



Vision Information

Editor:
Gordon Lewis
51 Greenfields Avenue
Totton
Southampton SO40 3LU

President:
Richard Crane
c/o Whitehall Farm
Castle Leavington Yarm
Cleveland TS15 9PD

DEADLINE

All contributions for issue 65 of Vision should reach the Editor no later than
15th June 2006

BACK ISSUES

Issues 19 onwards cost £3.00 each (£4.00 overseas) inc. P&P.
Write with your requirements to the Editor.
All others, plus issues 28, 29 and 31, are now out of print.

OGAE INTERNATIONAL

OGAE (UK) is affiliated to OGAE International with branches across Europe.
For details of full and associated members please write to the President,
enclosing a SAE/IRC.

DATA PROTECTION ACT

OGAE (UK) retains membership details on computer solely for club use.
The club will not release this information to any other person without your
written permission. If you object to your details being held in this manner,
please write to the Editor accordingly.

DISCLAIMER

Views expressed in Vision are not necessarily those of OGAE (UK) or the Editor.

No unauthorised reproduction of this magazine in whole or part is allowed
without the express written permission of the Editor.

CONTACTS

Editor : 023 8066 1104
E-mail : editor_vision@hotmail.com
President :
E-mail : richardcraneuk@hotmail.com
Web Site : www.uk.ogae.net

© **OGAE (UK) 2006**

Edlines

It doesn't seem a year ago that all eyes were focussed on Kiev, but one year later the ancient city of Athens is about to host its first contest following Helena Papparizou's impressive victory at the 50th Eurovision Song Contest.

Having hosted the Olympic games two years ago, Greece is more than capable of organising what is likely to be the best show ever and, with even more fans travelling to the contest than ever before, the week long party is certainly going to be one to remember!

The United Kingdom will be represented by the enthusiastic Daz Sampson and his infectious "Teenage Rap", and all British fans will be rooting for a long overdue victory. But, in the spirit of Eurovision unity, may the best song win. Enjoy the party!

With best wishes,

Gordon Lewis

Index

Sold On Song	4
It's A Teenage Life	7
Eurovision 2006	9
International Convention	49
Vacancies	51
What's Another Summer ...	52
The Day I ...	54
Whatever Happened To ...	56
Eurovision 2007	57
London Nights	58
ESC On-Line	60
Birmingham Bash	61
Richard's Round Up	62
Quiz Time	64
OGAE Song Contest 2005	65
Reviews	66
Vision Smalls	71

Eurovision CD's ... and much more!

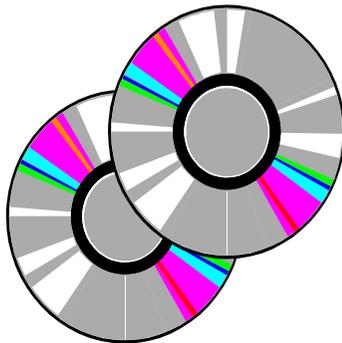
For full list send IRC to:

Bea de Vrind
Van Boisotring 41
2722 AA Zoetermeer
The Netherlands

E-mail : devrind@bart.nl
www.bearecords.nl

Tel: 00 31 79 34 31 518

Fax: 00 31 79 33 14 74



Sold On Song

Last autumn BBC Radio 2 launched its own event, 'Sold On Song', which encouraged budding songwriters to submit their compositions to an open competition. At the end of January ten songs were shortlisted from the 800 or more received, including one from Martyn "Come Back" Baylay. From these an expert jury, including former Blue singer Simon Webbe, Mike Batt, Hugh Goldsmith, Stuart Maconie, and Radio 2's Colin Martin and Mark Hagen, chose just one to join the four appointed songs written for Making Your Mind Up 2006.

Sold On Song BBC Radio 2

"Slow Down Boy"
(Vernon Woodward/Darrell Woodward)

"Heartbeat"
(Nicola Philo)

"Don't Stop Believing"
(Martyn Baylay/Phil Bates)

"What Dreams May Become"
(John Barry)

"I Wanna Man"
(Toby Jarvis)

"Could It Be"
(Simon Carswell)

"River To Heaven"
(Danny Litchfield/Brian Spence)

"If You Want My Love"
(Adrian David)

"I Wonder"
(Danny Burton/Phil Cilea)

"Sunshine"
(Nick Robertson)

However, once the panel had decided that "I Wanna Man" would be their choice for Making Your Mind Up, the BBC were faced with the impossible task of finding a suitable singer. Therefore it was decided that this song would be offered a place in the 2007 shown – making it the first UK finalist to be announced more than 12 months in advance!

Returning to the main event, rumours about possible singers commenced last October, with several tabloid newspapers suggesting Liberty X and Chico among others. Lisa Scott Lee also referred to her 'Eurovision single' in several press interviews, but when the BBC formally announced the line up on 16th February it became clear that virtually every newspaper story had been totally false.

Making Your Mind Up BBC1

"Play Your Game"
(Goran Kay/Hugo de Chaire)
Goran Kay

"Whisper To Me"
(Danny Orton/Melissa Pierce)
Kym Marsh

"Teenage Life"
(Daz Sampson/John Matthews)
Daz Sampson

"All About You"
(Wayne Hector/Deni Lew/Pete Glenister)
City Chix

"Hand On My Heart"
(Andy Wright/Roachie)
Four Story

"It's A Beautiful Thing"

(John McLaughlin/Michael Daley/
Stanley Andrew/Alison Pearce)
Antony Costa



The Singers

Within hours, if not minutes, of the press release being made it was claimed that "Beautiful Thing" (*sic.*) had been released by club singer Michelle Lawson, and that an earlier version of "Teenage Life" was available on several websites. Queries were then raised about "Hand On My Heart" which had featured on several music channels, while an unknown songwriter claimed that s/he had written "All About You".

The BBC were prompt in their enquiries and the plagiarism claim was dismissed quickly, while "Hand On My Heart" had been broadcast after the agreed promotion date of 1st October 2005.

The other two songs were slightly more complex but, after consulting their lawyers and the EBU a decision was reached. "Teenage Life" had only been

available as a White Label Promo, while "Beautiful Thing" had been made available without the permission of both songwriter and record label; from whom Michelle Lawson had recently been dismissed!

And so, as planned, six songs competed in Making Your Mind Up 2006 broadcast from Television Centre, London on Saturday, 4th March. Sir Terry Wogan, assisted for a second year by the lovely Natasha Kaplinsky, introduced the show as always. Four 'expert' celebrities, comprising Fearn Cotton, Kelly Osbourne, Jonathan Ross and Bruno Tonioli, were on hand to give their own comments and predictions after each performance.

First up was newcomer Goran Kay who, having graduated from university last year, is trying to develop a career in the music industry. Clearly nervous, Goran did his best to entertain with "Play Your Game", but it just wasn't good enough to score with the people watching at home.

Former Hear'Say star, Kym Marsh, followed with the classy "Whisper To Me" and looked professional in every part. She gave a good performance of an amazing ballad, but the vocals were much weaker than the version featured on her website. Such a shame as, musically, this was probably the best song of the night.

Next came Daz Sampson with "Teenage Life". Performing a song written about his school days he was joined on stage by five cheeky dancers dressed as schoolgirls. Few had seen this as a contender before the show, but Daz sold it to the millions through his infectious personality and overall confidence.

Jade Lezar and Laura McMonagle, stars of BBC Scotland's hit soap "River City", joined forces to become City Chix especially for Making Your Mind Up.

Cool and funky, the girls looked slightly uncomfortable while singing "All About You", but nonetheless remained a strong contender for victory.

Boy bands have come and gone during the last few years and some would say it is time to change, but that didn't deter Four Story from entering with "Hand On My Heart". The four guys, comprising Ben Ofoedu, Rodney Williams, Tony Thompson and Mark Brightman, individually have great voices, but it didn't seem to work and, like Goran, votes were hard to find.

Fomer Blue singer, Antony Costa, brought the show to a close and "It's A Beautiful Thing" had been an early favourite among with bookies and fans alike. Antony was very confident and the song had a nostalgic feel to it. It certainly sounded like a runaway winner, but it was up to the British public to decide and there was no guarantee that they would agree.

After a reprise of each song and the start of the voting process, Sir Terry and Natasha welcomed 2005 winner, Helena Paparizou, to the stage. She gave a live performance of "My Number One", accompanied by four dancers and a modified dance routine to that which most are now familiar with.

40 minutes later the show returned to find out who was going to represent the United Kingdom in Athens. As the votes were announced, including Internet votes provided by Javine, it became a two-horse race between Antony and Daz. As Helena started to announce the SMS votes it could have swung either way ... but the voters were convinced that Daz and his schoolgirls were the only ones who could restore credibility to the UK's recent bad showing at Eurovision.

Once again the BBC put on a good show and have provided the nation with a strong, albeit very different,

Eurovision entry. However, Making Your Mind Up was marred by the Beeb's policy of over issuing tickets to ensure a full audience. An unprecedented response meant that between 100 and 200 fans were, literally, left out in the cold. However, the Corporation's charter, alluded to in a subsequent statement issued by Audience Services, makes it unlikely that the current procedure relating to tickets can be changed to accommodate the wishes of Eurovision fans from across the United Kingdom.



The Winner

As Vision went to print "Teenage Life" was due to be released in the UK on Monday, 1st May 2006. Do your country and Daz proud by making this a major chart hit and help to restore credibility to the Eurovision Song Contest!

It's A Teenage Life

A few days after his victory at Making Your Mind Up 2006, Daz Sampson explained to Vision editor, Gordon Lewis, why it's a "Teenage Life".



"I was driving by my old school and the lyrics just came to me" Daz begins. "It's actually a pro-school song, but speaks about some of the attitudes I experienced as a teenager". So what was it that affected Daz so much that he had to turn it into what is sure to

become an international hit? "I didn't need to learn" he continues, "cos I was always going to be a pop star. But my teachers told me I had a one in a million chance and not to put all my eggs in one basket". For some that may have been sound advice, but for the enthusiastic singer it just made him even more determined to fulfill his dream.

Daz starts to speak about his life. "I'm a mobile DJ, a member of the British public the same as you. I'm not a pop star, but I am passionate about my music". In 2004/05, as part of dance act Uniting Nations, Daz spent six months in the charts with "Out of Touch", so is his real passion dance or rap? "I've been rapping since the days of PJ & Duncan" the infectious singer laughs. "My first hit with Bus Stop was a rap song, but because I'm a white guy I'm just seen as a novelty act. But I can guarantee that 99.9% of teenagers will identify with 'Teenage Life', and my record company is already predicting a number one hit based on their research."

Someone who is clearly serious about their music doesn't seem to be the obvious candidate for Eurovision, but Daz admits to being a huge fan. "I love Eurovision" he enthuses, "but you can blame Jemini for making me want to enter!" He continues by saying that he submitted a song in 2004, believing he could change the face of the contest forever, but at that time he was rejected at the first stage. "So I wrote a letter saying I was the one, Richard Parkes saw the letter ... and here I am! In 10 years time I want people to talk about what Daz Sampson did for the contest today, not what Bucks Fizz might have done 25 years ago."

Confident about his chances on the international stage, Daz begins speaking about his experience at the

UK final. "I was 155% confident I would win", a claim backed up by the reputed payout Daz won by betting on himself at 8/1. "I don't want to sound arrogant, but when I was at school I always knew I would end up on Top of the Pops and, in a similar way, I also knew I would win Making Your Mind Up." Daz's philosophy is surprisingly simple. "If you believe in something enough it's going to happen".

But there must have been someone that threatened his chances. "Antony Costa" says Daz without hesitation. "Would he have done it last year? No! He was doing it as a career stepping stone and nothing more". It is also revealed that Antony clearly thought he would win, being the most well known of all the participants, and Daz is ecstatic that nearly 40% of the voting public went for him and not the ex-Blue singer. "I believe that people wanted a change and I brought them that opportunity" he adds.

Returning to the song, "Teenage Life" includes the line "if you give the kids time, they won't do the crime" which Daz explains as a message to parents and teachers everywhere. "The education you receive from your parents is what shapes you into the person you are, even before you go to school. It's an important message for British society as it is today!"

Daz is clearly concerned about the state of modern life, so how does this reconcile with Kelly Osbourne's comment that his stage appearance was "a bit pervy". "I know it's a tender subject right now, with the Gary Glitter court case, but there were no sexual innuendos intended. It was a song about school with singers dressed in school uniform. That's all."

Some would say that Daz is a little naïve in his interpretation, but it is true to say that a far more provocative dress

code is often seen outside British secondary schools nearly every afternoon and, as he rightly says, the costumes and choreography for "Teenage Life" both went with the song. But what about those vocals? In a show that expects everyone to sing live, how did Daz plan to overcome this potential difficulty? "There are no rules about using effects on the microphones" he explains. "It will sound slightly different ... ever so slightly".

With just a few weeks before Athens Daz is planning a major promotion campaign, beginning with a whistle stop tour of Eastern Europe. "I'm also hoping to visit Scandinavia ... and definitely Greece!" He continues by saying that he wants "to try and convince people to vote for stage performances, not on whether you hate a country and its government for supporting a war that the general public were opposed to." Daz is adamant that continued political voting will destroy the Eurovision Song Contest and, as one of its biggest fans, he wants to do his best to avoid that happening. "I want to be remembered as the one who changed Eurovision" he says.

