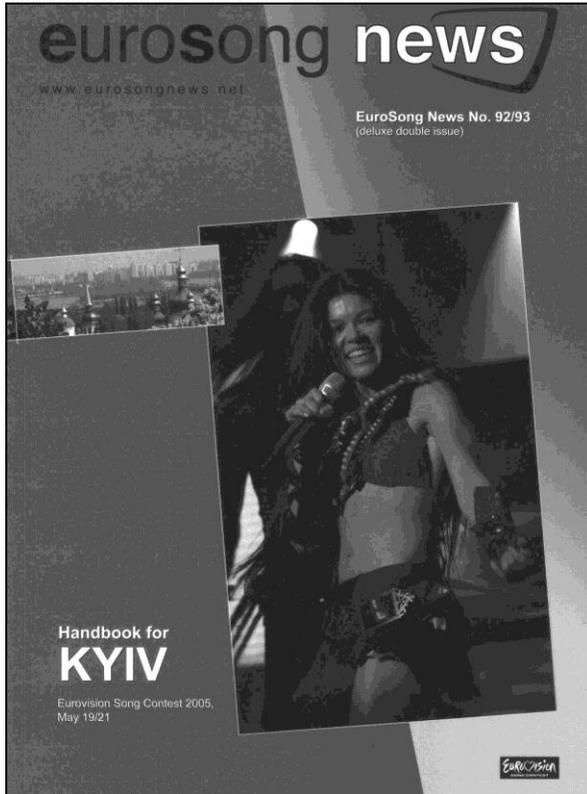
Second Round

1 st	"Waterloo"	329 points
2 nd	"Nel Blu Dipinto Di Blu"	267 points
3 rd	"Hold Me Now"	262 points
4 th	"My Number One"	245 points
5 th	"Save Your Kisses For Me"	230 points

Voting Countries

Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, FYR Macedonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia Montenegro, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and Ukraine.

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Liverpool Lass



Still in her early 30's Sonia has achieved more in three decades than most people dream of in a lifetime. At the age of eight her parents enrolled her at drama school, paving the road ahead that would eventually turn her into a professional singer and actress. One of her first appearances was in the BBC's popular sitcom "Bread", as well as another role in Channel 4's soap opera "Brookside", both of which were based in her home city of Liverpool.

But Sonia's first love was her singing, and at the tender age of 16 she was determined to break into one of the most competitive careers on offer. Beginning on Liverpool's club circuit she approached Pete Waterman and, following an impromptu audition instigated by the confident teenager, a record contract soon followed.

Sonia's debut single, "You'll Never Stop Me From Loving You", was released in 1989 and shot to number one, selling over 350,000 copies within a few short

weeks. A run of television appearances soon followed, revealing Sonia's infectious personality and natural enthusiasm that attracted an overnight army of fans. Other top selling singles, including "Can't Forget You" and "Listen To Your Heart", were released, coinciding with her first album, "Everybody Knows", that went on to sell half a million copies.

In 1991 Sonia began developing song writing skills on her second, self titled album. This led to further hits, such as "Only Fools" and "Be Young, Be Foolish", all of which preceded a European tour that widened her fan base even further. She also continued to build on her initial success in the Far East, the USA and Latin America, as well as trying her hand at television presenting on the childrens' show "Wetter The Better".

Recognising her obvious talent and professionalism, Sonia was approached at the end of 1992 by the BBC who were looking for a well known performer to represent the United Kingdom at the 1993 Eurovision Song Contest in Millstreet, Ireland. Performing eight songs at 'A Song For Europe' the British public voted in their thousands for "Better The Devil You Know" which also provided Sonia with a further top twenty hit. An album of the same name entered the charts at number 20.

While enjoying her Eurovision experience, the pressure was on for Sonia to win for the United Kingdom who, at that time, had not won since Bucks Fizz scored with "Making Your Mind Up" in 1981. However, Irish singer Niamh Kavanagh had the advantage of singing her strong ballad on home ground and, at the very last vote, Sonia was forced into second place by Niamh's "In Your Eyes". Despite her natural disappointment, the Liverpool lass was one of the first to

congratulate her Irish rival in the green room; a moment recorded for posterity on video footage of the show.

Changing direction, Sonia decided to enter the world of theatre; receiving excellent reviews when she starred with Dennis Waterman in the West End show 'Slice Of Saturday Night'. On meeting the producers of the stage version of 'Grease', Sonia was immediately signed for the lead role of Sandy. For twelve months in 1994 and 1995 she performed to a regular full house alongside ex-Neighbours star Craig McLachlan and popular Eastender Shane Richie.

After her stage success, Sonia appeared as one of the major stars in 'What A Feeling – The Tour' with Irene Cara, singing songs from hit movies and musicals while travelling throughout the UK for four months. This proved so successful that a second British tour was quickly arranged and was then followed by a third tour overseas.

Sonia has also developed a name for herself on the seasonal pantomime circuit, with recent credits including 'Dick Whittington' at the Neptune Theatre in Liverpool; 'Cinderella' at the Lyceum and New Brighton Theatres; and the title role in 'Peter Pan' at Her Majesty's Theatre, Aberdeen; Belfast's Grand Opera House; Cardiff's New Theatre; and the Playhouse Theatre, Weston-Super-Mare.

During the 1996 summer season Sonia appeared in Blackpool as part of 'The Lily Savage Show' which again proved so successful that she was singing to a full house every night. This led to her playing Bunty, the daughter of Lily Savage in the BBC's 'Lily Savage Show'. Nearly ten years later Sonia still describes herself as Paul O'Grady's adopted daughter; Paul being the man behind the character Lily.

As a new millennium dawned Sonia starred in the John Conway/AMG Limited 80's musical 'Eternal Flame' during the summer of 2000, and one year later she recorded some new tracks for Hit Sound Records, recording a fourth album in Nashville with producer Stuart Coleman. Despite critical acclaim, this release failed to materialise and promotional copies are now highly sought after, attracting high prices on internet auction sites across the world. Not to be outdone, Sonia tried to re-launch her singing career during 2003 by taking part in ITV's 'Reborn In The USA' presented by Davina McCall. Despite onscreen tension between Sonia and, most noticeably, Dollar's David van Day, she does not regret her participation but rarely talks about the experience.

Now happily married to her tour manager, Mark Moses, Sonia continues her singing career today by constantly gigging around the United Kingdom, often performing with a live band supporting her. She appears from time to time on television and radio, guesting on shows such as 'Trisha' and the ongoing 'Top Ten' series which looks at various top tens from across the decades. Sonia is also seen in various Eurovision related programmes, including the BBC's 'Making Your Mind Up' selection show where, in 2005, she surprised the studio audience with a performance of her greatest hits while the viewing public were casting their televotes.

Sonia may no longer be a current top ten singer, but her ongoing charisma and determination has provided the Liverpool lass with an enviable career that will no doubt continue for many more years to come.

Adapted from www.soniaevans.com

Sonia's Special

Gordon Lewis catches up with chart topper and Eurovision entrant, Sonia, and finds out why she's so special.



Gordon Lewis : As a teenager you were signed by Stock, Aitken & Waterman, reaching number one soon after with your debut single "You'll Never Stop Me Loving You". How was your talent first spotted and how important was it to reach the top spot so quickly?

Sonia : I've been singing since the age of eight entering talent shows, doing amateur dramatics and then going on to theatre school. At the age of seventeen I pestered Pete Waterman into signing me up and it paid off. Pete gave me a deal with Chrysalis Records and four months later I had a number one record.

GL : You followed this with five Top 20 hits and your debut album, "Everybody Knows", reached number seven. How did you cope with the pressure of being

famous at such a young age, and did this change you in anyway?

S : When my success began it was very daunting because it was so quick, it was almost like a dream. Luckily my family kept my feet on the ground. I don't think I changed.

GL : "End Of The World" displayed a maturity that defied your age. How do you feel about that song today?

S : I loved the original "End Of the World". I thought it was an excellent choice of song for me and it did show a different vocal quality from what I had released before.

GL : As your fame began to grow you were involved with several charity releases including Band Aid II, the Childline single "You've Got A Friend" and Gulf Aid's "As Time Stood Still". What are your thoughts on these recordings today?

S : I feel so proud to be involved with worldwide charities such as Band Aid and Childline. I am so glad I was in a position to help. It was such an overwhelming experience and also allowed me to work with some of my hero's.

GL : After several hits with Chrysalis you moved to IQ/BMG in 1991. Was there anything in particular that prompted this change, and why was your first single for the new label the Motown-esque "Only Fools (Fall In Love)"?

S : When I signed to IQ records in 1991 Simon Cowell was full of great new ideas for me; he was very inspirational. When I heard the demo for "Only Fools" I knew it was a hit. It sounded like a Motown record but it was an original.

GL : Your self-titled second album included three tracks that you had co-written. Is this a side of your career that you would like to develop further?

S : I do love to write songs. Sometimes ideas come and sometimes they don't.

I wouldn't include a song on an album just because I wrote it, especially if I had a better song from somebody else.

GL : In 1993 the BBC choose you to represent the United Kingdom at the Eurovision Song Contest. What were your feelings about taking part?

S : To represent your country in something is a great honour, so when the BBC approached me I jumped at the chance. It also opened other avenues for me in my career.

GL : Prior to Millstreet the British public had to choose one song from the eight you performed at A Song For Europe. What were your thoughts on each song, and would you have preferred another entry to "Better The Devil You Know"?

S : "Better The Devil You Know" was the obvious song for Eurovision. It had an instant appeal. I did like a couple of the ballads that I performed, especially "Our World".

GL : Eurovision week is always very busy, not least for the performers, so what do you remember of the week spent in Ireland?

S : Eurovision week in Ireland was fantastic; every night there was a party at a different hotel hosted by one of the countries in the contest. It gave everybody a chance to relax (and check out the competition). I thought we had a good chance, but Ireland had a good strong ballad. They seem to do them very well.

GL : 1993 Irish winner, Niamh Kavanagh, has been quoted as saying you would have won with a different song, so what did you think of "In Your Eyes"?

S : I thought that Niamh was lovely. Her song was very good, the voting was very close towards the end of the competition and Ireland had the home advantage. It was going to be close.

GL : Six months after Eurovision you joined forces with ITV's 'The Gladiators'

for "We've Got The Power". How did this come about?

S : ITV approached me with a theme song for 'The Gladiators' which was huge at the time. I was happy to oblige.

GL : Soon after this involvement you moved away from the recording studio and started developing an acting career, appearing in stage productions of "Grease" and "What A Feelin'". Clearly used to live performances, how did this differ from your previous success?

S : Once I had done Eurovision I was keen to get back to theatre; I was getting lots of offers. Working as part of a company is great and to be offered West End musicals because somebody has seen your previous work is fab.

GL : You eventually returned to the studio to record "Love Train"; an amazing album of Philly covers that was never commercially released due to the collapse of the Carlton Sounds label. Do you ever wonder what might have happened to that album, especially as a promotional copy sold for over £100 on e-bay recently?