Win or lose, what can be expected from Daz in the future? "I'm not after an album deal" he admits, "but if 'Teenage Life' does become the major hit it's predicted to be then I hope to release another single soon after." Above all Daz is proud to be representing his country and "to sing at Eurovision is a dream come true. What more could I ask for?"

Hopefully a Eurovision victory to complete the story! Your British supporters, and even some European fans, are already rooting for you. So go on Daz, do us all proud by bringing the ultimate prize back to the United Kingdom!

Elliniki Radiophonia - Tileorassi SA

welcomes you to the 51st



to be held on

Thursday 18th May

and

Saturday, 20th May

**Presented by
Sakis Rouvas and Maria Menounos**

Official Website : www.eurovision.tv

Eurovision Song Contest

Semi Final

18th May 2006

*23 countries will compete in the Semi Final
The ten best placed songs will proceed to the Grand Final*

Armenia	“Without Your Love”	Andre
Bulgaria	“Let Me Cry”	Mariana Popova
Slovenia	“Mr Nobody”	Anžej Dežan
Andorra	“Sense Tu”	Jennifer
Belarus	“Mama”	Polina Smolova
Albania	“Zjarr E Ftohte”	Luiz Ejlli
Belgium	“Je T'adore”	Kate Ryan
Ireland	“Every Song Is A Cry For Love”	Brian Kennedy
Cyprus	“Why Angels Cry”	Annette Artani
Monaco	“La Coco Dance”	Séverine Ferrer
FYR Macedonia	“Ninanajna”	Elena Risteska
Poland	“Follow My Heart”	Ich Troje
Russia	“Never Let You Go”	Dima Bilan
Turkey	“Super Star”	Sibel Tüzün
Ukraine	“Show Me Your Love”	Tina Karol
Finland	“Hard Rock Hallelujah”	Lordi
Netherlands	“Amambanda”	Treble
Lithuania	“We Are The Winners”	LT United
Portugal	“Coisas De Nada”	Non Stop
Sweden	“Invincible”	Carola
Estonia	“Through My Window”	Sandra
Bosnia Herzegovina	“Lejla”	Hari Mata Hari
Iceland	“Congratulations Iceland”	Silvía Nótt

Eurovision Song Contest

Grand Final

20th May 2006

The vacant positions will be filled by the top 10 songs from the Semi Final

Switzerland	"If We All Give A Little"	Six 4 One
Moldova	"Loca"	Arsenium & Natalia
Israel	"Ze Hazman"	Eddie Butler
Latvia	"I Hear Your Heart"	Cosmos
Norway	"Alvedansen"	Christine Guldbrandsen
Spain	"Un Bloody Mary"	Las Ketchup
Malta	"I Do"	Fabrizio Faniello
Germany	"No, No Never"	Texas Lightning
Denmark	"Twist Of Love"	Sidsel Ben Semmane
Qualifier		
Qualifier		
Romania	"Tornerò"	Mihai Traistariu
Qualifier		
Qualifier		
United Kingdom	"Teenage Life"	Daz Sampson
Greece	"Everything"	Anna Vissi
Qualifier		
Qualifier		
France	"Il Etait Temps"	Virginie Pouchain
Croatia	"Moja Stikla"	Severina
Qualifier		

- Information correct at the time of going to print. Any late changes will be announced on line at www.uk.ogae.net Vision would also like to thank all participating television, record and management companies for their assistance with this issue, not least everyone at the BBC's Eurovision Department.

Albania

Song : "Zjarr E Ftohte"
 Translation : "Fire And Cold"
 Performer : Luiz Ejlli



For a second successive year Albania was the first nation to publicly reveal their song for Athens in a three day final televised at the end of last year. Festivali i Kënges was held in the capital Tirana, with 34 acts being reduced to 20 for the final night. A combined jury and televote culminated in the top three being confirmed on air and the announcement that 20 year old Luiz Ejlli had won the contest. The people of Albania, having selected their equivalent winner of Pop Idol in 2004, already know Luiz. Eurovision fans will also remember him from the 2004 Albanian selection. The song, "Zjarr E Ftohte", is ethnic in style and has been written by Klodian Qafoku and Dr. Flori.

"Ish Dashuri Dhe Jo Mëkat"
 Edmond Mancaku

"Dhe Kur Kujtesa"
 Aurel Thëllimi

"Niki"
 Julian Lekocaj

"Për Ju" - *qualified*
 Erinda Dhima

"Vetëm Një Puthje" - *qualified*
 Edona Llaloshi

"Sytë E Dashurisë"
 Tonin Marku

"Nostalgji" - *qualified*
 Agim Poshka

"Ku Ta Gjej Unë Këngën"
 Evis Mula

"Ti Ëngjëll, Unë Prometë"
 Mateus Frroku

"Nuk Je Ëndërr"
 Era Rusi

"Gjysëm Ëndërr Je O Grua"
 Ermiona Lekbello

"Per Ty" - *qualified*
 Erti Hizmo & Flaka Krelani

"Zhurma E Heshajes"
 Jo Artid Fejzo

"Nuk Plakën Ëndrrat"
 Kozma Dushi

1st Semi Final

16th Dec 2005

"Loja Dashuri"
 Besart Halimi

"Heshaje"
 Sfinx

"Qyteti Im"
 Rudi

2nd Semi Final

18th Dec 2005

"Dumbade"
 Eri feat. Perfect Bliss

"Vjeshtë Me Ty" - *qualified*
 Sonila Mara

"Mall"
 Armando Dimi

"Lotë Dashurie" Guximtar Rushani		"Dumbade" Eri feat. Perfect Bliss	
"Të Gjeta" Yllka Kuqi		"Do Të Doja" Marsida Saraci	
"Pritja" Pandora		"Ti Ëngjëll, Unë Prometë" Mateus Frroku	
"Një Ëndërr" Denisa Macaj & Entela Zhula	- <i>qualified</i>	"Edhe Fati Qan" Mariza Ikonomi & Erion Korini	
"Hipokriz" Sajmir Cili	- <i>qualified</i>	"Nuk Plakën Ëndrrat" Kozma Dushi	
"Zjarr E Ftohte" Luiz Ejlli	- <i>qualified</i>	"Një Ëndërr" Denisa Macaj & Entela Zhula	
"Po Dhe Jo" Ingrid Jushi		"Vjeshtë Me Ty" Sonila Mara	
"Thera Kokën Si Pa Dashur" Kujtim Prodani	- <i>qualified</i>	"Pse Ddal" Anjeza Shahini	
"Ah, Sikur Kjo Jetë ..." Albëria Hadergjonaj	- <i>qualified</i>	"Ah, Sikur Kjo Jetë ..." Albëria Hadergjonaj	
"S'mjafton Një Jetë" - <i>qualified</i> Manjola Nallbani		"Hipokriz" Sajmir Cili	
"Do Të Doja" Marsida Saraci	- <i>qualified</i>	"Ku Ta Gjej Unë Këngën" Evis Mula	3rd
"Pse Ddal" Anjeza Shahini	- <i>qualified</i>	"Zjarr E Ftohte" Luiz Ejlli	1st
"Shko" Miriam Cani	- <i>qualified</i>	"Per Ty" Erti Hizmo & Flaka Krelani	
"Edhe Fati Qan" Mariza Ikonomi & Erion Korini	- <i>qualified</i>	"Shko" Miriam Cani	
Final	18th Dec 2005	"Nuk Je Ëndërr" Era Rusi	2nd
"Thera Kokën Si Pa Dashur" Kujtim Prodani		"Nostalggj" Agim Poshka	
"S'mjafton Një Jetë" Manjola Nallbani		"Për Ju" Erinda Dhima	
"Vetëm Një Puthje" Edona Lialloshi			

Andorra

Song : "Sense Tu"
Translation : "Without You"
Performer : Jennifer



Still desperate to reach the Eurovision final, Andorra have appointed Jennifer to sing their song in Athens. Rafa Artesero has written and composed the entry which is described as a "mix between Sam Brown and Anastacia".

Armenia

Song : "Without Your Love"
Performer : Andre



Armenia's Eurovision debut was initially marred by confusion when it was announced that a national final would be held. This announcement was

subsequently withdrawn and it was decided that Andre would perform in Athens. He is already well known within his homeland, having been voted the best male singer of 2005. "Without Your Love" has been composed by Armen Martirosyan with lyrics by Catherine Bekian.

Belarus

Song : "Mama"
Performer : Polina Smolova



15 songs were presented in a television show broadcast on 10th January 2006. From these a public vote selected three that proceeded to an internal jury who took the final decision as to which song should represent Belarus this year. After a private performance of each song, Polina Smolova was confirmed on 27th February as the one entrusted to represent her country. "Mama" has lyrics written by Andrey Kostyugov and music composed by Sergey Sukhomlin.

"I Can See The Rising Sun"
Prima Vera

"Europe's Heart's Groove"
Dali

"Mysterious Logic"
Janet

"You Can't Stop This Dance"
Helena Grishanova - *qualified*

"Dangerous Game"
Gosia Andrzejewicz

"An A-class Face"
Alexandra Gaiduk

"Come Back"
Lyavony - *qualified*

"You Never Know"
Tyana

"May Be"
Dmitry Koldun

"Connect The Hearts"
Gunesh Abasoba

"Babysitter"
Lesya Kodush

"Vyshita Sorochka"
Irina Dorofeeva

"My Faith"
Litesound

"Proch S Glaz"
Ruslan Musvidas & Svetlana Vezhnovets

"Mama"
Polina Smolova - *qualified*

selected from the non-qualifiers by a professional jury. From there the top three semi finalists from each broadcast then sang their song for a third time in the Belgian final. Six juries representing the music industry, radio stations, journalists, televoters and international personnel then decided the ultimate winner. Although Brahim took an early lead, the televoters were clear that Kate Ryan should represent them in Athens with her French titled English language song. "Je T'adore" has been written and composed by Kate Ryan, Niklas Bergwall, Niclas Kings and Lisa Greene.



Belgium

Song : "Je T'adore"
Translation : "I Adore You"
Performer : Kate Ryan

Four pre-selection heats and two semi finals decided which songs would qualify for Eurosong 2006 and the overall honour of representing Belgium in Athens. Three songs from each preliminary show, chosen by a mixture of press, professional and radio juries together with a viewer vote, proceeded to the semi final, joining two wildcards

1 st Pre-selection	8 th Jan 2006
"P.O.W.E.R" Brahim 44 points	1 st
"Dame Amore, Dame Vida" Jeason 24 points	3 rd
"I'll Be There For You" Sonny O'Brien 23 points	4 th
"Hier Sta Ik" Fantoom 15 points	6 th
"Beyond You" Vanessa Chinitor 10 points	7 th
"Someone Is Calling" Zenna 18 points	5 th

"Watch Me Move"	Katerine	52 points	2 nd	"Gek"	WOEST	22 points	4 th
2nd Pre-selection			15th Jan 2006	"I Belong To You, Belong To Me"	Ali vs. Laura	12 points	=6 th
"Easy Esta Noche"	Casa Creola	17 points	6 th	"Wonderland"	La Sakhra	38 points	3 rd
"Not That Beautiful"	Afi	36 points	3 rd	"I'll Be There For You"	Triskèl	14 points	5 th
"The Best Time Of My Life"	Tommy	19 points	5 th	"El Mundo Bailando"	Belle Perez	52 points	1 st
"Crazy"	Barbara Dex	44 points	1 st	"Not Right"	Eve Kempbel	36 points	3 rd
"Feel Like"	Beatoxi	6 points	7 th	1st Semi Final			5th Feb 2006
"Als Ik Je Morgen Ergens Tegenkom"	Els de Schepper	25 points	4 th	"Dame Amor, Dame Vida"	Jeason	9 points	7 th
"Push It"	Roxane	39 points	2 nd	"Not Right"	Eve Kempbel	21 points	4 th
3rd Pre-selection			22nd Jan 2006	"Als Ik Je Morgen Ergens Tegenkom"	Els de Schepper	27 points	3 rd
"I Can't Go On Like This"	Valérie Mouton	14 points	5 th	"Not That Beautiful"	Afi	18 points	5 th
"Je T'adore"	Kate Ryan	44 points	1 st	"Watch Me Move"	Katerine	15 points	6 th
"Profile"	Kaye Styles	37 points	3 rd	"Profile"	Kaye Styles	44 points	2 nd
"Alleen Jij"	Axel Devries	10 points	7 th	"Je T'adore"	Kate Ryan	52 points	1 st
"History Turning Round"	Laura D	24 points	4 th	2nd Semi Final			12th Feb 2006
"Coward"	Peter Evrard	42 points	2 nd	"P.O.W.E.R"	Brahim	32 points	4 th
"I'm Your Man"	Pim	15 points	6 th	"Crazy"	Barbara Dex	37 points	2 nd
4th Pre Selection			29th Jan 2006	"Push It"	Roxane	9 points	=6 th
"In Your Heaven"	Kaden	12 points	=6 th	"I'll Be There For You"	Sonny O'Brien	9 points	=6 th

"El Mundo Bailando"	Belle Perez	34 points	3 rd
"Coward"	Peter Evrand	21 points	5 th
"Wonderland"	La Shakra	44 points	1 st
Eurosong		19th Feb 2006	
"Crazy"	Barbara Dex	33 points	5 th
"P.O.W.E.R"	Brahim	38 points	4 th
"El Mundo Bailando"	Belle Perez	57 points	3 rd
"Als Ik Je Morgen Ergens Tegenkom"	Els de Schepper	20 points	7 th
"Wonderland"	La Sakhra	62 points	2 nd
"Profile"	Kaye Styles	24 points	6 th
"Je T'adore"	Kate Ryan	76 points	1 st

Bosnia Herzegovina

Song : "Lejla"

Translation : "Leila"

Performer : Hari Mata Hari



Seven years after winning their ticket to Jerusalem, which was then grabbed by Dino & Beatrice when the original Bosnian choice was disqualified, Hari Mata Hara finally have the chance to represent their country. The group, comprising lead singer Hari Varešanović, Izo Kolečić, Karlo Martinović and Nihad Voloder, were appointed by PBSBiH to sing a song written and composed by Željko Joksimović, who represented Serbia & Montenegro in 2004, Fahrudin Pecikoza and Dejan Ivanović.