S : The "Love Train" album was a new project for me, providing the opportunity to work with great producers such as Steve Levine. Some of the songs I don't think suited me and some sounded great. I've had great feed back from fans. Who knows what might have happened under different circumstances.

GL : Another change saw you appearing alongside Paul O'Grady on the 'Lily Savage Show'. It looked as if you were both having great fun, so was the series as enjoyable to record as it was to watch?

S : To work with Paul was such a wonderful experience. We had spent four months together on the north pier in Blackpool where I think he got the idea for the 'Lily Savage Show'. We had

great fun and I would love to do it over again.

GL : In contrast, 'Reborn In The USA' seemed less enjoyable, despite your voice sounding better than ever. Do you ever regret your involvement with this show?

S : I don't regret anything that I do. In life you make decisions to do things and they become part of you. I did have a good time on the show working with great performers, but the whole reality thing takes a lot of getting used to.

GL : Former Eurovision entrant, Gina G, was also trying to be 'reborn', so did either of you share your experiences of the annual song contest?

S : Gina is a good friend. We have spoken about the Eurovision and we both have good experiences of it.

GL : Gina G tried, unsuccessfully, to represent the United Kingdom again in 2005 by competing in Song For Europe. Would you consider representing your country again in the future if given the opportunity?

S : Yes, providing the format was the same as when I did it the first time.

GL : Amid rumours of unreleased tracks and new material, are you planning a return to the recording studio and will there ever be a greatest hits album for Sonia?

S : I have recorded a lot of tracks which have not been released. If I were to release them I would have to be totally happy about the way it was done ... maybe?!

GL : Finally, what has almost become a traditional question among Eurovision circles and one that you were no doubt asked in Millstreet! Do you watch the Eurovision Song Contest and what is your favourite Eurovision song?

S : I do watch Eurovision and my favourite song from the contest is "Making Your Mind Up".

GL : Thank you, Sonia, for speaking to Vision and best wishes for whatever your career brings in the future.

With thank to Mark Moses, Sonia's Tour Manager, for arranging the interview and also to Richard Crane, Georgios Kalpakidis, Marcus Keppel-Palmer and Paul Marks-Jones for helping with the questions.

Eurovision 2006

The 51st Eurovision Song Contest is scheduled for Thursday 18th and Saturday 20th May 2006 but, as usual, it is too early to say whether OGAE will be offered tickets for the event. However, anyone who is already considering travelling to Greece should write immediately to **OGAE (UK), 51 Greenfields Avenue, Totton, Southampton SO40 3LU** requesting entry to any future ticket ballot. Where possible an e-mail address should be provided.

Please note, any request made does not guarantee that tickets will be made available and, as in previous years, any ballot will be restricted to one ticket – one member and only those living in the UK with current OGAE UK membership will be eligible.

ESC Online

Welcome to another edition of Vision's guide to the Internet. In keeping with this issue, we'll start by taking a look at the various websites dedicated to Sonia - she's from Liverpoolooooo, you know.

The logical departure point is her official site at www.soniaevans.com which, as the introduction says, is 'still expanding' - the promised multimedia content doesn't seem to stretch beyond a photo gallery and an ever-repeating clip of "Boogie Nights" as yet, but there's a lengthy biography, including some creative massaging of the "Better The Devil You Know" chart statistics, and could become a useful resource.

In the absence of a decent official presence, it's up to the fan sites to carry the baton. The best known is probably 'Sonia On The Web', which can be found at www.angelfire.com/mi/everybodyknowssoniam Unfortunately, it's hosted on a free server which means pop-ups and adverts on every page - and every link you click on seems to open in a new window. Regardless, don't be put off by the seemingly sparse front page - clicking on 'Archive' will lead you to a seriously comprehensive set of features, including single and album discographies, specials on Sonia's musical and ESC appearances, and lyrics to all her recordings.

Swedish fan Simon Niklasson runs another unofficial site which contains many of the same features - lyrics, discography, photos - as well as a biography commenting on some of Sonia's myriad TV appearances, and a message board. You can find the site easily at <http://hem.passagen.se/sihmon/Sonia/Main.html>

Meanwhile, Paul Taylor's tribute to the Scouse songstress at

www.penelope.demon.co.uk/sonia is work in progress, but offers a range of interesting photos, including stills from early TV appearances and ... Sonia's 20m swimming certificate!!

If that wasn't enough, the Stock, Aitken & Waterman site at www.stockaitkenwaterman.com is a veritable goldmine for fans of all things pop - you'll find some pieces relating to our Sonia under 'Artist Articles', not least a scanned interview from the Christmas 1989 issue of Smash Hits.

So what's going on elsewhere in the world of Eurovision? There are a few sites which deserve a mention in this issue, starting with the monthly 'Douze Points' night at London's Retro Bar, which recently launched its own website at www.douzepoints.org It contains directions, contact information, a photo gallery, and details of previous months' quizzes and video votings.

As its URL suggests, the excellent www.sechuk.com focuses on the history of the OGAE Second Chance Contest, but also features extensive information on similar competitions, including the OGAE Song Contest, the OGAE Video Contest and, indeed, Eurovision itself. It occasionally hosts its own retro contests for those years prior to the launch of the Second Chance Contest in 1987.

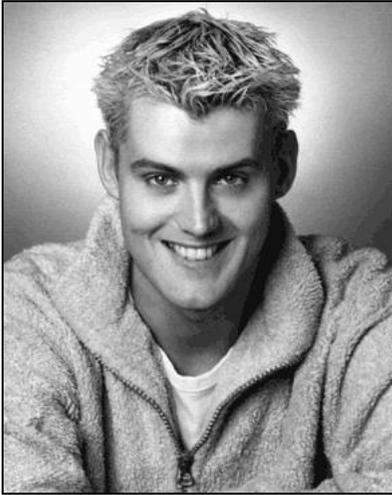
And finally, this link isn't specifically to do with Eurovision, but if you want to check out the chart careers of stars from the contest and beyond - and work out which websites are lying through their teeth! -

www.everyhit.com is the site for you. It covers the single and album charts from 1952 to date in an easily searchable format, and while the database only includes the top 40, it's easier than surreptitiously leafing through the Guinness Book of Hit Singles in W H Smith. MF

Whatever Happened To

DEAN COLLINSON

Many young songwriters have graced Eurovision and Dean Collinson, who co-wrote Sonia's 1993 entry "Better The Devil You Know", is one such songwriter. Marcus Keppel-Palmer takes a closer look.



Born in Hull in 1970 Dean was originally going to be named Gary, but on the way to register the birth Dean's father, Roy, saw a poster of James Dean and called his son that. Growing up in North Ferriby, one of Dean's major influences was his father, who having seen a TV programme about future prosperous careers decided his son would become either a musician or a footballer. Dean was given his first guitar at the age of six, and he soon learned to play it and sing. So much so that, aged six, he made his stage debut playing and singing in Hull's clubs.

Television would follow shortly after as the precocious Dean, aged ten, found

his way onto Jimmy Saville's "Jim'll Fix It" programme. Dean asked to play guitar with legend, Bert Weedon, and Jim made it happen. Dean duetted with Bert on "Guitar Boogie Shuffle" and this led to Dean accompanying Bert that year on a summer season tour. Football might not be happening, but music certainly was.

Dean learnt to play drums, keyboards, bass, trombone and accordion, and at the age of 16 left Hull to study in London at Drama School. Although he did complete his course of study, working commitments intruded. Almost immediately he joined up with Brian Teasdale (also known as Red) initially to write songs for a soundtrack to a film and then in a boy band called Blue. They signed to Mercury Records releasing one album "Heaven Knows" in the UK. Although success eluded the band in this country, they did have some limited success on the European continent. Surprisingly, one of the tracks on the album was "Better The Devil You Know", something that seems to have escaped the attention of everyone in 1993.

With Blue going nowhere, Dean tried his hand co-presenting a satellite TV music show with the soon to be famous Chris Evans, before signing a contract with Arista Records, recording and releasing a solo CD "Life And Times" in 1993. Dean found himself competing with himself, as he and Red had entered "Better The Devil You Know" into A Song For Europe and the song romped home to represent the UK in Millstreet. Dean found that he was performing his own single on TV shows at the same time as Sonia.

Sadly solo success proved unattainable, so although Dean continued releasing CD's he moved more into song writing and producing, working with (inter alia) Tazmin Archer,

Betty Boo, the Spice Girls and Paul McCartney. He also moved into theatre working with friends Mick Walsh and Gene Jacobs. A solo album, "Rush", released in 1995 covered the time while Dean wrote and composed his first musical, "Tomorrow Never Knows", the songs from which being released on CD in 1996. The musical won a Vivian Ellis award. Occasionally performed, Dean arranged for a 1999 run of the musical in London. The musical comedy has been described as a black version of "Friends".

His next musical was the sixties themed Gangster piece called "A Life In The Daze Of Stanley Bishop", but probably his best show is "Bill and Ted's Excellent Musical Adventure", based on the Keanu Reeves film, which proved a sensation in the 1998 Edinburgh Festival, winning that year's Vivian Ellis award for the Most Promising Musical. The piece is like a modern pantomime with each of the characters that Bill and Ted encounter getting to sing their own (80s flavoured) song.

Dean released an album with the music from "A Life In The Daze Of Stanley Bishop" in 1997, but that was not his only foray into recorded sound as his voice was heard on recordings of "Hair" and "A Chorus Line", as well as a new version of "Jesus Christ Superstar", in which Dean would later appear. He also progressed his acting career with an appearance in the London production of "Grease" in which Sonia appeared, before winning one of the lead roles in the Andrew Lloyd-Webber and Jim Steinman new musical "Whistle Down The Wind" in 1998, playing Amos for the first couple of years of the production.

In 2000 Dean left "Whistle" to take over the lead in "Notre Dame De Paris", a role played by Patrick Fiori in the original production, and since then

Dean has appeared in and toured with "Jesus Christ Superstar" and "Rock and Roll Heaven". As well as appearing on stage, Dean is a member of Capital Voices and has performed in orchestral concerts celebrating the music of Queen. He has also toured twice backing Michael Ball.

From a solo perspective, Dean has released further albums; "Babylon" which was a project built around the theme to the musical "Girls Night Out" and was a pretence at a boy/girl band, "Tales From A Broken Heart" and "Around The World In A Hazy Daze" written in the light of his divorce, and to the Chris Evans' TV show "Carry On Campus". Last year Dean took the Really Useful Company to court and was awarded £7500 for injuries sustained during his role in "Whistle Down The Wind".

Dean is unlikely to reappear on the Eurovision stage, but he will no doubt continue to pursue a varied career on the musical theatre front.



Original?

The BBC were seemingly unaware that "Better The Devil You Know" had already been commercially released by its songwriters.

Sonia's Song's

Paul Marks-Jones looks back to when the British public chose Sonia's song for the Eurovision Song Contest



Liverpuddlian Sonia had announced in August 1992 that she would represent the UK at the 1993 Eurovision Song Contest and it was clear that she was hoping for the album success that Michael Ball had achieved earlier in the year. Would she tell the same story?