Bulgaria

Song : "Let Me Cry"

Performer : Mariana Popova



BNT, the state broadcasting company of Bulgaria, presented a semi final qualifying round on 25th February and, two weeks later, broadcast a 12 song final to choose their second Eurovision entry. Unlike last year the voting procedure ran smoothly without any allegations of vote rigging. "Let Me Cry", which gained almost 25% of the overall votes available, is a dramatic, yet passionate ballad with a hint of Bulgarian ethnicity. Dani Milev composed the music with lyrics written by Elina Gavrilova.

Semi Final	25th Feb 2006	"A Matter Of Time" Geppy	- <i>qualified</i>
"Land Of Regret" Safo		"Going To Sofia" Sunrise	
"I Can't Stop" Sunnie		"Love That You Can't See" Melody Traffic	- <i>qualified</i>
"Trust Yourself" Sonia	- <i>qualified</i>	"Let Me Cry" Mariana Popova	- <i>qualified</i>
"Every Dream At Night" Ivailo Kolve	- <i>qualified</i>	"Shte Te Zapalia" Ani Lozanova	- <i>qualified</i>
"Da Mozhesh Da Chakash" Vasil Petrov & Instinkt		"Let Me Live Again" Vesela Boneva	- <i>qualified</i>
"All This Time" Big Mama Scandal	- <i>qualified</i>	"Te Vas" Martin Aleksandrov	
"Na Teb" Deyan Nedelchev		Final	11th Mar 2006
"With You" Ralitsa Grudeva		"Karmic Love" Stoyan Zakhariiev 3.37 %	9th
"V Nyakoi Drug Zhivot" Plamen Petrev & Angel		"Let Me Live Again" Vesela Boneva 7.36 %	5th
"Wish" Neda Karova & Da	- <i>qualified</i>	"Let Me Cry" Mariana Popova 24.45 %	1st
"Za Mig" Nemo		"Wish" Neda Karova & Da 3.67 %	8th
"Faces" Stalker		"Trust Yourself" Sonia 0.89 %	11th
"Tants Na Noshtta" Violeta Vasileva		"Shte Te Zapalia" Ani Lozanova 1.30 %	10th
"Karmic Love" Stoyan Zakhariiev	- <i>qualified</i>	"Every Dream At Night" Ivailo Kolve 20.40 %	3rd
"Next To You" Mastilo	- <i>qualified</i>	"Next To You" Mastilo 20.47 %	2nd
"That's Me" Vesela Boneva & Plamen Pyatov	- <i>qualified</i>	"That's Me" Vesela Boneva & Plamen Pyatov 5.08 %	6th
"Celebrate Tonight" D'a Voices		"Love That You Can't See" Melody Traffic 8.61 %	4th

"A Matter Of Time"
Geppy 3.96 %

"All This Time"
Big Mama Scandal 0.84 %

Croatia

Song : "Moja Stikla"
Translation : "My Stiletos"
Performer : Severina



Croatia once again chose their Eurovision entry at Dora, with two semi finals preceding the culminative show. As always a wealth of Croatian performers took part, while a 50/50 split between jurors and televoters decided that Severina would represent her nation with the ethnic sounding "Moja Stikla". The song has been composed by Boris Novkovic, who represented Croatia himself in Kiev, and Franjo Valentic with lyrics by Severina Vuckovic. Following the withdrawal of Serbia & Montenegro, Croatia unexpectedly found themselves automatically qualifying for the Eurovision final based on their 2005 ranking.

7th "Ne Mogu Lagati"
Magnetic 8 points 13th

12th "Sve Dok Ne Postanem Prah"
Minea 7 points 14th

"Il Trenò Per Genova"
Tina Vukov 27 points =1st

"Cuvaj Nas"
En Face 13 points =10th

"Onako Kako Volim"
Andrea Cubric 5 points =15th

"To Nisam Više Ja" 5 points =15th
Sandi Cenov & Mirela Bunoza

"Cuvari Jjubavi"
Emina Arapovic 13 points =10th

"Party Djevojka"
Angels 20 points 8th

"Budi Njen"
Marija Husar 17 points 9th

"Najbolja Glumica"
Lana Jurcevic 26 points 3rd

"Ti Na Mojim Rukama"
Massimo 25 points =4th

"Kad Se Sklope Kazaljke"
Ivana Banfic 22 points 7th

"Prokleta Sam"
Petar Grašo 25 points =4th

"Oprosti Mala"
Magazin 27 points =1st

"Oci Od Safira"
Danijela 23 points 6th

2nd Semi Final 3rd Mar 2006

1st Semi Final 2nd Mar 2006

"Samo Ti Mi Ostani"
Claudia Beni 7 points =14th

"Kad Sklopim Oci"
Maja Šuput 9 points

12th "Tilo Uz Tilo"
Đani Stipanicev 14 points =10th

"U Tebi Tražim Spas" Raspashow 16 points	=8 th	"Pusti Da Te Vodi Ritam" Karma 13 points	=11 th
"To Je Sve Za Veceras" Rivers 3 points	16 th	"Nježne Rijeci" Ibrica Jusic 13 points	=11 th
"Kazna" Tina & Nikša 13 points	12 th	"Umrijeti S Osmjehom" Jacques Houdek 9 points	15 th
"Umrijeti S Osmjehom" Jacques Houdek 19 points	6 th	"Škifo" Alen Vitasovic 4 points	16 th
"Škifo" Alen Vitasovic 18 points	7 th	"U Tebi Tražim Spas" Raspashow 11 points	13 th
"Najbolje" Vlatka Pokos 12 points	13 th	"Il Treno Per Genova" Tina Vukov 27 points	3 rd
"Kao San" Kraljevi Ulice 30 points	=1 st	"Oprosti Mala" Magazin 16 points	=8 th
"Ljubav Za Jednu Noc" Žanamari 16 points	=8 th	"Najbolja Glumica" Lana Jurcevic 16 points	=8 th
"Zapisano Na Dlanu" Kristina 14 points	=10 th	"Ti Na Mojim Rukama" Massimo 23 points	4 th
"Kunem Se" Latino 7 points	=14 th	"Prokleta Sam" Petar Grašo 18 points	7 th
"Pusti Da Te Vodi Ritam" Karma 25 points	4 th	"Oci Od Safira" Danijela 10 points	14 th
"Ne Zovi Me Marija" Jelena Rozga 26 points	3 rd	"Kad Se Sklope Kazaljke" Ivana Banfic 21 points	5 th
"Nježne Rijeci" Ibrica Jusic 22 points	5 th	"Party Djevojka" Angels 14 points	10 th
"Moja Štikla" Severina 30 points	=1 st		

Cyprus

Dora

4th Mar 2006

Song : "Why Angels Cry"
Performer : Annette Artani

"Kao San" Kraljevi Ulice 28 points	2 nd	Having appointed Constantinos in 2005, CyBC decided to hold two semi finals in an attempt to regain their place on the international stage. The songs were generally of high quality and included one performed by Marios Tofi who represented Cyprus in the 2004
"Moja Stikla" Severina 30 points	1 st	
"Ne Zovi Me Marija" Jelena Rozga 19 points	6 th	

Junior Eurovision Song Contest. He has now become the first singer to attempt to cross the bridge from the junior to the adult show, but will have to wait a further year if he wants to represent his country again. Having taken an early lead, the young singer was forced into second place by Greek Fame Story winner, Annette Artani, and her Petros Yiannakis composition "Why Angels Cry".



"Funky" - *qualified*
Nick Nikolaou & Vicky Anastasiou

"Why Angels Cry"
Annette Artani - *qualified*

2nd Semi Final **12th Feb 2006**

"Play That Melody For Me" - *qualified*
Eleftheria Eleftheriou ft. Maria Zorlie

"Lost In Love"
Lefki Stylianou

"Land Of Yesterday" - *qualified*
Evagoras Evagorou & Chrisi Antreou

"Night's Shadows"
Theodoti Alexandrou

"Congratulations"
Marios Tofis - *qualified*

"Everytime I Close My Eyes"
Konstantinos Andronikou - *qualified*

"We All Are Heroes"
Patrick Babak

1st Semi Final **11th Feb 2006**

"Love On The Weekend"
Andreas Konstantinidis - *qualified*

"I'm A Fighter"
Marina Solonos - *qualified*

"Invincible"
Eleni Skarpari

"Just Your Smile"
Eleni Andreou - *qualified*

"Just A Dance"
Irimi Athanassiou

"If You Ask Me To Lie"
Giorgos Gavriel

"I Need You To Need Me"
Liana

"When I C U Dreamin"
Lizzi Marcroft

"To S'agapo"
Antonis Poorkou & Helena Georgiou

"After You"
Valanto Trifonos - *qualified*

"Don't Crack Now"
Helena Paris

Final **22nd Feb 2006**

"Love On The Weekend"
Andreas Konstantinides 35 points **5th**

"I'm A Fighter"
Marina Solonos 23 points **9th**

"Just Your Smile"
Eleni Andreou 17 points **10th**

"Funky" 34 points **6th**
Nick Nikolaou & Vicky Anastassiou

"Why Angels Cry"
Annette Artani 51 points **1st**

"Play That Melody 4 Me"
Eleftheria ft. Maria Zorli 32 points

"Land Of Yesterday"
Evagoras & Chrisi 44 points

"Congratulations"
Marios Tofi 46 points

"Everytime I Close My Eyes"
Kostas Andronikou 25 points

"After You"
Valanto Trifonos 41 points

Denmark

Song : "Twist Of Love"
Performer : Sidsel Ben Semmane



Despite an early announcement of the date, little enthusiasm preceded this year's Dansk Melodi Grand Prix held in Aalborg on 11th February 2006. Among the 10 acts hoping to represent their nations were Søren Poppe, formerly of Rollo & King, and Trine Jepsen. After all songs had been performed the top five went forward to a super final which saw 17 year old Sidsel Ben Semmane claim the prize and a place on the Eurovision stage. "Twist Of Love" has been written and composed by Niels Drevsholt, who is surely inspired by the great twister, Chubby Chekker!

"En Som Dig" 30 points 3rd
7th Søren Poppe & Lene Matthiesen Nørrelykke

"Heaven"
3rd David Mader - *eliminated*

"Je Ne Regrette Rien"
2nd Neighbours 20 points 5th

"Twist Of Love"
8th Sidsel Ben Semmane 48 points 1st

"Ta' Hjertet Med"
4th Claus Hasfeldt - *eliminated*

"Søde Gys"
Jørgen Thorup - *eliminated*

"Åh Amore"
Kim Schwartz 26 points 4th

"Make This Night Forever"
Kristine Blond - *eliminated*

"Grib Mig"
Trine Jepsen & Christian Bach - *eliminated*

"2 In 1"
Danni Elmo 36 points 2nd

Estonia

Song : "Through My Window"
Performer : Sandra



EuroLaul 2006 was held in Tallinn on 5th February where 10 international jurors drawn from across Europe voted on 10

songs competing against each other. Pre-contest favourite and former Estonian representative, Ines, gave a strong performance as expected, but narrowly lost out by six points to Swedish born Sandra who now hopes to restore national pride to her adopted country in Athens. "Through My Window" has been written and composed by the well known songwriting team of Pearu Paulus, Ilmar Laisaar, Alar Kotkas and Jana Hallas.

began in January with four semi finals ahead of the final show in March. Three singers, all of whom already had a place in the final, took part in each semi final with the public deciding which of their two songs should proceed to the next stage. From the 12 songs that reached the final, six proceeded to a super final from which hard rockers Lordi gained sufficient votes for their self composition to be the Finnish representative in Athens. Bring on the monsters of rock!