After several weeks of Sunday afternoon previews we were finally treated to A Song For Europe 1993 on 9th April live from Television Studios in London with a simultaneous broadcast on Radio 2. Terry Wogan was the presenter with his usual sarcastic tone and made the expected gaffs, but it wouldn't be the same without them, would it?

The first song was the contemporary sounding "A Little Love". Dressed in a black ensemble sporting cutlass brooches Sonia gave a faultless start to the contest.

The similar sounding (well, one of the writers was the same!) "I'm Gonna Put

A Spell on You" came next. Wearing a canary yellow jacket over black trousers Sonia gave a solid performance of this mediocre number – if anything it served to show how much stronger Song 1 was.

Song 3 was "Life After Love" – the first ballad of the evening. A starlit stage was perfect for this gentle ballad and gave Sonia, dressed in a figure hugging dress, a chance to show off another facet to her voice. Detracting from the song was Sonia's expression - she did not seem pained enough to be singing the song! Nonetheless, it received a great reception from the crowd.

Sonia donned an emerald green frock for a return to the style of the first two songs. "It's Just A Matter Of Time" had a strong verse, but was let down by a weak chorus which saw it end up at the bottom of the pile. It was also evident that there was only one dance movement for all the up tempo songs!

At this point Sonia took a short break and chatted with Terry. We learnt that she 'especially loved Bucks Fizz', and saw Eurovision as a great opportunity to get together and for each country to root for their favourite song.

Then came the now famous blue/purple cat suit with bolero jacket for "Better The Devil You Know". Although up-tempo and a little repetitive, it had something a bit different to everything we'd heard so far, but received a lukewarm reception from the audience.

"Our World" was the next song – a pretty standard and clichéd ballad. Nevertheless Sonia gave a faultless performance in her black split skirt. The crowd seemed to like it though!

Glamorous in a black dress with gold neckline, "So Much of Your Love" came next and this was the most modern sounding song of the evening with a different tempo to anything else. Sonia also seemed to be more 'into' this song

... maybe her secret favourite and another vocally perfect delivery.

By the time the eighth song, "Trust", came round it was evident that Sonia was tiring. It was the weakest performance of the night, but the best outfit with a turquoise cropped top teamed with a shimmery bronze wrap skirt!

A worn out singer then joined Terry. Another round of applause for Sonia preceded the reprise of all eight songs before the two hour window to vote followed.

It seemed that Sonia suffered in her selection of songs, many of them 'Stock, Aitken & Waterman' sounding, which did not really challenge her powerful voice. This was clearly evident in the delivery of many of them, especially where she turned out some excellent performances of average songs.

Returning at 11.00 pm for a final run through of the songs, the regional voting then commenced. Sonia seemed shocked and astounded at the high level of votes for some songs, but did a scream of delight when "Better The Devil You Know" was announced as the winner. The song was sung once more by a delighted Sonia and the rest of the story is now consigned to Eurovision history.

Sonia polled a total of 471,256 votes as follows:

"A Little Love" (Ian Curnow/Phil Harding/Shawn Imrei)	55,053 votes	4 th
"I'm Gonna Put A Spell On You" (Shaun Imrei/Graham Stark)	27,795 votes	6 th

"Life After Love" (David Hardwood-Smith/Roger Taylor)	38,308 votes	Graham 5 th
"It's Just A Matter Of Time" (Alan Glass/Gary Benson)	18,251 votes	8 th
"Better The Devil You Know" (Dean Collinson/Brian 'Red' Teasdale)	156,955 votes	1 st
"Our World" (Johnny Warman/Nick Graham)	77,695 votes	2 nd
"So Much Of Your Love" (Patrick McGlynn/Jane Andrews)	70,454 votes	3 rd
"Trust" (Simon Manikiza)	Stirling/Geoffrey 26,745 votes	Williams/Phil 7 th



The Day I ...

MET MARTIN LOFT

Richard Farnham, former winner of the OGAE UK Convention Stars In Their Eyes contest, here recalls the story of his Loft conversion

This story begins nearly 10 years ago in Jersey. I had seen the Eurovision Song Contest 1996 on television. I had also read about a non-televised semi-final that year, but thought nothing of it until various friends wrote to me saying how awful it was that Germany and Denmark had failed to qualify. Their intense enthusiasm for these two songs, coupled with their strong sense of injustice, made me curious enough to seek these songs out. Later that year a Eurovision contact sent me the official 1996 ESC preview video containing the full performances of Germany, Denmark and Israel. At last I could hear three of the songs that failed to qualify, but I was not prepared for my reaction that October night.

First came Germany and, yes, I liked "Planet of Blue" by Leon, failing to understand why countries such as Bosnia and Slovakia had qualified in the days before the dreaded term 'Balkan block-voting' had kicked in! Next Denmark with "Kun Med Dig", sung by Dorthe Andersen & Martin Loft. The piano has always been one of my favourite instruments and I still recall the sublime moment that night when I heard the opening notes of this song, followed by Martin Loft singing so perfectly the first verse of this achingly beautiful melody. Dorthe joined Martin on stage and the song just got better and better and better - they both looked so professional and happy on stage together. I was transfixed and must have played the song at least twenty

times that night. No other Eurovision song had ever done that to me.

This was like no other emotion, also feeling incredibly sad for Martin & Dorthe that the song had failed to reach Oslo. I decided to express my condolences to Johannes Larsen, a former President of OGAE Denmark, who, unbeknown to me, is a close friend of Martin. Johannes forwarded my letter to Martin, who was so touched by my comments he handwrote a letter of response to me. I was ecstatic to receive this and to know my words of support had actually reached Martin & Dorthe. Martin wrote that he was initially disappointed by the failure to qualify but, helped by theatre bookings until the end of 1997, soon recovered. He is the Danish equivalent of Michael Ball, one of the country's top theatre stars and a household name starring in a musical called "Atlantis". He told me how pleased he and Dorthe were that their performance had touched me so much.



Martin and Dorthe celebrate their victory at the 1996 Dansk Melodi Grand Prix, but the opportunity to sing for their country was snatched away

Less than one year later Martin teamed up with three others to form Stay Tuned, and the group came 9th in the

1997 Dansk Melodifestival with "Hvor Gar Man Hen Med Koerlighed". Martin sent me a signed copy of the CD and we continued to correspond.

This story now moves forward to May 2000 in Globen, Stockholm where I experienced the joys of Eurovision with my three close friends Paul Bennett, Richard McCracken and Sergio Di Federico. Denmark won and, during the winning reprise, I congratulated a nearby delegation of Danes and found myself talking to none other than Johannes Larsen. Johannes and I stayed in touch, and in early 2001 I informed Johannes that we were thinking of visiting Copenhagen for the next contest. Johannes happened to mention this to Martin, who said he would like to meet me if the situation arose. By now Martin had the lead role in the stage production of "Blood Brothers" in Odense, one of Denmark's largest cities. Soon it became clear that a meeting with Martin Loft would take place, so the four of us travelled to Denmark for the weekend, knowing that we may not be lucky enough to see the live show, but would be meeting Martin. We arrived in Odense where Johannes met us from the station. Arriving at the chosen destination where Martin was waiting, we quickly discovered that he was accompanied by journalists and photographers. Word had spread that four people were travelling from Jersey to Odense, via London and Copenhagen, to meet Martin Loft - Eurovision was the biggest news story in Denmark that week and all kinds of stories were making their way into print. So the national newspaper, "Fyens Stiftstidende" (apparently the Danish equivalent of The Guardian), had sent its journalists to cover our story.

After brief introductions photographs were taken with Martin by the central fountain before we were interviewed 'en

masse' by the journalists. They wanted to know how we had first heard of Martin, the details of our journey from Jersey to Odense and our predictions for the 2001 contest for which I named Denmark, hoping to cover the cost of the Danish trip from a substantial bet back home.

After the journalists had left we exchanged presents with Martin, before chatting at length about "Kun Med Dig" and the 1996 selection. Travelling to the Dansk Melodifestival studio with Jascha Richter, one of the song writers, it was agreed that a single would be released when the song qualified for the final in Oslo. Martin has fond memories of the Danish final, especially as he and Dorthe won by a landslide televote. Life was exciting and happy, until a journalist rang him at home to ask if he had heard the news that Denmark had failed to qualify. An immediate telephone call to DR TV confirmed this and the story became huge in the Danish media. Martin was stopped in the streets by members of the public who wanted to express their sympathies. Five years later he was still being stopped by people saying "it is so unfair you were not allowed to sing in the Eurovision Song Contest!"

Martin & Dorthe never made a studio recording of "Kun Med Dig", although Jascha Richter's band Michael Learns To Rock recorded an English version of the song, "Paint My Love", that sold an incredible four million copies in Asia. "If only it was us" said Martin. It became clear during the conversation that Martin is a true fan of Eurovision, an attitude we found so refreshing in comparison to so many established stars who seem to trash the contest at every available opportunity. He was knowledgeable about the then impending 2001 event, rating Slovenia, Denmark and Estonia as possible

winners. Martin would be watching from the VIP seating at Parken with other previous Danish entrants, wearing an incredible suit covered in roses and designed especially for the occasion.

So what were Martin's final thoughts about his own near-Eurovision experience? While being disappointed for not giving the people of Denmark a Eurovision entry that year, he said that he always plays by the rules, and the rules in 1996 dictated that he and Dorte were not to sing that year. He still remains proud of their performance, of the song and, if anything, the

experience has whetted his appetite for Eurovision, making him determined to enter the contest for Denmark one day.

Martin is truly famous in Denmark, so it was amazing to think he ended up spending over three hours chatting to us on that wonderful May day in Odense during 2001.

Let's hope we do see this true star shining brightly on the Eurovision stage in the not so distant future. There would be no greater justice than a Martin Loft victory and one thing is sure – Martin would receive at least four televotes from Jersey!!!

Quiz Time

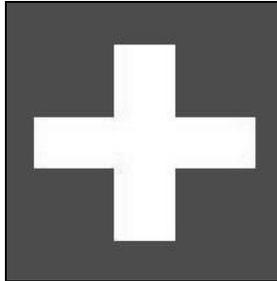
Marcus Keppel-Palmer and Martin Faulker provide a selection of Convention quiz questions for all to enjoy. Answers on page 47

1. Alphabetically speaking, which is the last city to have hosted Eurovision?
2. In terms of population, which are the smallest and largest host cities/towns?
3. For the third question, name the songs which finished 3rd in 1973, 1983 and 1993?
4. How many of the 53 winners of ESC were drawn in start position number 1?
5. Bobbysocks were Norway's first winners. Who were the two members of Bobbysocks and how many times, before and after, did these individuals appear in the contest (not as backing singers)?
6. Which two songs in 1999 appeared at the Eurovision Song Contest but had not won their national final?
7. Apart from when she sang "Na Na Na" in 2003, in which other year did Karmen Stavec appear on the Eurovision stage?
8. Under what performing names did Marie Lawrie, Yaron Cohen and Faud Backovic appear on stage at the Eurovision Song Contest?
9. Who hosted the ESC for the BBC in 1968, 1972 and 1982?
10. In which year was commentator Terry Wogan born?