"It Was You"	Carola	56 points	5 th
"Open Up Your Heart"	Sofia Rubina	51 points	7 th
"Everytime I Tell You"	Reverend B & Crux	30 points	10 th
"Iseendale"	Ines	84 points	2 nd
"Sweet Separation"	Aphro Tito	33 points	9 th
"Through My Window"	Sandra	90 points	1 st
"Higher"	Glow	73 points	3 rd
"Be 1 st "	Marilyn	41 points	8 th
"Friends Will Be Friends"	Noorkuu	55 points	6 th
"Mr Right"	Meribel	67 points	4 th



1st Semi Final	13th Jan 2006
1 st "Eternamente Maria"	- qualified
Tomi Metsäketo	60%
3 rd "Look At Your Love"	23%
Jennie	
8 th "Hard Rock Hallelujah"	- qualified
Lordi	58%
6 th "Un Posto Fra Le Nuvole"	40%
Tomi Metsäketo	
4 th "Take Me Higher"	- qualified
Jennie	77%
"Bringing Back The Balls To Rock"	42%
Lordi	
2nd Semi Final	20th Jan 2006

Finland

Song : "Hard Rock Hallelujah"
Performer : Lordi

Still desperate for their first Eurovision victory, the Finnish selection process

"Liian Monta Yötä"
Johanna Pakonen 35%

"Over You" Ville Pusa	16%
"This Is What We Came For" Nina & Hanna-Riikka	33%
"Kerta Viimeinen" Johanna Pakonen	- <i>qualified</i> 65%
"Eternally" Ville Pusa & Christa Renwall	- <i>qualified</i> 84%
"Who I Am" Nina & Hanna-Riikka	- <i>qualified</i> 67%
3rd Semi Final	27th Jan 2006

"Shanghai Valot" Annika Eklund	- <i>qualified</i> 78%
"V.I.P." Jane	- <i>qualified</i> 71%
"Toinen Minä" Kilpi	38%
"Sinussa On Jotain" Annika Eklund	22%
"Sivuoireita" Jane	29%
"Katharsis" Kilpi	- <i>qualified</i> 62%
4th Semi Final	3rd Feb 2006

"Antaudun" Marita Taavitsainen	46%
"Liian Aikaisin" Katriina Hänninen	45%
"I Can't Wait" Safe Six	- <i>qualified</i> 55%
"Enkeli Itkee" Marita Taavitsainen	- <i>qualified</i> 54%
"Pala Taivasta" Katriina Hänninen	- <i>qualified</i> 55%
"Livin' It Up" Safe Six	45%

Final	10th Feb 2006
"Shanghai Valot" Anika Eklund	- <i>superfinal</i> 19565 points 3rd
"Who I Am" Nina & Hanna-Riikka	
"I Can't Wait" Safe Six	
"Katharsis" Kilpi	- <i>superfinal</i> 4685 points 6th
"V.I.P." Jane	- <i>superfinal</i> 6308 points 5th
"Enkeli Itkee" Marita Taavitsainen	
"Devil On My Shoulder" Katriina Hänninen	
"Kerta Viimeinen" Johanna Pakonen	
"Eternally" Ville Pusa & Christa Renwall	
"Hard Rock Hallelujah" Lordi	- <i>superfinal</i> 67369 points 1st
"Take Me Higher" Jennie	- <i>superfinal</i> 15138 points 4th
"Eternamente Maria" Tomi Metsäketo	- <i>superfinal</i> 45431 points 2nd

France

Song : "Il Etait Temps"
Translation : "It Was Time"
 Performer : Virginie Pouchain

Changing their selection process once again, France chose 21 singers from around the country to take part in a show entitled 'Et Si C'était Vous?' broadcast on 14th March 2006. After each had performed different songs throughout the gala evening a combined jury and televote decided

which one should represent the French nation in Athens. Virginie Pouchain, below, was the one chosen and was then asked to sing "Vous C'est Nous", the song that had been commissioned by France 3 for the event. However, it was subsequently felt that this did not suite Virginie's style and a new song, "Il Etait Temps", was commissioned with both songs written and composed by Rwandan music maestro Corneille Nyungura. The remaining 20 singers that took part in the show were Fabien; Kolo Barst; Chris Combette; Mikidache; Tyssia; Yorrick; Melody; Maelle Audic; Leila Barechdy; Fabian Ballarin; Tamara Calhoun; Emilie Chenneviere; Gladys Fraioli; Aude Henneville; Laurent Leandri; Julien Lamassone; Candice Parise; Virginie Schaeffer; Pierre Suppa; and Alexandre Vautin.

and Rade Vrcakovski were responsible for writing the winning song that is very contemporary and will be performed in English.



FYR Macedonia

Song : "Ninanajna"
Performer : Elena Risteska

FYR Macedonia returned to a full national final this year with 20 songs competing in a show broadcast from Skopje on 4th March 2006. As always with this country little information has been released about the actual event, but it is understood that the result was decided by televoting. Darko Dimitroy

"Vo Mojot Son"	Bojana Atanasovska 473 points	12th
"Ninanajna"	Elena Risteska 6999 points	1st
"More Od Solzi"	Lambe Alabakovski 5282 points	3rd
"Posle Nas"	Bojana Atanasovska 204 points	17th
"Silna"	Kalliope 1700 points	6th
"Taan I Med"	Eva Nedinkovska 631 points	=10th
"Ke Prespijam Na Kauc"	Adnan 316 points	16th
"Ljubov E ..."	Adrijan & Esmira 6866 points	2nd
"Moja Najmila"	Petar Mehandziski 631 points	=10th
"Bidi Diva"	Filip Jordanovski 202 points	18th
"Svetlina"	Bojana Atanasovska 435 points	14th
"More Lagi"	Maja Odzaklievska 982 points	9th

"Zlatni Zici"	
Dzoksi	2348 points
"Ke Blesne Zrak Za Nas"	
Natasa Gulevska	164 points
"Skokotkaj Me"	
Arci	428 points
"Zemi Se"	
Ibrahim Islamoski	1976 points
"Mala Odmazda"	
Bagaz	189 points
"Cvet Vo Postela"	
Natasa Mijatovic	1052 points
"Prodaj Raka"	
Enedin & Daria	456 points
"Mori Mome"	
Panta Rei	1105 points

Germany

Song : "No, No Never"
Performer : Texas Lightning



Anxious not to repeat last year's result, ARD appointed three songs and singers to take part in a gala final on 9th March 2006. The biggest surprise was the inclusion of a song by 1972 winner, Vicky Leandros, who is celebrating 40 years in the music business! Each singer performed their potential ESC

entry, plus a past Euro song in a star studded show that also included appearances from Lys Assia, Mary Roos, Corinna May, Ingrid Peters, Lou, Michelle and Joy Fleming. More celebrities followed during the interval, with performances from Brotherhood of Man, The Olsen Brothers and Dana International. For those in the audience it was Copenhagen all over again! When the televotes had been counted Lys Assia announced that Texas Lightning had been chosen as the next German entry, beating joint favourites Thomas Anders (formerly of Modern Talking) and Vicky Leandros. "No, No Never" has been written and composed by the group's Australian lead singer, Jane Comorford.

4 th	"Songs That Live Forever"		
	Thomas Anders	216457 points	2 nd
20 th	"No, No Never"		
	Texas Lightning	365361 points	1 st
15 th	"Don't Break My Heart"		
	Vicky Leandros	213139 points	3 rd
5 th			
19 th			
8 th			
13 th			
7 th			

Greece

Song : "Everything"
Performer : Anna Vissi



After weeks of private negotiations and public rumours, ERT confirmed that

Anna Vissi would represent the nation hosting the 2006 Eurovision Song Contest. One of the richest Greek-Cypriot women in the world, Anna has an incredible career spanning more than two decades. She first represented Greece in 1980 with "Autostop", returning two years later with "Mono I Agapi" for Cyprus. Since then she has gone on to enjoy international success and is more than capable of achieving a second successive victory for her adopted country. Anna presented four songs in a special show broadcast from Athens on 14th March from which a combination of jurors and televoters decided that the strong ballad "Everything" would be the next Greek entry. The song has been composed by Nikos Karvelas with lyrics from Anna herself.

In an attempt to revive Icelandic fortunes, a series of semi finals were held ahead of the show that decided the overall winner. The telephone network was inundated with calls on the final night, struggling to register 110,000 votes in a country whose population is only 300,000. When the top three were announced it was clear that Sívía Nótt had gained an unprecedented victory with her controversial song of self exaltation – she sings about herself! Accompanied by strange on stage choreography, Sívía also celebrated her victory by licking the microphone she was using! The music is by Þorvaldur Bjarni Þorvaldsson, while the lyrics are the work of Ágústa Eva Erlensdóttir and Gaukur Úlfarsson.

"Beautiful Night"	12.16 %	4 th
"Who Cares About Love"	13.72 %	3 rd
"Welcome To The Party"	26.32 %	2 nd
"Everything"	47.79 %	1 st

Iceland

Song : "Congratulations Iceland"
 Original Title : "Til Hamingju Island"
 Performer : Sívía Nótt



1st Semi Final 21st Jan 2006

"María" Gunnar Ólason	
"Sést það Ekki Á Mér?" Matthías Matthíasson	- <i>wildcard</i>
"Stundin Staðurinn" Þóra Gísladóttir & Edgarr S. Atlason	- <i>qualified</i>

"Ég Sé I See"
Íris Kristinsdóttir

"Það Sem Verður"
Friðrik Ómar - *qualified*

"Í Faðmi þér"
Maríanna Másdóttir

"Þér Við Hlið"
Regína Ösk - *qualified*

"Strengjadans"
Davið Ólgeirsson - *qualified*

2nd Semi Final 28th Jan 2006

"Dagurinn í Dag"
Geir Ólafsson

“Hamingjusöm”
Fanney Óskarsdóttir

“Lífið”
Eyjólfur Kristjánsson & Bergsveinn
Arlíusson

“Andvaka” - *qualified*
Guðrún Árný Karlsdóttir

“Flottur Karl, Sæmi Rokk”
Magni Ásgeirsson - *wildcard*

“Eldur Nýr” - *qualified*
Ardís Ólöf Víkingsdóttir

“Hjartaprá” - *qualified*
Sigurjón Brink

“100% Hamingja” - *qualified*
Aðalheiður 'Heiða' Ólafsdóttir

3rd Semi Final **4th Feb 2006**

“Mig Langar Að Vera Hjá þér”
Þórey Heiðdal

“100%” - *qualified*
Rúna Stefánsdóttir

“Mynd Af þér” - *qualified*
Birgitta Haukdal

“Útópía” - *qualified*
Dísella Lárusdóttir

“Hvað Á Ég” - *qualified*
Bjartmar Þórðarson

“Á Meðan Hjartað Slær”
Katy Winter

“Til Hamingju Island” - *qualified*
Silvía Nótt

“Það Var Lagið”
Gunnar Ólason

Final **18th Feb 2006**

“Eldur Nýr”
Ardís Ólöf Víkingsdóttir

“Stundin Staðurinn”
Þóra Gísladóttir & Edgard S. Atlason

“Útópía”
Dísella Lárusdóttir

“Flottur Karl, Sæmi Rokk”
Magni Ásgeirsson

“Það Sem Verður”
Friðrik Ómar 9942 votes **3rd**

“Sést það Ekki Á Mér?”
Matthías Matthíasson

“100% Hamingja”
Aðalheiður 'Heiða' Ólafsdóttir

“Strengjadans”
Davið Ólgeirsson

“Andvaka”
Guðrún Árný Karlsdóttir

“Hjartaprá”
Sigurjón Brink

“Til Hamingju Island”
Silvía Nótt 70190 votes **1st**

“Hvað Á Ég”
Bjartmar Þórðarson

“Mynd Af þér”
Birgitta Haukdal

“100%”
Rúna Stefánsdóttir

“Þér Við Hlið”
Regína Ósk 30018 votes **2nd**

Ireland

Song : “Every Song Is A Cry For Love”
Performer : Brian Kennedy

After three years of ‘You’re a Star’, two of which have brought Ireland’s worst ever Eurovision placings, RTE appointed Belfast singer Brian Kennedy to sing their next entry. Brian, who has

frequently worked with past winners Secret Garden and provided vocals on the original "You Raise Me Up", was given four songs to perform on 17th February 2006, although these were reduced to three when it was discovered that one had been previously released. The remaining contenders were broadcast during a 'Late Late Show' Eurovision special and televoters were given the chance to win a new car ... as well as choose the Irish entry performed, written and composed by Brian Kennedy himself!



including another contribution from singer songwriter Tzvika Pick. However, the prize of representing Israel was given to Eddie Butler who has previously represented his adopted country as part of Eden in 1999. Eddie has also composed the song, as well as assisting writing Osnat Zabag and Galit Burg in writing the lyrics.



"The Greatest Song Of All" **3rd**
 "All Over The World" **2nd**
 "Every Song Is A Cry For Love" **1st**
 "Strong Enough" - *disqualified*

"Ima Adama" Shlomo Gronich, Michal Adler & Lubna Salame	40 points	6th
"Yalda Sheli" Aviva & Maya Avidan	30 points	8th
"Bu'o Ve'nirkod" Avi Peretz	19 points	11th
"Kama Ahava" Gameboys	78 points	3rd
"Halom Orientaly" Stalos & Oren Hen	29 points	9th
"T'nu La'ahava" Guy Harari	28 points	10th
"Ze Hazman" Eddie Butler	99 points	1st
"Tzipor Stave" Tzipi Mash'hid	38 points	7th
"Lifney She'nifradim" Tzvika Pick	71 points	4th

Israel

Song : "Ze Hazman"

Translation : "Together We Are One"

Performer : Eddie Butler

After reinstating K'dam last year, the Israeli Broadcasting Authority returned with the same format to choose their entry for 2005. Following several changes in the initial line up, 11 songs eventually took part in the televised show broadcast on 15th March 2006

"Nishbar Im Haru'ach"
Michael Kirkilan 68 points

"Ata Hakočov"
The Diamondz 80 points

Latvia

Song : "I Hear Your Heart"
Performer : Cosmos



Eirodziesma 2006 commenced on 4th February with the first of two semi finals broadcast ahead of the culminating show. Five songs from each round were selected, three by televoters and two by juries, thereby comprising the 10 songs that qualified for Eirodziesma 2006. After each of the 10 songs had been performed, the top three chosen by the televoters went through to a second round of voting from which the Latvian entry was eventually chosen. Cosmos are a six piece boy band, although vocal harmony group would be a more accurate description, and their song, "I Hear Your Heart", is the joint effort of Reinis Sējāns, Andris Sējāns, Molly-Ann Leikin and Guntars Račs.