OGAE International Convention

14th October 2006

Switzerland



“the home of Eurovision”

OGAE UK are pleased to support the first ever international convention which will be held at Saalbau Rhympark, Basel

With OGAE members and Eurovision fans from more than 40 nations gathering to celebrate 50 years since the first contest was held in Switzerland it promises to be an event not to be missed

Organised by OGAE Switzerland, special guests include Arlette Zola (1982) and Gunvor (1998) with more names to follow

Further information will be announced in future issues of Vision and Eurosong News

Alternatively, please contact Louis Hanhart by e-mail at eurovision_club@hotmail.com

Sponsored by



The Hit Machine

Georgios Kalpakidis takes a brief look at the machinery of Stock, Aitken & Waterman ... and their Eurovision connection.



There are many different types of machinery in the world today and there are many brands for people to choose from, but there has only been one Hit Machine when it comes to the music industry and that machine was managed by hit makers Stock, Aitken & Waterman! Mike, Matt and Pete turned our lives around when they first hit the clubs, television and radio playlists with their new brand of music that dominated the late 80's and early 90's. With a passion that can only come from young and vibrant talent, Stock, Aitken & Waterman had their first major hit after signing a group named Dead or Alive. The trio wrote the unforgettable "You Spin Me Round" for the then unknown group, reaching the UK number one spot and making the band and its producers known across Europe. Even today this song is still a major dance floor track.

1984 brought a Eurovision first when Mike Stock was asked to write a song for the island of Aphrodite, otherwise

known as Cyprus, and enter the national song contest. Mike chose Andy Paul, a young Cypriot living in London at that time, and composed "Anna-Maria Lena" for him. The song came 15th on the Eurovision stage, but all credits went to the singer as, being non-Cypriot, Stock's name could not be shown as a songwriter.

Co-incidentally, and in the same year, Sinitta and Hazell Dean took part in the UK's Song for Europe, being awarded with 4th and 7th place respectively. Both singers would later become part of what is now remembered as SAW's Hit Factory, but that wasn't the final connection between the Hit Machine and other Eurovision performers.

One of Stock, Aitken & Waterman's biggest discoveries in the late 80's was none other than Sonia, who was subsequently chosen to represent the United Kingdom at Eurovision in 1993. Sonia met fame at a very early age when SAW wrote her first hit "You'll Never Stop Me Loving You", going straight to the top of the charts. Sonia collaborated with the SAW team until 1991 before changing direction and being approached by the BBC. She came second in Millstreet, a close runner up to Niamh Kavanagh, the winner from Ireland.

Another singer connected to the producing trio was Samantha Fox who went on to have several hits under the guidance of Mike, Matt & Pete and who will always be remembered for the hit "Touch Me (I Want Your Body)". In 1995 Sam, as lead singer of Sox, managed to achieve 4th place in the BBC's Song for Europe with "Go For The Heart".

Nicki French, who represented British colours in 2000, also gained her first chart appearance from the hands of Mike Stock when he produced her cover version of "Total Eclipse Of The

Heart" in 1995. Originally a hit for Bonnie Tyler in the eighties, Nicki's recording became a major dance hit around the globe and firmly placed the popular singer on the musical map.

The guys have much to be proud of and have achieved even more throughout their many years of working together. Stock, Aitken & Waterman not only have Eurovision connections, but were the ones who discovered the talents of Jason Donovan, Rick Astley and, arguably their greatest success, Kylie Minogue. SAW have also worked with several major international stars, including Donna Summer and Cliff Richard, who has his own song contest connections.

Incredibly SAW were responsible for releasing more than 300 singles and albums as a team and, after tasting the joys of success that very few have achieved, the infamous Hit Machine of all time, the Stock Aitken & Waterman team, is back once again. A recent CD and DVD compilation of their finest work must surely promise that we haven't heard the last from them yet!

Having been apart for several years, Mike, Matt and Pete are finally working

together once again. Maybe, just maybe, the Eurovision Song Contest is among their future plans!



Kylie ... SAW's greatest success

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Junior Eurovision 2005



Critics said it wouldn't survive more than one or two years, but the 3rd Junior Eurovision Song Contest was held in the Belgian town of Hasselt on Saturday, 26th November 2005.

Although France, Poland and Switzerland all chose to withdraw, Russia and Serbia Montenegro were more than willing to enter the contest for the first time. Unfortunately, despite choosing a song, Cyprus then withdrew unexpectedly, leaving 16 countries to participate in a show presented by Marcel Vanthilt and Maureen Louys, both of whom are pictured above at the launch.

Generally speaking the performances seemed less confident than previous years, although the offerings from Romania and Netherlands were expected to do well. Last years winner, Maria Isabel, contributed to one of the interval acts that also featured a juggler from Cirque du Soleil in Las Vegas.

Cyprus opened the voting, having been controversially allowed to hold a televote even without an entry, but the system failed ahead of the United Kingdom's results being announced. After an embarrassing and prolonged pause, which neither host seemed able to manage, voting resumed and led to a

close battle between Belarus and Spain.

But it was Ksenia Sitnik who gained the first ever Belarussian victory on the Eurovision stage with her slightly annoying "My Vmeste" – perhaps people were voting for the pink Celine Dion style skirt! The winning song had come as a complete surprise to most, and it is just as well that the votes cast by non-participating Cyprus did not affect the overall result.

During the press conference that followed Ksenia invited everyone to Minsk but, unlike the main event, the winning country does not automatically host the next contest. Prior to Hasselt the European Broadcasting Union had already confirmed that the 2006 Junior Eurovision Song Contest would be held in Romania. It's just a pity no one had forewarned the winner of 2005!

Finally, it is only right to mention the voting process used in Hasselt, especially as the European Broadcasting Union may implement this slightly revised procedure in Athens. The first five points (1 to 5) were automatically registered on the scoreboard, leaving the spokesperson to announce the remaining scores (6 to 12). While this approach retained some of the excitement, there were times when it was difficult to see who was receiving what and from whom! If used in Greece any problems experienced in Belgium will hopefully be resolved.

1. Greece

"Tore Ine I Sira Mas"

Alexandros & Kalli

88 points

6th

2. Denmark

"Shake, Shake, Shake"

Nicolai

121 points

4th

- | | | | |
|---|------------------------|---|------------------------|
| <p>3. Croatia
 “Rock Baby”
 Lorena
 36 points</p> | <p>12th</p> | <p>13. Malta
 “Make It Right”
 Thea & Friends
 18 points</p> | <p>16th</p> |
| <p>4. Romania
 “Turai”
 Alina Eremia
 89 points</p> | <p>5th</p> | <p>14. Norway
 “Sommer Og Skolefri”
 Malin
 123 points</p> | <p>3rd</p> |
| <p>5. United Kingdom
 “How Does It Feel?”
 Joni Fuller
 28 points</p> | <p>14th</p> | <p>15. Spain
 “Te Traigo Flores”
 Antonio José
 146 points</p> | <p>2nd</p> |
| <p>6. Sweden
 “Gränslös Kärlek”
 M+
 22 points</p> | <p>15th</p> | <p>16. Belarus
 “My Vmeste”
 Ksenia Sitnik
 149 points</p> | <p>1st</p> |
| <p>7. Russia
 “Doroga K Solntsu”
 Vlad Krutskikh & Street Magic
 66 points</p> | <p>9th</p> | <p>17. Cyprus
 “Tsirko”
 Rena Kiriakidi
 Withdrawn</p> | <p>N/A</p> |
| <p>8. FYR Macedonia
 “Rodendenski Baknez”
 Denis Dimoski
 68 points</p> | <p>8th</p> | <p>- <i>CyBC chose to withdraw their entry amid claims that the song was not original. It is not known whether such claims were later proven.</i></p> | |
| <p>9. Netherlands
 “Stupid”
 Tess
 82 points</p> | <p>7th</p> |  | |
| <p>10. Serbia Montenegro
 “Ljubav Pa Fudbal”
 Filip Vucic
 29 points</p> | <p>13th</p> | | |
| <p>11. Latvia
 “Es Esmu Maza, Jauka Meitene”
 Kids 4 Rock
 50 points</p> | <p>11th</p> | <p><i>Ten year old Ksenia Sitnik celebrates a Eurovision victory for Belarus. Her hobbies include singing, dancing and drawing ... and with a sister who also loves music a further Junior entrant from this talented family is possible.</i></p> | |
| <p>12. Belgium
 “Mes Rêves”
 Lindsay
 63 points</p> | <p>10th</p> | | |

Richard's Round Up

I hope you enjoyed Eurovision's 50th birthday party, although personally I wasn't that impressed. No surprises at the eventual winner, but well done to Brotherhood Of Man for making the Top 5. As if by coincidence, two new ABBA compilations appeared on the market within a few weeks of "Waterloo" winning at Copenhagen. "18 Big Hits" (Universal 9831452) leans towards ABBA's earlier singles, several of which were not hits in the UK, and also features some foreign language versions, including the French recording of "Waterloo" and the pre-selection song, "Ring Ring" in German. Meanwhile, "The Complete Studio Recordings" (Polydor 9872327) only has one recording new to CD among its 133 tracks; a re-mixed version of "Waterloo" which was previously only released as a Swedish single A side. Polydor have also issued all four of Frida's solo albums as a box set (9873503) with a further DVD available. Another Swedish band, popular with ESC fans even though they never made the Eurovision stage, have split. Alcazar had a turbulent history and the group have finally called it a day. Despite a string of hit singles in Europe, they only had three issued in the UK, all of which charted. Expect a singles compilation early 2006. "I Need Some Fine Wine & You, You Need To Be Nicer" is the title of The Cardigans latest single (Polydor 9874124) and it reached number 59, but the group are not signing to Sanctuary as I mentioned last time. A-ha have just signed to Polydor and their eighth studio album is "Analogue" (9874700). Elsewhere Johnny Logan's album "We All Need Love" received a UK release on Scanbox (CD 82203).

Thomas Latham has investigated the possibility of "Little Ship", recorded by the Blue Diamonds, being a pre-selection cover version and came to the conclusion that this is unlikely. Does anyone have any further information on the song? The former Atomic Kitten and Precious singer, Jenny Frost, has recently been stranded in the jungle for "I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here". It's probably for the best, as her solo career failed to take off when she joined Route 1 on the dance track "Crash Landing". The single was expected to succeed, but failed to climb any higher than number 47. In contrast, t.A.T.u made a spectacular return with "All About Us" reaching number 8, but their new album, "Dangerous & Moving", has failed to chart.

"Music" (Universal TV 9874241) is Michael Ball's 13th album to chart, peaking at number 11. It's nearly 10 years since his last Top 10 album, and the latest release includes a version of "You Raise Me Up". Universal must be kicking themselves that they didn't release the track as a single before Westlife hit the top spot with the same song! "You Raise Me Up" was first released in the UK during April 2002 by Secret Garden (featuring Brian Kennedy and Tracey Campbell on vocals) and reached number 103. Secret Garden were also responsible for writing the song. In December 2003 Brian Kennedy recorded a solo version which peaked at number 91, but it was over shadowed by Daniel O'Donnell's version that climbed to number 22. Talking of dodgy Irish singers, Foster & Allen have recorded "Congratulations" and it can be found on their new double CD "Number 1's" (DMGTV 022)!

This reminds me that fans of Cliff Richard have another expensive time at the moment. Not only have EMI issued the triple CD "The Platinum Collection"

(3338032) featuring 73 of his 136 hits, but they have also re-issued four soundtrack CD's, these being "The Young Ones" (1961), "Wonderful Life" (1964), "Finders Keepers" (1966) and "Take Me High" (1974). All CD's feature bonus tracks and "Take Me High" also includes four songs from "Two A Penny". Although no longer scheduled as a Christmas single, Cliff joins G4 on "Miss You Nights" which can be found on "G4 & Friends" (Sony BMG 82876747382). Tony Christie's Christmas single featured the Slade classic "Merry Xmas Everybody" and a swing version of "Amarillo". The Matt Monro Christmas single featured "Christmas Magic" and "Polka Dots & Moonbeams", the latter song recorded by Terry Parsons in Scotland during the mid-fifties. It was this recording that brought him to the attention of Winifred Atwell and Decca, and you'll find further information at www.mattmonro.com. Take That return with a remix of "Relight My Fire" (82876760602), but the sleeve makes no mention of Lulu's involvement. The much talked about Eve Graham album is titled "The Mountains Welcome Me Home" and it includes re-recordings of several New Seekers tracks. Available on CD (Scotdisc CDITV721), DVD (DVITV721) and video (VITV721), but no updates on the Lyn Paul album or the New Seekers compilation yet. Il Divo have recorded a new duet with Celine Dion. "I Believe In You (Je Crois En Toi)" can be found on "Ancora" (Sony BMG 82876731062) alongside Il Divo's version of "Pour Que Tu M'aimes Encore". "I Believe In You" is also found on the Celine Dion compilation "On Ne Change Pas" (Sony BMG 82876726222). Celine is supposed to be singing on the forthcoming charity single in aid of victims of Hurricane Katrina, the song itself having been

written by Michael Jackson. Nicki French has recorded a version of Tina Turner's "Private Dancer", while Majestic re-issued two CD's by Heavy Pettin', "Lettin' Loose" (MAJCD015) and "Rock Ain't Dead" (MAJCD016), but neither feature "Romeo".

Vocalion have another batch of CD's featuring ESC related material. Franck Pourcell's "Thinking Of You / The Importance Of Your Love" (CDLK 4300) includes "Congratulations"; "Where The Sun Is / For Young Lovers" (CDLK4316) features "Love Is Blue" by Ronnie Aldrich; and Kenneth McKellar performs Scottish favourites on "The Tartan / Scottish Saturday Night" (CDLK4319) both of which were recorded before his Eurovision entry. However, the real find appears to be Mike Preston's "Mr Blue - Decca Singles Compilation 1958-1964" (CDLK4314) as this features his winning entry to the 1964 ITV song contest, "Marry Me", and a cover version of "Un Premier Amour" re-titled "My First Love Affair". The CD was due to be released as Vision went to print, and the song was first issued as a single in May 1962 not long after Isabelle Aubret won Eurovision.

Watch out for Samantha Janus in a new BBC series "Home Again". According to the press release for her unreleased single "Always On My Mind", Alsou has recorded duets with Nelly and Jon Bon Jovi, and appears in the film "Spirit Trap" alongside Billie Piper as well as singing on the soundtrack! But as I can't find any evidence for any of this, does anyone out there have any further information? Finally, Marc Roberts has a new CD out titled "Once In A Lifetime" (CIDCD002) and it's available through Rosette at www.rosetterecords.com

Thanks to everyone who helped this time and see you again soon.

Euro Curios

by Thomas Latham

One of the Song for Europe entries that has puzzled me for some time is "Love Kisses and Heartaches" from 1960. BBC documentation shows that Marion Keene sang the song in the second semi-final that year, but failed to reach the final; it also suggests that the entry was written by David Green. Shortly after that year's ASFE a song of the same name was released by Maureen Evans on Oriole 1540, and I have always wondered it was the same. Confirmation came recently in unexpected form when I came across a May 1960 copy of "Record Songbook". There, on page two, were the lyrics to Evans's song as written by David Greer and Susan Morrel, who also seem to have written Lita Roza's "Unexpectedly" for the 1960 ASFE. Comparison with the BBC's copy of the show's script reveals that the lyrics are identical, apart from one line, so it appears that this is indeed the only recorded version of that particular ASFE entry. If only someone would issue a proper compilation of Maureen Evans's recordings so that we could all share in my discovery, as the last copy I saw of the single, admittedly in mint condition, was going for nearly \$100!

Marion Rung gave Finland two of its best placings in the Eurovision Song Contest with "Tipi Tii" in 1962 (8th=) and "Tom Tom Tom" in 1973 (6th). In 2004 EMI/Capitol released a double CD retrospective of her career covering tracks from 1961-2004 entitled "Elan Parasta Aikaa – 36 – Rakastetuinta Laulua" (7243 864734 2 4). Both of her ESC entries are included, alongside cover versions of songs such as "My Boy Lollipop" and "Bobby's Girl". You'll

also find "Ring Ring" sung as a duet with Leo Luoto, which famously came 3rd for ABBA in 1973's Melodifestivalen, and "Silloin", which also came 3rd but this time for Italy in the 1975 Eurovision when Wess & Dori Ghezzi performed it as "Era".

"Don't Throw It All Away", written by Gary Benson and Dave Mindel and which came 4th in the 1975 ASFE, is one of those Eurovision related songs that seems to have been given a new lease of life by being recorded by artists in the USA. One of its earliest appearances across the pond was on the 1977 LP "The Way Love Should Be" (RCA APL 1-2477) by Dave Rowland & Sugar. Their version has a country feeling to it and can be found on their "Anthology" CD (Renaissance RMED00213)

While on the subject of "Don't Throw It All Away", the song's life after The Shadows' ASFE does not appear to have been confined to America. I recently discovered that it was also released as a single in Australia by an artist called Lori Balmer (FESTIVAL K-6150). In the late sixties Lori worked with the Bee Gees before their international success and represented Australia in the World Popular Song Festival in Japan in 1983. She may have been the first person after The Shadows and Gary Benson himself to record the track in 1975 or 1976. The single must be quite rare as copies are normally advertised for more than £20, so a cheaper option might be to get it on the compilation LP "Right On" (TA 255), which also features Brotherhood of Man and "Save Your Kisses For Me". Swedish dancebands are usually good for a laugh, not to mention a cover or two, and the Schytts (presumably it means something different in Swedish) are no exception. A double CD, "Guldorn", with no less than 40 tracks

released in 2001 (Mariann – MLPCD 3270) has their versions of Harpo's "Moviestar", Boney M's "Rivers of Babylon", Tony Christie's "Is This The Way to Amarillo" and ABBA's "Hasta Manana" and "Another Town Another Train". Also featured is "Et Kyss Ella Tva" which is, of course, "Save Your Kisses For Me" - and if I have to tell you who originally sung that, in which year and where it finished at Eurovision you should hang your head in shame!

A popular Swedish Eurovision entry was 1995's "Se Pa Mig" performed by Jan Johansen. The song certainly seems to have attracted international attention with cover versions in Dutch by Anna Landa as "Onverwacht" and in Italian by Don Bennechi as "Vicino A Te". No doubt there are other versions of this song, and if you know of any please pass on the details to me.

For some time now there has been the suggestion German duo The Blue Diamonds, who covered The Allisons' "Are You Sure?" (UK61) as "Ahoi-Ohe" (Fontana 266 226 TF), also covered "Little Ship" which came second in the first series of The Festival of British

Popular Songs in 1956. Having finally tracked down a copy of the CD "Ramona" (BCD 16437 AH) I can confirm that the original was another song of the same title. Therefore, it is not the one written by Irene & Terry Roper, sung in 1956 by Shirley Abicair and later recorded by Julie Dawn (Oriole CB 1347) and Jackie Lee (Polydor BM 6045). Incidentally, "Ahoi-Ohe" has a second ESC connection in that the German lyrics were written by Klaus Monroe who co-wrote the 1972 winner for Luxembourg "Après Toi".

Kenny Clayton, who was Matt Monroe's musical director from 1967 to 1969, has recently released a CD with a cover of "Walk Away", the English language version of Udo Jürgens' "Warum Nur Warum?" (AT64). You can find it on "Kenny Clayton Plays Tribute to Petula Clark and Matt Monroe" (KCC).

If you have any information about releases that may be of interest to others, or even just questions, then please write to Thomas Latham, 286 Russell Court, Woburn Place, London WC1H 0NF.

Making Your Mind Up 2006

Although dates are currently unconfirmed - *keep checking those radio and television schedules for February and early March* - 14 songs will compete in an attempt to become the United Kingdom's next Eurovision entry.

Ten of these entries will feature in Radio 2's new contest 'Sold On Song', from which an expert panel will choose just one to join four appointed songs at the live television final.

Radio entries had to be received by 31st December 2005 and further information can be found at www.bbc.co.uk/eurovision

As yet no performers have been mentioned, but former Steps member Lisa Scott-Lee recently said in a Daily Star interview that the next single will be her "Eurovision entry". Whether Lisa appears in the line up remains to be seen ... so keep watching to see who will eventually appear on stage!

- information correct at the time of going to print

Russian Dreams

Just over one year ago Russian beauty Varvara won the 2004 OGAE Song Contest, but when she met Vision editor Gordon Lewis recently her eyes were clearly focused on another prize



Already on her third album, Varvara is gaining increased popularity throughout Russia and eventually hopes that her music will reach a much wider audience. She started singing at the tender age of three, eventually graduating from the Russian Academy of Theatre Art as a pop specialist. "It was the start of my musical career, beginning with my classical training at the Gnesinka Music School in Moscow and then the academy" explains Varvara. "I have a classical voice" she adds, "suited to 'Ave Maria' and 'Memory', a beautiful song from the

musical *Cats* that has also become a pop classic."

Despite her background Varvara considers herself to be a free spirit who does not want to be restricted by one style. "I wanted to make a special fusion of music; a mixture of ethnic styles taken from Russia and other parts of the world" describing something of the unique style that she regularly performs and records. "Russia has a very old culture" she adds while revealing a strong patriotism, "it is a large country with very different regions. People cannot ignore what Russia has to offer."