1st Semi Final

"We Are The Best"
Beitiku Family

30

4th Feb 2006

5th "Frozen Flower"
Fidji aka Katrine Tene

2nd "I Hear Your Heart"
Cosmos - *qualified*

"Say It Is" - *qualified*
Marts Kristians Kalnīos & Melomania

"Find You"
Kerija & Santa

"Every Mother And Every Child"
Z-Scars - *qualified*

"Bring The Sun"
Pieces Of Cake

"Player"
Nicol

"Later"
Amber & Sonja Bishop - *qualified*

"Feelin'"
PRego - *qualified*

2nd Semi Final **11th Feb 2006**

"Feel The Engine"
Re: Public - *qualified*

"Day Or Night"
Amberlife feat. Anna Polanski

"Shining Rose"
Gain Fast - *qualified*

"Don't"
Nasty Smile

"Get Out Of My Way"
VIA Meiteines

"Roll Down"
May G

"You Say That Kissin' Is Good"
H2O - *qualified*

"I'm Alone"
Jenny May - *qualified*

"Love Is Everywhere"
Device feat. Davis Kolbergs

"Heaven In Your Eyes"
Ella - *qualified*

Eirodziesma 11th Mar 2006

"I Hear Your Heart"
Cosmos 27740 points **1st**

"Heaven In Your Eyes"
Ella

"Shining Rose"
Gain Fast

"Every Mother And Every Child"
Z-Scars

"Say It Is" 23948 points **2nd**
Marts Kristians Kalnios & Melomania

"Later"
Amber & Sonja Bishop

"Feel The Engine"
Re: Public

"You Say That Kissin' Is Good"
H20

"Feelin'"
PRego

"I'm Alone" 10925 points **3rd**
Jenny May

4th March. At the end of what seemed like a marathon of marathons LT United confidently proclaimed, in the lyrics of their self-composed song, "we are the winners of Eurovision"! Time will tell whether this prophetic declaration becomes reality.



1st Heat 14th Jan 2006

"Not Good To Be Mad"
Egle Juodyte 14 votes **=3rd**

"Daydreaming"
Eleonora Sobrova - *disqualified*

"Make Me Wanna Lose You"
Aguste Vedrickaite 24 votes **1st**

"Pop Zvaigzde"
Antanas Nedzinskas 14 votes **=3rd**

"Thoughts"
Margarita Arta 6 points **8th**

"I Don't Think"
Jonas Cepulis 16 points **2nd**

"All I Need"
Hoa 12 points **6th**

"Baby You Are"
Fate 11 points **7th**

"Take Me"
Evelina Jocyte 13 points **5th**

2nd Heat 21st Jan 2006

Lithuania

Song : "We Are The Winners"
Performer : LT United

The least successful of the Baltic states, Lithuania, held one of the most complex selection processes of 2006 in order to choose their latest Eurovision offering. Four preliminary heats saw little known singers and newcomers compete for places in three semi finals that decided who would take part in the final show broadcast from Kaunas on

"Halo Halo" Colder	12 points	4 th	"I'm So Happy" Banglai	5 points	=8 th
"Falling In Love" Robertas Kupstas	20 points	=1 st	"Juros Liga" Gediminas Nadtočis	11 points	=5 th
"Eternal Love" Milana	11 points	5 th	"The Way To You" Dovile Miknaityte	24 points	1 st
"4 Ever" Dove	20 points	=1 st	Quarter Final 4th Feb 2006 Newcomers Only		
"Round And Round" Gravel	15 points	3 rd	"The Way To You" Dovile Miknaityte	18 points	2 nd
"Funny" Sekme	7 points	8 th	"Window To The World" Ashtrey	9 points	=6 th
"Song About Love" Super Kolegos	11 points	5 th	"Halo Halo" Colder	5 points	10 th
"Iš Lempos" Flaer	7 points	8 th	"Girl You Know" Intro's	8 points	8 th
"Give Me Your Heart" Sinir Yok	5 points	10 th	"Pop Zvaigzde" Antanas Nedzinskas	3 points	11 th
"Let Me Be Your Star" Evelina	10 points	7 th	"4 Ever" Dove	16 points	3 rd
3rd Heat		28th Jan 2006	"I Don't Think" Jonas Cepulis	1 point	12 th
"Girl You Know" Intro's	16 points	=3 rd	"Falling In Love" Robertas Kupstas	10 points	=4 th
"Cockroach Love" Stringaj	9 points	7 th	"Not Good To Be Mad" Egle Juodyte	7 points	9 th
"Window To The World" Ashtrey	17 points	2 nd	"Time To Change" Onsa	9 points	=6 th
"Turn Around" Rugiageliu Berniukai	5 points	=8 th	"Make Me Wanna Loose You" Aguste Vedrickaite	20 points	1 st
"Lifestyle" Tribute	5 points	=8 th	"Round And Round" Gravel	10 points	=4 th
"Time To Change" Onsa	16 points	=3 rd	1st Semi Final 11th Feb 2006 Newcomers & Established Acts		
"Again" Nerri	11 points	=5 th	"The Heat" Alanas Chošnau	1905 points	2 nd

"4 Ever" Dove	1195 points	- wildcard	6th	3rd Semi Final Newcomers & Established Acts	25th Feb 2006	
"Round And Round" Gravel	2246 points		1st	"Alright" NEO	898 points	3rd
"Wonder Who Loves You" Artas	1886 points		4th	"Pajurio Samba" Bugs Band	117 points	7th
"Another Day" 4Fun	83 points		9th	"The Way To You" Dovile Miknaityte	605 points	5th
"Grafiti" Giulija	340 points		8th	"Geografias" Eduardo Gimenez	174 points	6th
"If My Dream Came True" B'Avarija	758 points	- wildcard	7th	"Just For Fun" Aiste Pilvelyte	834 points	4th
"Back To The Future" Saulės Kliošas	1421 points		5th	"We Are The Winners" LT United	8061 points	1st
"Tavo Ir Mano Dalia" Edmundas Kučinskas	1903 points		3rd	"Time To Change" Onsa	1143 points	2nd
2nd Semi Final Newcomers & Established Acts			18th Feb 2006	"Day Or Night" Amberlife		- <i>withdrawn</i>
"Make Me Wanna Lose You" Aguste Vedrickaite	1367 points		3rd	"Escape Me Tonight" Mantas		- <i>withdrawn</i>
"I Feel So Free" The Road Band	137 points		8th	Final		4th Feb 2006
"Madonna" Aliukai	386 points		6th	"Make Me Wanna Lose You" Aguste Vedrickaite	1959 points	10th
"Flirtin' On The Dance Floor" C–Stones & Favour	1228 points		4th	"Tavo Ir Mano Dalia" Edmundas Kučinskas	4912 points	5th
"Welcome" In Culto	2648 points		1st	"Welcome" In Culto	16451 points	2nd
"Falling In Love" Robertas Kupstas	1682 points		2nd	"Falling In Love" Robertas Kupstas	2681 points	8th
"Lithuanian Boy" Ruta Lukoševiciute	344 points		7th	"Flirtin' On The Dance Floor" C–Stones & Favour	1689 points	11th
"Pavasario Lietus" Nacija	1135 points		5th	"Back To The Future" Saulės Kliošas	1084 points	14th
"It's A Longest Way" Highway	108 points		9th	"4 Ever" Dove	1361 points	13th

"Time To Change"	Onsa	699 points
"Alright"	NEO	2735 points
"Wonder Who Loves You"	Artas	1625 points
"Just For Fun"	Aiste Pilvelyte	4307 points
"Pavasario Lietus"	Nacija	2017 points
"We Are The Winners"	LT United	32699 points
"The Heat"	Alanas Chošnau	9249 points
"Round And Round"	Gravel	6462 points
"If My Dream Came True"	B'Avarija	765 points

Malta

Song : "I Do"
Performer : Fabrizio Faniello



Once again Malta's Song for Europe aka Maltasong was held in the Mediterranean Conference Centre, Valetta on 4th February 2006 with 18 hopefuls all aiming to improve on Chiara's second placed song last year.

16 th	The line up featured many names that are now synonymous with the event, including Fabrizio Faniello who saw himself competing against his sister, Claudia. There could, however, only be one winner and so, five years after his Eurovision debut, Fabrizio now represents his island home with the song "I Do" that was chosen by televoting. The song was also written and composed by the Maltese heartthrob, ably assisted by Aldo Spiteri.
7 th	
12 th	
6 th	
9 th	
1 st	"You Too" J. Anvil 4933 points 4 th
3 rd	"Amazing" Anabel Debono 2107 points 14 th
4 th	"Only Till The Morning" Ali & Lis 3907 points 6 th
15 th	"Stay With Me" Lara Azzopardi 1637 points 17 th
	"Echoes Of Gaia" Charlene & Natasha 2836 points 10 th
	"I Promise You" Manuel Xuereb 3782 points 7 th
	"I Do" Fabrizio Faniello 7729 points 1 st
	"Tell Me" Eleanor Cassar 2646 points 11 th
	"This Heart Of Mine" Trilogy 4954 points 3 rd
	"So Good" Andreana 635 points 18 th
	"Time" Paul Giordimaina & Morena 3046 points 9 th
	"Reachin' Out" Pamela 2371 points 13 th
	"Stronger" Christian Arding 4075 points 5 th

"Waves"	Nadine Axisa	1680 points	16 th
"It Just Comes Natural"	1980 points	Josef Tabone & Amanda Farrugia	15 th
"You're My Dream"	Kevin Borg	3590 points	8 th
"High Alert"	Claudia Faniello	2416 points	12 th
"Spare A Moment"	Olivia Lewis	7623 points	2 nd

Moldova

Song : "Loca"

Translation : "Crazy"

Performer : Arsenium & Natalia



After granny's success in Kiev, Moldova were already guaranteed a place in the final and wanted to ensure they chose the best song and singer to represent them in Athens. A semi final was held on 5th February 2006 and broadcast three days later, from which 13 songs proceeded to a televised final on 25th February. But while combined jury and televotes have successfully worked in other countries, it led to a chaotic result in Chisinau with no less than three songs winning the show – thanks to the jury member who refused to take a deciding vote! The state broadcasting company was thrown into turmoil and,

instead of arranging a simple sing-off, organised another national final. They invited the three winners to take part, but only one was willing to accept the invitation. A further four songs were then found to compete in a second final held on 15th March where the 'winner' came second, while Arsenium & Natalia Gordienko gained sufficient votes to score a clear victory. Former O-Zone member, Arsenium, also wrote and composed "Loca".

Semi Final 5th (8th) Feb 2006

"Soarele Si Dimineata"	Studio One	55 points	13 th
"Love Is Never Wrong"	Edict	56 points	=11 th
"My Love Is True"	Lou	63 points	7 th
"Sing Your Song"	Moldstar	64 points	6 th
"N-am Sa Vin"	Corina Tepes	59 points	8 th
"Made In Moldova"	Sergiu Cuzencov	77 points	1 st
"Cred In Steaua Mea"	Millenium	70 points	3 rd
"Badisor"	Cezara	56 points	=11 th
"Se Intoarce Calendarul"	Aura	57 points	10 th
"Lubirea Mea"	Olia Tira	67 points	5 th
"Zii Lauta"	Geta Burlacu	72 points	2 nd
"Everytime I See You"	Lina	58 points	9 th
"I Believe"	Georgeta Daraban	68 points	4 th

"For You, Pentru Tine" Vlad 52 points	=14 th	"Sing Your Song" Moldstar 18 points	=1 st
"Somebody" Cristina Rujitcaia 52 points	=14 th	"My Love Is True" Lou 10 points	=6 th
"Prayer For Peace" Eugeniu Doibani 52 points	=14 th	"Made In Moldova" Sergiu Cuzencov 18 points	=1 st
"Ben Seviyorum" Illyhan 51 points	17 th	"Se Intoarce Calendarul" Aura 5 points	9 th
"Fata Cu Ochii De Foc" Ruxanda 50 points	=18 th	"Lubirea Mea" Olia Tira 6 points	8 th
"I Have To Find You" Nadejda Kara 50 points	=18 th	"I Believe" Georgeta Daraban 2 points	10 th
"Spiritul Lui Stefan Cel Mare" Muzica-1 48 points	20 th	"N-am Sa Vin" Corina Tepes 0 points	=11 th
"Aprinde Iubirea" Valeriu Motovilnic 46 points	=21 st	"Zii Lauta" Geta Burlacu 18 points	=1 st
"All Alone" Marina Chirtoaca 46 points	=21 st	2nd Final	15th Mar 2006
"E Prea Tirziu" Victoria Lungu & Costi Burlacu 45 points	=23 rd	"Something About Love" Ludmila Znamenskaia 14 points	4 th
"Singur In Noapte" Maxim 45 points	=23 rd	"The Games Of Night" Svetlana Sertzova & Vadim Luchin 12 points	5 th
"De Ce Tacerea Am Ales" Escape 40 points	25 th	"Made In Moldova" Sergiu Cuzencov 20 points	2 nd
Final	25th Feb 2006	"Loca" Arsenium & Natalia Gordienko 24 points	1 st
"Love Is Never Wrong" Edict 0 points	=11 th	"I've Never Thought" Marcella 16 points	3 rd

Monaco

Song : " La Coco Dance"
Translation : "The Coco Dance"
 Performer : Séverine Ferrer

"Everytime I See You" Lina 12 points	5 th	Séverine Ferrer was appointed by Monaco to sing their 2006 Eurovision entry. The song, written by J Woodfell and Iren Bo, will be performed in French and Tahitian, bringing yet
"Soarele Si Dimineata" Studio One 0 points	=11 th	
"Cred In Steaua Mea" Millenium 17 points	4 th	
"Badisor" Cezara 10 points	=6 th	

another language to the Eurovision stage for the very first time. It should also be noted that when a singer named Séverine last represented Monaco the small principality won!