So how has music changed within this vast nation since the collapse of Communism? "There is more pop music these days" says Varvara, "but Russian show business is still very closed." She continues by adding "it's very difficult to promote our music in other parts of Europe" before speaking about Eurovision. "Channel 1 produces Eurovision for the viewers. Just 10% of the population watched six years ago, but more than 70% watch the show now. We want to see what Europe has to offer, as well as showing Europe what we can give in return"

Varvara begins talking about her own music and, in particular, the song "Grezy" with which she won the 2004 OGAE Song Contest. "I was very honoured that the Russian fans chose me to represent them" she says, "and even more honoured that other fans throughout Europe voted for me to win." Varvara continues by explaining that the song, which translates as "Dreams", is based on a 16th century folk ballad, again representing something of the ethnic style that is so often the inspiration behind her own choice of music.

When she is not recording or performing her own brand of music

Varvara enjoys listening to others, citing Shania Twain and Madonna alongside Beyonce and Natalia Imbruglia. She is particularly inspired by Madonna “who manages to remain popular by always adapting her style.” Varvara is also hoping to record a duet with James Asher, although negotiations to arrange this are currently ongoing. Either way, it is all part of her ambition to become known among a wider audience.

Returning to her own career the Russian beauty recalls a trip to the United Kingdom. “I like London, but the music is very different there. It is more R’n’B. I don’t dislike this music, but for me it is better to sing ethnic melodies.” Would Varvara like to compete within the British music industry? “Of course”, she replies, “and it would be good for something to happen, but only t.A.T.u have managed to succeed outside of Russia. Despite their controversial image, I am pleased about the success they have achieved for my country.”

It is obvious that Varvara seeks an international career for herself, while her recordings and live performances both confirm that she has the capabilities for this to become a reality. Having previously spoken about the song “Dreams”, she continues by speaking about her own dreams for the future. “I would love to represent Russia at Eurovision and gain a good placing. I always try to do my best, and with the support of the Russian people, my fans and OGAE members everywhere I am sure I could succeed.” She concludes by adding that “the contest is a very significant event and taking part would help me enter the European market.”

If the determination shown by Varvara continues there is little doubt that she will appear on the Eurovision stage in the not so distant future. And when she does, Varvara’s growing army of OGAE supporters will be waiting to applaud her ongoing success.

OGAE Song Contest – UK Selection Process 2006

As this issue went to print the votes cast in the 2005 OGAE Song Contest were about to be revealed, but it’s already time to start look forward to the 2006 event. If you would like to help choose the United Kingdom’s next OGAE Song Contest entry, now is the time to start checking your CD collection before sending your nominations to Martyn Clarke at the address below. All songs must be original releases, not cover versions, and should have been commercially released after 1st July 2005. Nominations should include the song, singer, songwriter/s, CD catalogue number and, where possible, an audio copy on CD.

Martyn Clarke
237 Argyle Road
Ealing
London W13 0AY

All nominations must be received no later than 30th April 2006

Du Bist Musik ... or not!

As 2005 turns into 2006, Marcus Keppel-Palmer takes a look at the alternative careers of some who have performed on the international stage.

Eurovision has seen more than a thousand performers grace its stage over the years, many of whom have had significant post contest success and many of whom have not. Of course, a large majority of the performers have continued to a greater or lesser extent working in the entertainment industry, whether in music or combining that with a presenting and acting career. Several performers have, however, gone on to make careers outside the entertainment industry and to have interests in a variety of business ventures.



Benny Andersson of ABBA has, of course, continued to work in the music business both as a writer and a performer. But two years ago he branched out into opening a boutique hotel, Hotel Rival on Mariatorget in Stockholm, thus becoming one of a number of musicians who own hotels. Benny does not hide his involvement and combined tickets for "Mamma Mia" are a feature. Interestingly, the hotel has its own cinema which pre-existed the hotel building. Another Eurovision winner, Marie Myriam, has also ventured into the hospitality business. Portuguese by birth, Marie has opened a Portuguese restaurant called L'Auberge de Marie on the rue Planchat in Paris. Occasionally Marie, who remains busy in the music industry, will perform at the restaurant.

As a Portuguese restaurant, L'Auberge might consider serving Cliff Richard's wine; grown and made in his vineyard outside Albufeira on the Algarve. Called the Adega do Cantor (the Cellar of the Singer), Sir Cliff and his partners have been successful with their Vida Rosa wine which can be bought at Waitrose. At Quinta do Miradouro the vineyard welcomes visitors to see the views, tour the vineyard and taste the produce which has won awards in the wine industry. Another Englishman involved in wine is Andy Hill, who co-wrote "Making Your Mind Up" and now runs a successful English vineyard producing sparkling wines at Nyetimber in Sussex. Perhaps surprisingly, in view of the reputation of English wines, the Nyetimber sparkling wines have been compared favourably with French champagnes.

Corry Brokken, who won the second contest in 1957, later qualified as a lawyer and in 1988 was appointed as a judge in Den Bosch. Politics has been another fertile area for former

Eurovision performers. Åse Kleveland, who represented Norway with "Intet Er Nytt Under Solen", also studied law before becoming Norwegian Minister for Culture in 1990. Before that she had held various positions including that of heading the Norwegian Commission for Equal Rights. She now has a position as head of the Swedish Film Institute. Closer to home Ronnie Carroll, who represented the United Kingdom twice, has stood as an independent candidate for Parliament in Hartlepool on the basis of a more direct democracy.



Ireland's first Eurovision winner, Dana, has also had a strong career in politics. As a committed believer in the Pro-Life campaign Dana, pictured during a debate on Moroccan fishing agreements in 2001, ran successfully as an Independent in the 1999 European MEP elections, and then unsuccessfully for the Irish presidency against Mary McAleese in 2004. She remains committed in her opposition towards moves to legalise abortion in Ireland. Vice Vukov represented Yugoslavia twice in the early 1960s and was a successful balladeer until he fell foul of the authorities in the 1970s. However, following the disintegration of Yugoslavia, Vice was elected to the Croatian parliament and has been active in steering the country into its modern democracy and applying for EU membership.

This can only be a brief summary of some of the interesting non-entertainment interests and careers of a handful of performers. Perhaps it is a subject to which we'll return in a later article. MKP

Vision Smalls

FOR SALE

ESC DVDs, CDs and records for sale. CDs and records from 1958 to 2005. DVDs of ESCs 1986-2003 inclusive available. (As a bonus, DVDs of 1993-2003 also include "A Song For Europe" for that year and some have other extras). Also DVDs of the ESC Previews from 1994 to 2005 inclusive. Visit my web site for full list of items available at www.eurosongsales.homestead.com or send an SAE/IRC for printed list to

Michael Mullings, 19 Orchard Grove, London, SE20 8DN, UK or e-mail me at escorders@yahoo.co.uk

ESC videos for sale. 1972 and then from 1982 to 2000. All colour and excellent condition. £6 including postage (€10 EU). If interested please write to Mrs Nicola Byrne, 13 Samson Close, Rowner, Gosport PO13 9QH

A wide range of ESC and non-ESC CDs and vinyl records available now. For

details please send large SAE to Richard Crane, 57 Roman Way, Desborough, Kettering NN14 2QL.

MISCELLANEOUS

I would like to hear from any female Eurovision fans across Europe. I'm 47 and willing to swap letters, emails and maybe start a new friendship. Please e-mail Nicola1313555022@aol.com or write to Mrs Nicola Byrne, 13 Samson Close, Rowner, Gosport PO13 9QH. All replies will be answered.

Record Reviews



ABBA *The Complete Studio Recordings* Polydor 987232 Described as the definitive ABBA collection, this 11 disc release brings together all known studio recordings and promotional videos, along with several bonus features. The first eight CD's more or less reproduce ABBA's eight studio albums (excluding greatest hits and live releases), from "Ring Ring" through to "The Visitors", but are extended to include French, German and Spanish versions of corresponding songs as well as B-sides. Disc eight also includes the then new tracks that were recorded for "The First Ten Years" collection and accompanying singles. The ninth disc is, perhaps, of most interest containing some alternative versions of standard favourites, but other songs such as "Dream World", "I Am The City" and "Put On Your White Sombrero" have appeared elsewhere. Discs 10 and 11 are both DVD's, the first containing all the English videos accompanied by three Spanish versions, the Royal command

performance of "Dancing Queen" and "The Last Video" from Eurovision 2004. The remaining DVD contains an obligatory documentary alongside some live performances of classic hits not previously available. Accompanied by an informative booklet, this collection could be seen by some, not least Polydor, as being the 'complete' collection. And yet there was no room for the inclusion of "Hey Gamle Man" which, while originally credited to Bjorn and Benny, was the first recording to feature the four singers who would become ABBA when it was released almost 36 years ago. Complete? Perhaps not! Neither is there any sign of the rumoured "Opus" sessions, nor ABBA recordings of "I Know Him So Well" (Barbara Dickson & Elaine Paige / Steps) and "Another You, Another Me" (H & Claire). Listening to these 'cover' versions from other albums, it would appear that both songs were originally written for ABBA themselves, if not recorded by them. At around £90, depending where any purchase is made, this collection is not a cheap luxury and may, in time, still turn out to be incomplete! GL

DIETER BOHLEN/ VARIOUS *Pop-Titan-Hits* Edel 0166262ERE This German release showcases the songs of Dieter Bohlen, the pop genius behind Modern Talking. There have been several Bohlen collections in the past reviewed in Vision,

so why should this one claim your attention? Well, this features English language versions of Nino de Angelo's "Flieger", titled "If There's One Thing That's Forever", and Thomas Forstner's "Nur Ein Lied", here as "Song Of Love", both of which are rare on CD. In addition, and of interest to ESC fans, are the Smokie song "Young Hearts" featuring Alan Barton (ex-Black Lace) on vocals, the Jurgen Drews (ex-Les Humphries Singers) song "Ti Amo" and Marianne Rosenberg, from many German selections, with a song from a film soundtrack called "I Need Your Love Tonight". Naturally the CD contains a Modern Talking medley, a Blue System song and other gems. Wholeheartedly recommended. MKP



DANIEL BOONE *Beautiful Sunday* Pegasus PEGCD 558

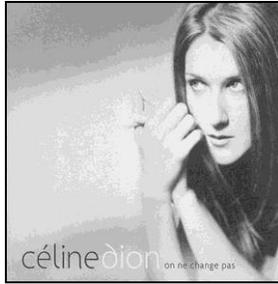
For reasons best known to the music industry there is a distinct lack of Daniel Boone CD's. Whatever the reason Daniel has now followed the same path as many of his contemporaries by re-recording his best known songs and issuing them via a budget label, alongside

several new compositions. "Beautiful Sunday" includes new versions of his two hits, the title track and "Daddy Don't You Walk So Fast", neither of which stray from the original arrangements. The rest of the material is as strong as anything else that Daniel has recorded during his career spanning four decades. Fans will welcome this CD and anyone who appreciates singer/songwriters will enjoy it too. Let's hope this sells enough to rekindle interest in his original and earlier recordings. RC

JOHN CARTER *A Rose By Any Other Name* Revola CDREV 84

This CD is subtitled 'Studio Projects 1969-82' and features 25 tracks that John Carter wrote and recorded using fictional group names. The variety of musical styles is astounding, as are the names of the 'artists'. These include Fat Man's Music Festival, Omega Theatre, Running Jumping Still Band and Frogg. A 1971 single credited to Red Line Explosion is of particular interest to Eurovision fans as the line up features Alan Hawkshaw (SFE composer) and Brian Bennett (SFE composer and member of The Shadows), while the song is "Sweet Talkin' Mama" and sounds like Elvis singing in a glam rock style! My personal favourite is "Please Yourself" which was issued in 1974 by the Tots. The song started out as a TV ad for Jelly Tots - ask your mum! If you brought the John Carter Anthology a couple of years ago then you'll be pleased to know

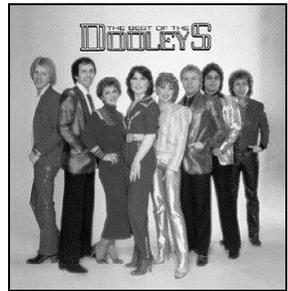
that this CD perfectly complements it. Yummy! RC



CELINE DION *On Ne Change Pas* Sony BMG 82876726222

I'm not sure why this double CD has been released in the UK. I'm sure it will sell bucket loads in France, but its appeal in the UK is limited, especially as the booklet is all in French. My other gripe is the exclusion of release dates for each track making it difficult to trace their origin, especially as the tracks aren't presented in chronological order. Among the 33 songs are Celine's Eurovision winner, the duet with Garou, two duets with Jean Jacques Goldman, the UK top 10 single "Pour Que Tu M'aimes Encore" and the superb "Ziggy". There are three new tracks including an English duet with Il Divo, although Celine sings in French. The deluxe package also includes a DVD which features the video for "Je Ne Vous Oublie Pas", one of the new tracks and a classic Celine Dion single, plus a 24 minute documentary on the video making interspersed with Celine's comments on some of the songs included on "On Ne Change Pas". One of the things that becomes evident on the

DVD is how gaunt Celine looks now compared to her earlier appearances. Perhaps the most annoying thing about the DVD is that, like the booklet, it's all in French and, unlike most DVD's, there's no subtitle option! Probably for fans only, but a great reminder of how talented Celine is. Just don't add the visuals! RC



THE DOOLEYS *The Best Of ...* Sony BMG 82876730922

It's been a long time coming, but at last we have the Dooleys on CD! This 14 track CD features all ten of their hits and reminds you of how great their singles were. The majority of songs are written by Ben Findon and Mike Myers who wrote "Hands Across The Sea" (SFE 1974), "Stand Up Like A Man" (SFE 1975) and "How Do You Mend A Broken Heart" (SFE 1979), the first two of which were recorded by The Dooleys and the latter probably exists by them. This CD includes "Hands Across The Sea" but it is shown as a 1978 recording even though the original single was issued in 1974. The CD also features "A Rose Has To Die" and "Think I'm Gonna Fall In

Love With You" both of which have been credited as failed Song For Europe entries. It's likely that the group, had it been smaller than its eight members, might have appeared on Song For Europe themselves, but for now sit back and enjoy slick pop in the form of "Wanted", "The Chosen Few", "Honey I'm Lost" and "Don't Take It Lying Down". Let's hope this is the first of many Dooleys CD's. It's good to have them back. RC



FABRIZIO FANIELLO
Believe NAX/Stockhouse
CDA20

Dropping his surname in some territories for this release, the fabulous Fabrizio returns with his third album and does not disappoint. Seventeen tracks including his Eurovision entry "Another Summer Night", but most of the songs here are brand new and include his two recent songs in the Maltese national final; "Did I Ever Tell You" from 2004 and 2005's "Don't Tell It". Travellers to Copenhagen for the 50th anniversary show will also recognise Fabrizio's latest single, "Bye Baby Bye Bye", which he exclusively performed at the Friday night

fan party. The boy from Malta is more than deserving of international success, and the early release of this album in Scandinavia, as well as the usual countries of Malta and Germany, could finally be the starting point. Like Chiara, Fabrizio should be given another chance to represent his country for a second time and monopolise on his growing fan base across Europe. GL



GEMINI *Det Bästa Med Karin Och Anders Glenmark*
Universal 987447-0

When ABBA split, Benny and Bjorn had a stock of songs in preparation. Gemini, the duo of the Glenmarks, was pressed into service as the vehicle for these songs including "Just Like That" which ABBA had in the past performed. Gemini released two albums and most of the songs find their way onto this 'best of' collection; a valuable discovery as the first album is long unavailable. All of the Benny and Bjorn songs find their way here, including "Another You, Another Me" which was covered by H & Claire a couple of years ago. Most of the songs sound ABBA-esque, as you would expect, but it is clear that Benny and Bjorn were writing in a

musical theatre mode and this is reflected in some of the songs. There are a couple of Swedish songs including the original version of Gemini's biggest hit "Mio Min Mio" and their 1984 Melodifestival song "Kall Som Is". A gem from Gemini on many levels. MKP

KAFFE *Alone* Joker Media
MK 15381

After the lukewarm reception Bulgaria received to their debut entry in 2005 I was not really holding out much hope for this 2004 album from Kaffe. How wrong I was. This CD is a complete surprise from the Bulgarian sextet. From the first and mainly instrumental track "Pak Tam" (There Again) we are taken on a jazzy journey through the laidback beats of "Alone" to more up-tempo and contemporary numbers such as "Nye e Li Ljubov" (Never Have Love). Of the 12 tracks five are in English and there is a remix of "Nye E Li Ljubov". The closest you get to "Lorrain", which is not included in this collection, is "Marry Me", otherwise all the other tracks slot nicely together with Orlin's vocals literally gliding over the jazz beats making it the perfect mood album for the dark nights we now have to endure. PMJ

JOHNSTON BROTHERS
Easy and Singles
Compilation Vocalion CDLK
4226

The Johnston Brothers participated in the 1956 UK pre-selection and this Vocalion collection gives a good idea of their close male harmony sound. On this CD

you get the album "Easy", which is a collection of covers of songs such as "It Had To Be You" and other standards. Additionally there is an interesting selection of singles not found on their previous 'best of' collection which pre-date and post-date their 1955 and '56 heyday, including a chart number one hit with "Hernando's Hideaway" – not on this collection. In the same vein though, and from the musical 'Damn Yankees', there is the rare single of "What Lola Wants". This is light gentle easy listening which will be the antithesis of anything in ESC 2005. MKP

MATT MONRO *Collection*
EMI 3406332

This CD is only available in Tesco's and features seven hits, alongside Matt's interpretations of classics like "Let There Be Love", "Georgia On My Mind" and "Fly Me To The Moon" all of which he makes his own. In the booklet his daughter, Michelle, makes no apologies for including tracks that fans will have time and time again, after all songs like "Born Free" and "Walk Away" are what attracts the casual buyer, but there are a couple of gems for the fans. Matt's version of the Carpenters song "(They Long To Be) Close To You" must have been recorded around the same time as the duo's and makes it's debut on CD here, as does "Lily M'lady" which is a real gem making its CD debut and worth the price of this CD alone. The other track new to CD is the stereo version of "The Music Played", but the

inlay doesn't tell you that this is the Spanish version. I'm not sure if this is an error on EMI's side, but the stereo mix has more depth than the usual version. I'd just like to hear the English stereo mix if it exists. There's no doubt that this will be a long term seller for Tesco's, and Marks & Spencer's also have an exclusive Matt Monro CD in stores during January, but I'm not sure what fans reaction to it will be. I for one welcome any Matt Monro CD that gets released. RC



MÜNCHENER FREIHEIT
Alle Jahre - Alle Hits Ariola
B000BD1W6

To celebrate 25 years in existence, Münchener Freiheit have at long last released a proper reflective resume of their long career, and this double album gathers together all of their German singles from 1981 to the present day. Many of the songs have been re-mastered and a couple are not in their original single version, but from a Eurovision viewpoint this collection sees the welcome return of "Viel Zu Weit" back on CD. There are two new songs and all the classics such as "Ohne Dich", "Tausendmal Du" and "Solang Man Träume Noch

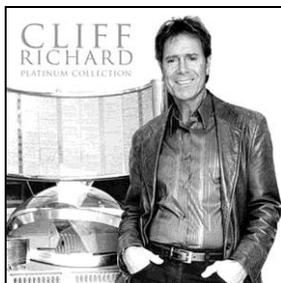
Leben Kann", which was a hit in England as "Keeping The Dream Alive". Listened to in one sitting one notices the similarity in feel of many of these tracks, but once a Freiheit fan always a Freiheit fan. MKP



LENA PHILIPSSON *Jag Angar Ingenting* Columbia
8287674 7832

The juggernaut that is the comeback of Lena Philipsson continues with the release of this album. Instead of rehashing the camp glamourama of "Det Gor Ont En Stund Pa Natten Men Inget Pa Dan", La Philipsson, together again with writer Orup, has created a ten song collection that oozes style, fun and class with a capital C! From the Bond-esque title track and the flirtatiously sexy lead single "Unga Pojkar Och Aldre Man" through to "Du Kan Fa Mig Nar Du Vill", the lone ballad that closes the album. This may not be as instant as its predecessor, but it's definitely all killers and no fillers. The highlight for this reviewer? The second single "Han Jobbar I Affar", a pop song with more glam rock flourishes than Suzi Quatro could 'can her can' to and a chorus that's catchier than bird flu.