Netherlands

Song : "Amambanda"
Performer : Treble



For more than 30 years the Dutch nation, who won two of the first four Eurovision Song Contests, have been trying to regain their former glory without success. It was decided, therefore, to appoint three acts each performing three songs in preference to a more varied national final. Accompanied by a publicity campaign, all three acts were known across the Netherlands prior to the show that

decided which one of them would travel to Greece in May. Once all nine songs had been performed three, one from each act, proceeded to a super final and there was little doubt that girl group Treble should represent their country with the uptempo "Amambanda"; a song about not needing a spoken language to break down barriers! Despite its unusual title the song, which is the creation of the three girls, is written and performed in English.

"Lama Gaia"
Treble

"Amambanda"
Treble 72 % 1st

"Make Your Choice"
Treble

"L.A. Baby"
Behave

"Heaven Knows"
Behave 15 % 2nd

"Maybe Tomorrow"
Behave

"Without Your Love"
Maud

"I'm Alive"
Maud 13 % 3rd

"One More Try"
Maud

Norway

Song : "Alvedansen"
Performer : Christine Gulbrandsen

One year after Wig Wam brought glam rock to Eurovision, Norwegian television launched a series of semi finals ahead of Melodi Grand Prix. Two songs qualified from the first three

shows, with a wildcard round deciding the remaining two places. During the final show four songs were eliminated before the remaining songs were performed for a second time. Ultimate winner Christine Gulbrandsen was the only finalist to sing in her native language, and her winning song is strongly influenced by Norwegian folk music and mythology. Christine also helped write the entry, assisted by Kjetil Fluge and Atle Halstensen.



"Heaven's In Your Eyes"
Hanne Haugsand

"The Better Side Of Me" - *wildcard*
Ovi Martin

"Too Much Love"
Marit Strømøy

"I Hear Music" - *qualified*
Hans-Petter Moen & Kim Arne Hagen

"I Wanna Be" - *wildcard*
Jannicke Abrahamsen

3rd Semi Final **27th Jan 2006**

"Saturday" - *wildcard*
Birgitte Einarsen

"Dreaming Of A New Tomorrow"
Tor Endresen - *qualified*

"Like A Wind" - *wildcard*
Veronica Akselsen

"Shut Up And Kiss Me"
Phung

1st Semi Final **13th Jan 2006**

"Lost And Found" - *qualified*
Jorun Erdal & Geir Rønning

"Here For The Show" - *qualified*
Trine Rein

"My Dream"
Christina Undhjem

"Misled" - *wildcard*
Kirsti Carr

"Tonight"
Mocci

"Sunshine" - *wildcard*
Arlene Wilkes

2nd Semi Final **20th Jan 2006**

"Absolutely Fabulous"
Queentastic - *qualified*

"Alvedansen" - *qualified*
Christine Gulbrandsen

"Paparazzi World"
Kathrine Strugstad

Wildcard Round **3rd Feb 2006**

"Misled"
Kirsti Carr

"Sunshine"
Arlene Wilkes

"The Better Side Of Me"
Ovi Martin

"I Wanna Be"
Jannicke Abrahamsen

"Saturday" - *qualified*
Birgitte Einarsen

"Like A Wind" - *qualified*
Veronica Akselsen

Final **4th Feb 2006**

"Here For The Show"			
Trine Rein			- eliminated
"I Hear Music"	67223 points	2nd	
Hans-Petter Moen & Kim Arne Hagen			
"Dreaming Of A New Tomorrow"			
Tor Endresen			- eliminated
"Absolutely Fabulous"			
Queentastic	61997 points	3rd	
"Saturday"			
Birgitte Einarsen			- eliminated
"Alvedansen"	77568 points	1st	
Christine Gulbrandsen			
"Like A Wind"			
Veronica Akselsen			- eliminated
"Lost And Found"	57905 points	4th	
Jorun Erdal & Geir Rønning			

journey to the warmer climes of Greece. Ich Troje were last seen on the international stage in 2003 when they came 7th with "Keine Grenzen - Zadnych Granic". The words to "Follow My Heart" are the joint effort of Michal Wisniewski, Jacek Lagwa and the Real McCoy, with music by Andre Franke.

"Goodbye"	Agata Torzewska	2 points	12th
"Undercover"	Danzel	5 points	=8th
"I Wanna Know"	Katarzyna Mos	4 points	=10th
"Za Kare"	Maciek Silski	0 points	=13th
"Love Is What We All Need"	Leonie Kuizenga	0 points	=13th
"Follow My Heart"	Ich Troje	17 points	1st
"Good Girl"	Dezire	14 points	4th
"Popatrz Na Mnie"	H2O	0 points	=13th
"Na Kolana"	Katarzyna Cerekwicka	17 points	=1st
"Kocham Cie"	Slawek Uniatowski	13 points	5th
"Jezeli Jestes Wolam Cie"	Mosqitoo	4 points	=10th
"W Nas Cieplo Wiosen"	Brathanki	5 points	=8th
"How Many People"	The Jet Set	16 points	3rd
"Zero Do Stracenia"	Kto To	9 points	7th
"I Feel In Love"	Queens	10 points	6th

Poland

Song : "Follow My Heart"
Performer : Ich Troje



Held on 28th January 2006 amid freezing temperatures, viewers across Poland joined an expert jury in choosing their next Eurovision entry. Two songs tied for first place, but as Ich Troje had attracted more televotes it was agreed that they should make the

Portugal

Song : "Coisas De Nada"
 Translation : "Meaningless Things"
 Performer : Non Stop



Portugal changed their format again for 2006, returning to a national final of 10 songs which was held on 10th March. Part of each song was performed in English, although Portuguese remained the predominant language throughout the broadcast. The voting was proportioned between television viewers and a jury, with two songs tying for first place. The final decision was then taken by the jury as to which song should go to Athens and chose to place their hopes on girl group Non Stop. José Manuel Afonso and Elvis Veiguiinha are responsible for writing and composing "Coisas De Nada".

"Um Dia Durei"	Bruno Nicolau	8 points	=6 th
"Alma Nova"	Lara Afonso	8 points	=6 th
"Na Noite És Tu E Eu"	Madison Lucia	5 points	10 th
"Bem Mais Além"	Maria Folia	8 points	=6 th
"Nunca Mais Digas Adeus"	Ricardo Moraes	7 points	9 th

40

"Sei Quem Sou"	Vânia de Oliveira	22 points	=1 st
"Durmo Com Pedras Na Came"	Natalie Insoandé	12 points	4 th
"Coisas De Nada"	Non Stop	22 points	=1 st
"O Amor É Uma Fonte"	Beto	9 points	5 th
"As Minhas Guitarras"	Cuca	15 points	3 rd

Romania

Song : "Tornerò"
 Translation : "I Will Return"
 Performer : Mihai Traistariu



Anyone able to watch Romanian television towards the end of February were treated with three successive nights of Eurovision fever. In total 21 songs competed in two semi finals, the top six from each qualifying for the final show that was full of enthusiasm and excitement. Having come third in 2005, Romania has a proud record to uphold this year and an equal split between expert juries and televoting decided that the unenviable task should be given to Mihai Traistariu. Written and composed by Eduard Cărcota, Cristian Hriscu and Mihaela Deac the song is sung in both English and Romanian.

1st Semi Final	24th Feb 2006	"Give Me A Sign" Gina Pop Band		
"Na Ma Uita" Maria Magdalena Danaila		"Porque Te Vas" Marius Dragomir		
"It's Our World" Maria Radu & Mike Peterson	- <i>qualified</i>	"Baby" Delia		
"S'agapo" Mi Do aka Mircea Romcescu	- <i>qualified</i>	"The Universe" Tony Pop Tamas & Desperado		- <i>qualified</i>
"I Want You Back" Trrafic		"Se Tu Vuoi" Linda Valori		- <i>qualified</i>
"Jokero" Akcent feat. Nico	- <i>qualified</i>			
		Final		26th Feb 2006
"Hey A Hey" Gina Pop	- <i>qualified</i>	"Hey A Hey" Gina Pop Band	4 points	=10th
"Gandesti Prea High" Delia	- <i>qualified</i>	"It's Our World" Maria Radu & Mike Peterson	5 points	=8th
"United Heavens" Space Ville		"Jokero" Akcent feat. Nico	20 points	2nd
"No One Lives Forever" Dragos Grigorescu		"S'agapo" Mi Do aka Mircea Romcescu	3 points	12th
"Be My Boyfriend" Indiggo	- <i>qualified</i>	"Be My Boyfriend" Indiggo	6 points	7th
		"Gandesti Prea High" Delia	4 points	=10th
2nd Semi Final	25th Feb 2006			
"Tornerò" Mihai Traistariu	- <i>qualified</i>	"Se Tu Vuoi" Linda Valori	10 points	6th
"Lumea Asta Nu-i A Mea" Gasca de Acasa		"Sunshine" Jasmine	5 points	=8th
"Brand New Feelings" Dora	- <i>qualified</i>	"Brand New Feelings" Dora	13 points	3rd
"I Believe In My Stars" Laurentiu Cazan	- <i>qualified</i>	"Tornerò" Mihai Traistariu	22 points	1st
"Sunshine" Jasmine	- <i>qualified</i>	"I Believe In My Stars" Laurentiu Cazan	12 points	=4th
"This Is My Name" Sorin Mitrea		"The Universe" Tony Pop Tamas & Desperado	12 points	=4th

Russia

Song : "Never Let You Go"
Performer : Dima Bilan



Russia chose their latest Eurovision offering internally, shortlisting Varvara's ethnic sounding "We'll Be There" and Dima Bilan's uptempo ballad "Never Let You Go" as the two main contenders. The eventual decision favoured popular male singer, Dima. The music to "Never Let You Go" has been composed by Alexandr Lunyov to accompany lyrics written by Karen Kavaleryan and Irina Antonyan.

Serbia & Montenegro

Song : "Moja Ljubavi"
Translation : "My Love"
Performer : No Name



The two preliminary rounds split between Serbia and Montenegro went without a hitch, but things would certainly change in the show that chose the overall winner. 24 songs competed and it was assumed that Serbian favourite, Flamingosi featuring Luis, would win the show. Voting was split between televotes, converted into points, and jurors, but the jurors from Montenegro ignored their neighbours, while Serbia appeared to hold no prejudices whatsoever. Consequently Montenegrin boy band, No Name, took the prize for a second year running while most of the audience left immediately. Those who remained threw bottles at the stage, No Name did not reprise their winning song due to safety concerns ... but the runner up did, causing some television viewers, at first, to think that Flamingosi had won the show! However, the story did not end there. The following morning Serbia rejected the result while Montenegro insisted No Name were the rightful winners. Two days of intensive meetings followed but, as no decision could be reached, a statement was issued on 15th March announcing that Serbia & Montenegro had withdrawn from the 2006 Eurovision Song Contest. A few days later the situation changed yet again when the EBU gave Serbia & Montenegro permission to re-run Evropesma with just the top five songs from the two original preliminary shows and relying solely on a televote to decide the outcome. However, no re-run took place and the EBU formally confirmed Serbia & Montenegro's withdrawal on 20th March 2006 while controversially allowing them to take part in the voting on 18th and 20th May!