Widescreen pop has never sounded so good. RT



CLIFF RICHARD *The Platinum Collection* EMI 3338032

After 48 successful years in the music industry it's difficult to know how many more compilations can be released in the name of Cliff Richard, and there are likely to be several between now and 2008! As part of this likely trend EMI have recently released this 3CD collection that brings together more than 70 hits spanning five decades, from "Move It" in 1958 through to "What Car" in 2005. There are few rarities here, and perhaps the omissions are more noticeable than the inclusions! No sign of the withdrawn single "Angel" from 1965 or Cliff's cover version of the 1968 Italian Eurovision entry, "Marianne". Also missing are the gospel singles, "Jesus" and "Yes, He Lives" from the seventies, and there is no sign whatsoever of the Song for Europe EP from 1973. On the other hand the acapella version of "The Millennium Prayer" is included, together with a live recording of "Daddy's Home". This is not the Cliff Richard definitive

collection, nor is it sold as such. It is a compilation of songs that show how this knight of the realm has progressed throughout his career. An essential purchase for the completist, others may prefer to wait until Sir Cliff reaches his own 50th anniversary! GL

T.A.T.U. *Dangerous & Moving* Universal 9885194

It's three years since t.A.T.u were unleashed on an unsuspecting Russian public. Since then the controversy that followed the duo led to an international number one single with "All The Things She Said" and the multi-platinum album "200 KMH In The Wrong Lane". The feisty "Not Gonna Get Us" followed, but allegations of miming, bad publicity and poor ticket sales culminated in a hasty retreat. Then they appeared in Latvia and came within a whisker of winning Eurovision, with a performance that was recently described as a 'Lesbian barn dance'. The hostility shown to the press in Riga caused such a backlash that it led to a scaled down release of "Ne Ver, Ne Boisia" and the withdrawal of "How Soon Is Now" as their third UK single. Since then Julia and Lena have sacked their Svengali manager and return stronger than ever. "Dangerous & Moving" is full of pop songs with an edge. t.A.T.u have something to say and titles like "Friend Or Foe", "Craving (I Only Want What I Can't Have)" and "We Shout" are the result. If the international press can give them a chance then t.A.T.u

will rock the world again, but this time it will only be with their music. There are two versions of this CD in the UK, one with two bonus tracks and the other with a bonus DVD. It's just a pity that neither include "Ne Ver, Ne Boisia" in Russian or English. RC



VARIOUS *Congratulations 1956-1980* CMC C00164-2

VARIOUS *Congratulations 1981-2005* CMC C00187-2

Two double CD's released one week ahead of the Copenhagen show bring together 100 Eurovision songs, including all 53 winners and the best of the rest. In one sense there are few rarities, with various CD compilations in recent years bringing digital restoration to classic contest tracks, but even some of these are becoming difficult to locate. Among the highlights, excluding the obvious

winners, are Esther Ofarim's near winner "T'En Vas Pas" and Amina's 'joint' winner "Le Dernier Qui A Parle". Also featured is the Norwegian entry from 1968 by Ase Kleveland, "Intet Er Nytt Under Solen", and Anabel Conde's amazing "Vuelve Conmigo" from 1996. Each double CD covers a 25 year period, but both need to be purchased in order to appreciate the quality of some of those songs that failed to gain a victory on the international stage. Even if you have all 100 songs in other formats, these albums are still an essential purchase. Bonus tracks feature "Te Deum", plus the recent arrangement, "Eurogrooves". GL



VARIOUS *Junior Eurovision Song Contest 05* CMC C00181-2

Now in its third year, the Junior version of the Eurovision Song Contest is once again released ahead of the televised show. All 16 competing songs are included, but there was no room for the withdrawn Cypriot entry. The event is one that you either love or hate, and the songs tend to be the same, but highlights from 2005 are the Greek entry performed by

Alexandros & Kalli, as well as Joni Fuller's unusual "How Does It Feel?" for the United Kingdom. GL

VARIOUS *Stock Aitken Waterman Gold* Global/BMG 82876730982

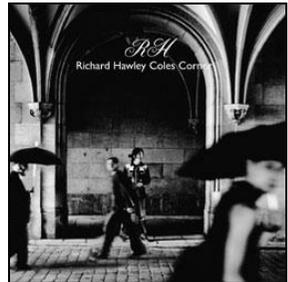
Stock, Aitken & Waterman dominated British pop throughout the late 80's and 90's, and their influence is still recognised today. This 3CD collection showcases their combined achievements and recognises some of the talent that they discovered. Kylie Minogue and Jason Donovan are both featured with tracks recorded soon after their "Neighbours" days, while Eurovision fans will discover songs from Sonia, "You'll Never Stop Me Loving You" and "Listen To Your Heart", and Cliff Richard with "I Just Don't Have The Heart". Siniitta provides "Toy Boy" and "Cross My Broken Heart", while "Who's Leaving Who" and the classic "Whatever I Do (Wherever I Go)" are both from Hazell Dean. Although there are no direct SFE/ESC song collaborations here, it goes to show how many former UK finalists were recognised by the SAW production trio before going on to have chart success. The collection also provides excellent 80's retro music for your next party! GL

VARVARA *Grezny* Grammofon 203-2

Varvara, which translates as Barbara in English, means stranger, but her latest album shows that she is certainly no stranger to music and singing.

Beginning with the ethnic sounding "Letala Da Pela" that came 4th in the 2005 Russian final, Varvara continues with the hauntingly beautiful "Grezny" which won the 2004 OGAE Song Contest. "Angel Moy" is an uptempo pop song, and Varvara also covers "Dime", here titled "Veter I Zvezda", which was the Spanish entry nearly three years ago. Like the singer herself, this album is truly beautiful with its variety of musical styles. From ethnic and pop, through to Varvara's sensitive and emotive treatment of the classical "Ave Maria", there really is something for everyone among the 12 tracks. Watch out too for "Otpusti Menia Reka" – if this song becomes more well known in the not so distant future remember where you read it first! GL

Singled Out

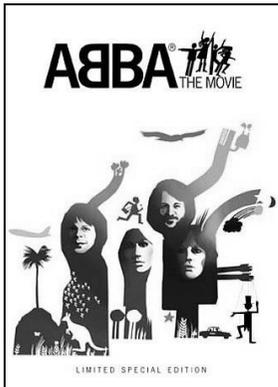


RICHARD HAWLEY *Corner Mute* CDMUTE 352

Since Pulp's demise Richard Hawley has received continuous critical acclaim although commercial success has been slower. The title track from his fourth solo album is full of lush strings and is reminiscent of

Pulp at their most mellow, yet it sounds like it was recorded forty years ago! The reason it's reviewed here is that the second track, "I'm Absolutely Hank Marvin", features the great man himself. It's classic Hank and this is likely to become a collector's item in the future. I'm not sure how Hank became involved but it's a beautiful instrumental and, coupled with "Coles Corner", is so relaxing that you can't help but feel chilled out after listening to it. Perfect. RC

DVD Reviews



ABBA *The Movie* Polydor 9871699
 Making its first appearance on DVD, the classic ABBA movie follows the movements of an Australian journalist desperate to gain an interview with the Swedish superstars. Does he achieve his goal? Well, if you haven't seen the film you'll have to buy this double DVD set to find out! As well as the film, that also incorporates a fascinating

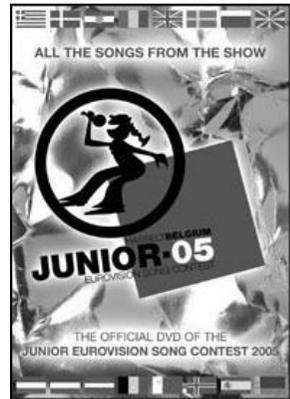
insight behind the scenes of ABBA's Australian tour, the DVD release contains an interview with Bjorn, Benny and Lasse Hallstrom, the latter being the film director. Also featured is a memorabilia section, a programme gallery plus trailers for both the film and accompanying album. GL

VARIOUS *Congratulations 1956-1980* CMC C 00186-9

VARIOUS *Congratulations 1981-2005* CMC C 00189-9

Two double DVD sets released to accompany the live show provide more than three hours of Eurovision entertainment and memories. The songs included are the same as on the CD releases, but this format reunites the songs with their original live performances from each respective year. This, in itself, provides a moving history on the contest, particularly relating to costume and fashion, stage and lighting. From small theatres and studios of the 50s and 60s, through to the football stadiums and arenas of the 21st century, this visual portrayal of 100 songs clearly shows how the contest has developed into one of the greatest live music shows in the world. A few will be disappointed when they discover that some footage is of lesser quality than that they already own on home recordings, which suggests that not all original archives were consulted for these releases. Others will want to know about the elusive recordings from 1956 and 1964! Lys Assia performs "Refrain" in

what appears to be edited newsreel footage of her winning reprise. 1964 is, however, more mysterious. From the photographs that exist it certainly appears to be the actual stage, but Gigliola Cinquetti's performance is barely a minute long, and the movement of other personnel at the start and finish suggests that this is the reprise of "Non Ho L'Eta". Is this once again edited news material, or did Gigliola perform a much shorter reprise of her winning entry? Whatever the answer, these DVD releases are likely to bring endless hours of pleasure to the Eurovision enthusiast. GL



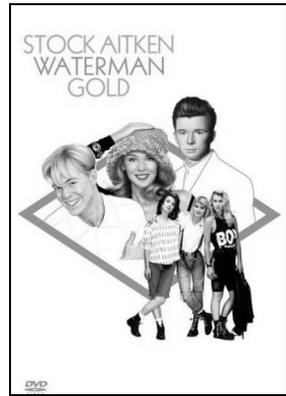
VARIOUS *Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2005* CMC C00182-9

The third Junior contest is once again released on DVD but, like previous years, part of the show is missing. While Maria Isabel's interval performance of her 2004 winning song is included (having been used as a convenient commercial

break by ITV2 in the United Kingdom) there is no sign of the amazing juggler from Cirque du Soleil as seen during the live broadcast. That aside, the 16 entries that took part are accompanied by their preview videos, many of which are live performances from a variety of national broadcasts. An obligatory 'Behind The Scene' section also reveals something of the week delegates enjoyed in Hasselt, including a visit to a nightclub! Casual collectors may choose to avoid this release, but for the Eurovision completist it could prove essential! GL

VARIOUS *Stock Aitken Waterman Gold*
 Global/BMG 82876741439
 Released to accompany the 3CD set already reviewed, this DVD features 20 classic pop videos from the 1980's. Sonia, Hazell Dean and Sinitta are all represented with their respective hits "You'll Never Stop Me Loving You", "Who's Leaving Who" and "Toy Boy". There is also an appearance from Samantha Fox, the page three model who went on, literally, to front Sox in the 1995 Great British Song Contest. Here she sings "Nothing's Gonna Stop Me Now". A great purchase for

those who loved the late eighties, or even those who just love Stock, Aitken & Waterman! GL



Quiz Answers

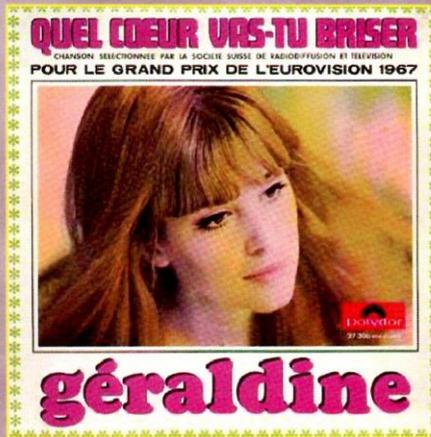
1. Zagreb 1990 2. Millstreet (smallest) and Istanbul (largest) 3. "Power To All Our Friends"; "Framling"; and "Moi Tu Simplement" 4. Three – Teach In (1975); Brotherhood of Man (1976) ; and Herreys (1984) 5. Hanne Krogh (twice in 1971 and 1991) and Elisabeth Andreassen (three appearances in 1982, 1994 and 1996) 6. "Putnici" and "Reise Nach Jerusalem" 7. 1998 in Birmingham backing Vili Resnik 8. Lulu, Dana International; and Deen 9. Katie Boyle (1968); Moira Shearer (1972); and Jan Leeming (1982) 10. 1938



Wishing you all a very Happy New Year

The 'Last' Page

Switzerland 1967



Quel Coeur Vas-tu Briser
Géraldine
Received 'nil' points