Montevizija

24th Feb 2006

"Naći Ću Te"

Jelena Kažanegra 16 points

=11th

"Koraci" Dan Poslie	32 points		"Hasta La Vista" Nikola Karadžić	3 points	19 th
"Sudbina" Bojan Delić	30 points		7 th	Beovizija 10th Mar 2006	
"Uspavanka" Grim	20 points		10 th	"Maler" Blah, Blah Band	14 points 10 th
"Željna" Vladana Vučinić & Bojana Nenezić	16 points	=11 th	"Iskrena Pesma" Julija & Julija	6 points	16 th
"Svoj" Saša Barjaktarović	5 points	16 th	"Izabran" Ivana Selakov	3 points	=18 th
"Putujem Sama" Krug	22 points	9 th	"Kapija" Biber	34 points	6 th
"Cipele" Stevan Faddy	104 points	1 st	"Da Ti Se Dlanovi Zalede" Mari Mari	49 points	5 th
"Potraži Me" Nina Žižić	4 points	=17 th	"Blizina" Zvezde Granda & Šaban Bajramović		- <i>withdrawn</i>
"Ne Postojim" Dado Đurović	8 points	15 th	"Greh" Tijana Dapčević	61 points	4 th
"Živa Sm" Milena Vučić	23 points	8 th	"Lazarica" Ivana Jordan	63 points	3 rd
"Kad Lubav Pbijedi" Katapult	4 points	=17 th	"Romale Romali" Ana Nikolić	77 points	2 nd
"Ti Si Mi Za Sve" Milica Milić	13 points	13 th	"Ludi Letnji Ples" Flamingosi feat. Luis	94 points	1 st
"Žubor Vina" Danica Krsmanović	12 points	14 th	"Kada Ti Treba" Maja Nikolić	18 points	8 th
"Za Nju" Stefan Filipović	52 points	3 rd	"Ništa O Njoj" Nevena	5 points	17 th
"Feniks" Nela Popović	39 points	4 th	"Poruka Za Ljubav" Ivana Knežević	15 points	9 th
"Anđeo U Očima" Crveno I Crno	37 points	5 th	"Bajka" Propaganda 117	7 points	15 th
"Moja Ljubavi" No Name	81 points	2 nd	"Konak" Ana Bekuta	13 points	=11 th
"Ti nisi taj" Marija Brajović	1 point	20 th	"Vatrena" Koktel Band	2 points	=21 st

"Sve Ili Ništa" Marko Jeftić	0 points	23rd	"Uspavanka" Grim	17 points	=11th
"Jednom Pokidano" Blizanci	13 points	=11th	"Željna" Vladana Vučinić & Bojana Nenezić	10 points	=15th
"Kad Me Jednom Za Te Ne Bude" Vanja Radovanović	3 points	=18th	"Naći Ću Te" Jelena Kažanegra	6 points	=18th
"Otrezni Me" Želimir Petrović	2 points	=21st	"Kapija" Biber	17 points	=11th
"Osvoji Me" Enes Ukić	10 points	14th	"Da Ti Se Dlanovi Zalede" Mari Mari	21 points	9th
"Nisam Kriv" Dejan Vozlić	11 points	13th	"Jednom Pokidano" Blizanci	2 points	=22nd
"Kap Po Kap" Romana	19 points	7th	"Greh" Tijana Dapčević	20 points	10th
"Neopisivo" Slađa Ivanišević	3 points	=18th	"Lazarica" Ivana Jordan	35 points	5th
Evropesma		11th Mar 2006	"Romale Romali" Ana Nikolić	46 points	4th
"Cipele" Stevan Faddy	50 points	=3rd	"Ludi Letnji Ples" Flamingosi feat. Luis	60 points	2nd
"Moja Ljubavi" No Name	64 points	1st	"Kada Ti Treba" Maja Nikolić	11 points	14th
"Za Nju" Stefan Filipović	50 points	=3rd	"Poruka Za Ljubav" Ivana Knežević	2 points	=22nd
"Feniks" Nela Popović	32 points	7th	"Maler" Blah, Blah Band	2 points	=22nd
"Anđeo U Očima" Crveno I Crno	16 points	13th	"Konak" Ana Bekuta	8 points	17th
"Koraci" Dan Poslie	10 points	=15th	"Kap Po Kap" Romana	20 points	20th
"Sudbina" Bojan Delić	28 points	8th			
"Živa Sm" Milena Vučić	6 points	=18th			
"Putujem Sama" Krug	4 points	21st			

Slovenia

Song : "Mr Nobody"
Original Title : "Plan B"
Performer : Anžež Dežan



Janez Škof and Aljoša Ternovšek hosted the 2006 Slovene final on 26th January. 14 songs took part and the result was decided by SMS and jury, but with controversy towards the end. Saša Lendero was winning and looked like claiming her ticket to Athens. That was until the final jury vote decided to ignore her entry completely, awarding 12 points to Anžež Dežan and securing his victory. However, claims of plagiarism were soon heard in the streets of Ljubljana, but these were eventually dismissed when it was accepted that the rules of music theory may produce similarities and nothing more. Having written and composed the song, Matjaža Vlašica, Urše Vlašic and Boštjana Grabnarja no doubt breathed a sigh of relief when this decision was reached!

"Nora Sem, Da Te Ljubim"	Nuška Drašček	11 points	9th
"SOS"	Natalija Verboten	13 points	6th
"Noro Se Ujameva"	Rebeka Dremelj & Domen Kumer	18 points	=4th
"Tu Da Du"	Sergeja	0 points	=13th
"Mandoline"	Saša Lendero	24 points	2nd

"Rapid Tepe Ipi Mapam"	Andraž Hribar	7 points	=11th
"V Mojih Dlaneh"	Marijan Novina	0 points	=13th
"Polkaholik"	Atomik Harmonik	20 points	3rd
"Vihar"	Maja Slatinšek	8 points	10th
"Hokus Pokus"	Ylenia	12 points	=7th
"Plan B"	Anžež Dežan	26 points	1st
"Najdi Me"	Katrinās	12 points	=7th
"Ostani Z Mano"	Monika Pucelj	18 points	=4th
"Hocem Stran"	Alenka Godec	7 points	=11th

Spain

Song : "Un Bloody Mary"
 Translation : "A Bloody Mary"
 Performer : Las Ketchup



Even when the Spanish media first broke the news, TVE kept the waiting public in suspense until 27th February 2006 when they finally confirmed that Las Ketchup would represent Spain in

Athens. Spaniards are now hoping that the four sisters – the original three having recently been joined by another – will be the biggest name among the contestants. Las Ketchup will certainly be remembered for their international chart topper, “Asereje” aka “The Ketchup Song”, which made the top spot in the United Kingdom in 2002. Their Eurovision entry, which is about someone buying a Bloody Mary drink, has been written and composed by Manuel Ruiz Gomez.

Carlsson, formerly of Barbados and more recently Alcazar, and Rednex who are known across Europe for their infamous 90’s hit “Cotton Eye Joe”. But it was Carola who was the undoubted winner and, although the juries placed her second, a landslide televote earned her another chance to represent Sweden with a powerful song which she herself has helped write along with Thomas G:son, Bobby Ljunggren and Henrik Wikstrom.

Sweden

Song : “Invincible”
 Original Title : “*Evighet*”
 Performer : Carola



After disappointing viewing figures for Melodifestival 2005 and subsequent relegation to the semi final, executives at SVT reviewed the current format of selecting the Swedish entry and, at one point, even considered returning to a one show event. However, it was decided to retain the popular 32 song format for this year, recognising that Melodifestival is probably bigger in Sweden than Eurovision itself! As always the line up was very much a ‘who’s who’ of pop, with 1991 winner Carola becoming an early favourite to win. Other favourites included Magnus

1st Semi Final

18th Feb 2006

“Aiayah”
 Simone Moreno

“Kamelont”
 Electric Banana Band - *wildcard*

“This Woman”
 Anna Sahlene

“The Name Of Love”
 Magnus Bäcklund - *wildcard*

“Jag Ljuger Så Bra”
 Linda Bengtzing - *qualified*

“Kuddkrig”
 Pandang

“Naughty Boy”
 Hannah Graaf

“Sing For Me”
 Andreas Johnson - *qualified*

2nd Semi Final

25th Feb 2006

“Lev Livet”
 Magnus Carlsson - *qualified*

“Oh Yeah”
 The Elefantz

“Etymon”
 Sonya

“Ge Mig En Kaka Till Kaffet”
 Östen Med Resten

"La Chica De La Copa" Pablo Cepeda		"Mama Take Me Home" Rednex	- <i>wildcard</i>
"Idag & Imorgon" Kikki Danielsson	- <i>qualified</i>	"Älskar Du Livet" Björn Kjellman	- <i>qualified</i>
"En Droppe Regn" Niklas Wahlgren	- <i>wildcard</i>	"Evighet" Carola	- <i>qualified</i>
"Mi Amore" Velvet	- <i>wildcard</i>	Wildcard Final	12th Mar 2006
3rd Semi Final	4th Mar 2006	"The Name Of Love" Magnus Backlund	- <i>qualified</i>
"Temple Of Love" BWO	- <i>qualified</i>	"Kamelont" Electric Banana Band	
"When Love's Coming Back Again" Jessica Folcker		"Mi Amore" Velvet	
"Mi Amor" Gregor		"En Droppe Regn" Niclas Wahlgren	
"Kalla Nätter" Jessica Andersson		"Golden Star" ElySION	
"Night Of Passion" The Poodles	- <i>qualified</i>	"Faller Du Så Faller Jag" Patrik Isaksson	
"Golden Star" ElySION	- <i>wildcard</i>	"Mama Take Me Home" Rednex	- <i>qualified</i>
"Faller Du Så Faller Jag" Patrik Isaksson	- <i>wildcard</i>	"Silverland" Roger Pontare	
"Innan Natten Är Over" Kayo		Melodifestival	18th Mar 2006
4th Semi Final	11th Mar 2006	"Sing For Me" Andreas Johnson	200 points 3rd
"Silverland" Roger Pontare	- <i>wildcard</i>	"Älskar Du Livet" Björn Kjellman	6 points 9th
"Don't Try To Stop Me" Laila Adéle		"Jag Ljuger Så Bra" Linda Bengtzing	56 points 7th
"Like Fire Tonight" Günther & The Sunshine Girls		"Night Of Passion" The Poodles	98 points 4th
"Jag Tar Det Jag Vill Ha" Sandra Dahlberg		"Lev Livet" Magnus Carlsson	19 points 8th
"Under Your Spell" Evan		"Mama Take Me Home" Rednex	61 points 6th

“Evighet” Carola	234 points	1 st
“The Name Of Love” Magnus Backlund	68 points	5 th
“Idag & Imorgon” Kikki Danielsson	2 points	10 th
“Temple Of Love” BWO	202 points	2 nd

Switzerland

Song : “If We All Give A Little”
Performer : Six 4 One



Causing controversy within the Swiss music industry, veteran German songwriters Ralph Siegel and Bernd Meinunger were commissioned to write a song for their neighbours, Switzerland; the title of which was revealed in January. Prior to that the alpine nation had announced that they would once again be represented by an international act, inviting Liel (Israel), Andreas Lundstedt (Sweden), Tinka Milinovic (Bosnia Herzegovina), Keith Camilleri (Malta), Marco Matias (Germany) and Claudia D’Addio (Switzerland) to form the group Six 4 One. Andreas is, perhaps, the most well known having been part of the successful Swedish group, Alcazar.

Turkey

Song : “Super Star”
Performer : Sibel Tüzün



After relegation to the semi final following a disappointing result in Kiev, TRT appointed former beauty queen turned popular singer Sibel Tüzün to perform their latest offering. “Super Star” is an uptempo disco offering that confirms Turkey is seeking just one outcome ... victory in Athens! Sibel has composed the music to her entry, accompanying lyrics written by Taskin Sabah.

Ukraine

Song : “Show Me Your Love”
Original Title : “I Am Your Queen”
Performer : Tina Karol



After a series of controversial shows last year, NTU decided to change their approach to Eurovision by adopting a Pop Idol-style programme allowing viewers to choose the next Ukrainian entry. 12 singers were selected for the television programme 'Ti-zirka' that commenced on 28th January 2006. The artists, in order of elimination, were Daria Minejeva; Anastasiya Lushnikova; Jevgenia Saharova; Olga Sviridenko (*due to ill health*); Anna Kohanchik; Taras Dobrovolskiy; Stanislav Konkin; Natalia Volkova; and Vladimir Tkachenko, leaving just three to compete against each other.

"I Am Your Queen"	Tina Karol	24 points	1 st
"You Give Me Your Love"	Irina Rozenfeld	21 points	=2 nd
"Boombox"	Kirill Turichenko	21 points	=2 nd

United Kingdom

Song : "Teenage Life"
Performer : Daz Sampson



Six songs competed in this year's Making Your Mind Up held at the BBC's Television Centre in London on Saturday, 4th March. A full report, including information on Radio 2's own

competition that selected a song for the 2007 British final, can be found elsewhere in this issue. "Teenage Life" has been written and composed by Daz Sampson and John Matthews.

"Play Your Game"	Goran Kay	14 points	6 th
"Whisper To Me"	Kym Marsh	53 points	4 th
"Teenage Life"	Daz Sampson	121 points	1 st
"All About You"	City Chix	55 points	3 rd
"Hand On My Heart"	Four Story	17 points	5 th
"It's A Beautiful Thing"	Antony Costa	96 points	2 nd

37 nations – 37 songs



Want to know more?

So that you can keep up with all the news at it happens live from Athens visit the following websites every day of Eurovision week!

www.eurovision.tv

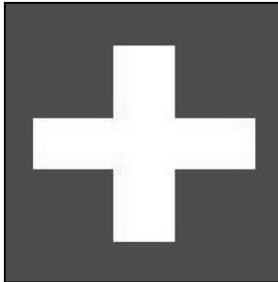
www.esctoday.com

www.oikotimes.com

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 Rhyпарк, 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

For further information and delegate registration form visit

www.uk.ogae.net

and select 'International Convention 2006'

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

Sponsored by



Please note, all delegates are responsible for their own travel and hotel arrangements

Vacancies

OGAE UK and Vision are seeking applicants for the following positions

Assistant Editor

Duties to include assisting with the production of Vision on a quarterly basis; representing the magazine at official and unofficial engagements; liaising with broadcast companies and printers; working within budgets, ensuring compliance with all deadlines; typesetting and proof reading. Must have experience of Word and DTP, plus daily access to telephone, Internet and e-mail, and be prepared to consider promotion to Editor by 2008/2009.

Club Secretary/Treasurer

Duties to include maintenance of all club accounts; updating and balancing accounts on a monthly basis; production of annual financial summary; liaising with banks and resolving any queries as necessary; monitoring membership renewals for Vision and Eurosong News; processing payments to suppliers and ensuring expenses are paid on time. Must have experience of accounting practices, plus regular access to telephone and e-mail. Security checks will be carried out for this responsible position. Position will run for two years from appointment.

President

Duties to include representing OGAE UK at official and unofficial engagements; attendance at OGAE International AGM and OGAE UK Convention; responding to enquiries received from television, radio, newspapers and other media outlets; promoting Vision, OGAE UK and Eurovision with a view to increasing membership and any other relevant duties that may arise. Must have regular access to telephone, Internet and e-mail. Position will run for two years from appointment.

How to Apply

All applicants must have proven membership of OGAE UK for at least two years, reside within the UK and be able to provide independent references if required

Letters of application should be sent to the address shown below and include a brief summary, not exceeding 150 words, of skills and experience offered

All positions are unpaid, but reasonable expenses will be reimbursed

Previous postholders are eligible to apply

OGAE UK, 51 Greenfields Avenue, Totton, Southampton SO40 3LU

Closing Date : 15th June 2006

What's Another Summer Night?

Malta has asked once again who wants to represent the Mediterranean island at Eurovision and, with a resounding "I Do", Vision favourite Fabrizio Faniello stood up to be counted. Marcus Keppel-Palmer speaks to Fabrizio.



Fabrizio Faniello is no stranger to Eurovision, having competed in 2001, and no stranger to Vision and OGAE UK, having graced the front cover of issue 50 and been guest at the 2002 Convention. So Fabrizio kindly agreed to allow me 15 minutes or so to interrupt his preparations to chat.

Naturally, I ask him for his reactions to winning Maltasong 2006. "I'm incredibly happy" he bubbles, "but I've got a lot of work to do. We are going off to the Cypriot national final this week, followed by some publicity in Bulgaria. If we get the opportunity, hopefully we'll do some publicity in the UK too." How does he think Athens will differ from his first Eurosong attempt? "I think this time will be completely different as I have a lot more experience. I know at least what to expect with all the publicity and confusion that we'll find out there. This time round I have written the song myself, so that'll add

an extra layer of excitement. But I will still be trying to put on a great show. It'll be essentially the same show as in the Maltasong, in the same kind of style and I hope we keep the blind. But in the Maltasong the backing vocals are on playback, whereas at Eurovision they'll have to be live so we'll need to adjust the choreography a little. That's one of the things we'll be doing in Cyprus".

I suggest that "I Do" is a strong contender and ask Fabrizio how he came to enter it into the Maltasong. "I cannot say that 'I Do' is a strong contender myself until I have heard all the other songs that qualify for Eurovision" he says modestly. "I wrote the song from a personal experience. The idea came to me after one of my break-ups. I discussed it with Aldo, my guitarist, and hummed him a melody. Then we worked it up in an unplugged version. The song wasn't written with Eurovision in mind, just for my album. In fact, we were trying to enter a song into the Swedish Melodifestival but failed to get selected for the final heats. So my manager suggested we enter 'I Do' into the Maltasong. He took it away and changed it from a folk-rock song into a commercial dance-oriented song. I was amazed at the transformation!"

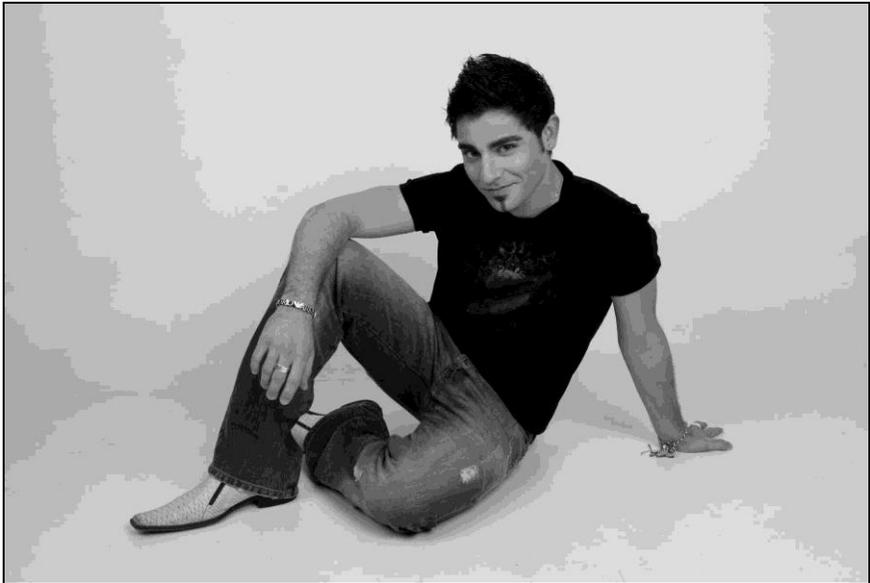
It certainly seemed popular as Fabrizio clearly won the Maltese televote. But he is aware that there are now "Expectations! The Maltese people now expect a lot of me, especially after Chiara. I have more pressure on my shoulders. I feel I have to do really well!! And because I am known now in Europe the expectations are really high!" I take this as an opportunity to ask Fabrizio to bring his British fans up to date with what he has been doing since his performance at the OGAE UK Convention. Fabrizio explains "I have recently released my third album,

'Believe', which is my favourite album as I think it is more mature than my first two releases. However, we had some great hits off the second album, "When We Danced", and the "Whistle Song" was a big hit in Sweden. That was one of the best moments in my career. I have had some success in other parts of Europe too. Now Aldo and I are working on songs for a new album, but I think we'll do a revised version of "Believe" for Athens."

"In addition, I have been a keen participant in the Maltasong. Last year I came third and the year before, 12th. Mind you, that was with a ballad – I think the Maltese people prefer up-tempo Fabrizio!! And of course, I was incredibly happy to be a part of the Congratulations 50th Anniversary Show in Copenhagen last year. In fact, that is

one reason I tried again this year. I love Eurovision. I love meeting all the other artists; I love being there for the whole week with the rehearsals and parties. It is my dream to achieve Malta's best ever result." I point out to Fabrizio that to fulfil his dream, he will have to win the final. "Well if we do win, I know the 20th May will be a feast day in Malta!"

With that Fabrizio tells me that he'll have to go as they are getting ready to shoot the video for "I Do" in preparation for a Europe-wide charm offensive. It's definitely a catchy song and could easily capture the eyes and ears of the televoters. Only time will tell. Whether he wins or not, Fabrizio will always be a charming and friendly ambassador for Malta and its music scene. Good luck in Athens.



Heart throb Fabrizio hopes to go one better than Chiara and win for Malta

The Day I ...

Created the sound of anything ... but music

Ed Ley recalls the time that he stunned the Austrian pop music scene when he participated in Starmania auditions.

Thursday, 19th May 2005. 8 o'clock. I'm realising that none of my favourites tonight are going to be around come Saturday, and my ears are ringing from Masha's voice, but I am relaxed and looking forward to the next couple of hours.

Then the first song starts. It's Austria – not a country you usually notice in Eurovision, and they certainly won't be noticed this year in Athens. I actually spent much of 2003 living in the south of Austria, however, and so I tend to pay a bit more attention to whatever ORF is offering than most.

But "Y Asi" is, well, what's the word, quirky, and has managed not to meet with the general indifference that befell Manuel Ortega, Tie Break and others. It has a bit of Spanish. It has a bit of tracksuit. And it has a lot of yodelling. The only Austrian entry that compares in randomness is 2003's "Weil Der Mensch Zählt" by Alf Poier. Alf Poier. Two words that stop me dead in my tracks.

I cast my mind back to a very hot Saturday morning in June 2003, in Klagenfurt; that's Austria's sunny south for those of you who have ever bothered reading the adverts in the travel section of The Independent. Normally I would be lying by a pool with a drink at this stage as working for 15 hours a week is so traumatic, but for some reason that I am now unable to put into words, I have applied to audition for Starmania (Austria's Pop

Idol equivalent). There's one major problem, however. Ever since my voice broke, it has not sounded very musical. I have spent the past week deciding exactly what I am going to sing. Anything that suggests I am taking the whole process seriously is off the cards that's for sure. After a couple of hours and a bit too much of the schnapps that some old dear had made for me, I had a Plan A (sing "Cry Baby" – it's only been a couple of weeks since *that* result) and a Plan B (the rather vague 'something in German' category).

Plan A was a good idea but flawed as, funnily enough, "Cry Baby" had not become a hit in Austria. Was there a way of combining A & B? Yes, there was; namely "Weil Der Mensch Zählt". Unmusical, unexpected and sung in Styrian dialect, which was not dissimilar to the bizarre twang my German had gained over those last few months. Ideal, while being anything but.

So now it's Saturday morning and I am in the waiting room, which consists of gormless guys and pretty-ish girls with pretty-ish voices and a major interest in Norah Jones. Once they know I'm British, they're all asking me what the hell I'm up to. As I can't really remember, I demonstrate "Die Tiere Dieser Erde". They are impressed, and I really don't feel they should be. Cheeky Girls syndrome.

Then it's my turn to go into the room. "Hi, my name's Ed, I'm 21, I'm from England, and I want to sing a song that's come to mean a lot to me since I arrived in Austria." What follows is a bit of a blur. The jury look shocked (good). One of them says to me in English "Ed, honey, what do you want?" "Ich weiß nicht / I waas net" is the only response I can come up with.

They get me to sing something else. I am even more shocked than they were. So shocked that the only song I can

think of is "Think Twice". And I forget the words. For some reason, one of the three jurors still wants me to go forward. The other two tell me that, while I have something, it isn't a voice. Does this go down as the most complimentary rejection in reality TV history? And what on earth did I do to deserve it?

I don't know if my audition was ever shown. I hope it was, as I don't want to think that waking up early on a Saturday morning when it was already 35 degrees was in vain. And yet I hope it wasn't, as it may come back to haunt me one day. It could also have made ORF that bit more intent on withdrawing from ESC, which would not make me very popular.

What I do know is that I was severely misquoted by a journalist from trashy Austrian magazine 'News' a week later (how does "I was only doing this for a laugh anyway" become "I think I could

be the next Robbie Williams"????). Oh, and when they called back the fifty worst candidates to sing an Udo Jürgens song in one of the shows near the end of the series, I was not even invited. Ho hum.

But still, it's good to have a party piece, isn't it? And, anyway, doing remotely well on one of these shows doesn't ensure that you won't get humiliated a bit later on. Just ask anyone who's been at ESC with a song about clapping their hands, oh clapping their hands, getting their fire touched or running and hiding ... Enough to make you wish the world would stop turning.

If you have any recollections that you would like to share with Vision, please contact Marcus Keppel-Palmer at Marcus.Keppel-Palmer@uwe.ac.uk or write to Vision (quoting "The Day I") at the usual address.

Can't get enough of Eurovision?

Then why not take part in OGAE's alternative contests?

OGAE Song Contest

Help choose the best non-Eurovision song from competing European countries. For further information please contact Martyn Clarke at martyn237@yahoo.co.uk

OGAE Home Composed Contest

Open to budding songwriters and jury members alike, Home Composed seeks to find out the best new compositions from around Europe. Please contact Martin Faulkner at webmaster@homecomposed.net or visit www.homecomposed.net

Whatever Happened To

HEAVY PETTIN'

Marcus Keppel-Palmer looks at the career of Scottish heavy rockers, Heavy Pettin' who graced the 1987 Song For Europe with "Romeo".



One of the myths surrounding the UK at Eurovision and Song for Europe is that participation is a career-killer. As this column has shown that is not often the case with participants enjoying considerable success. However, if ever there was a case study to bear out the career-killer legend, it surely comes with 1987 Song for Europe entrants, Glasgow group, Heavy Pettin'.

All five members of the Glasgow rockers were born in the early 1960s. Guitarist, Gordon Bonnar, bass player, Brian Waugh, and drummer, Gary Moat, originally formed a band called Weeper. In 1981 they augmented their line-up with Steve Hayman on vocals and a further guitarist, Punky Mendoza, who was born Robert John Getty. The band changed its name to Heavy Pettin' which owed its genesis to an album title by UFO, the Michael Schenker heavy rock group.

One of the prevalent musical phases in the early 1980s was the rise of

NWOBHM or the New Wave of British Heavy Metal, which saw heavy rock acts such as Judas Priest, Saxon and Iron Maiden reach the upper echelons of the singles charts. In particular, young bands were unearthed, most notably and successfully Sheffield outfit, Def Leppard, who epitomised the melodic heavy rock that was the most recognisable legacy of the era. And for a time, Heavy Pettin' were being considered in the same league as Def Leppard.

The group built their reputation partly on a hard slog of playing concerts allied to glowing reviews in magazines like Kerrang, the bible of Heavy Metal. Bonnar, Moat and Hayman wrote a series of catchy songs which were built for Hamie Hayman's high-pitched vocals. In 1982 the band recorded and released a single "Roll The Dice" on Neat Records, which led to Polydor Records signing them. There was plenty of confidence in the band with a show dedicated to them on the Friday Rock Show and Polydor engaged Queen guitarist, Brian May, to produce the group's first album. Released in 1983, "Lettin' Loose" garnered good critical reviews as classy, melodic but raunchy rock. The first two singles from the album, "In And Out Of Love" and "Rock Me", failed to grace the charts, but a third single, a revised version of "Love Times Love" (which had been on the B-side of "Roll The Dice"), graced the singles charts and propelled "Lettin' Loose" into the album charts.

It seemed that Heavy Pettin' were on the road to Heavy Rock success. They toured with Kiss and also with Ozzy Osbourne before releasing their second album, "Rock Ain't Dead", in 1985. Although the album scraped into the charts and the band played the Reading Festival, Polydor rather lost their way with the group and failed to

run an adequate publicity campaign. After the second album the band and management parted company and they signed with Brian Lane who managed Yes and Asia. Recording sessions for a third album started under the production of Geoff Downes of Asia (and Buggles), but the sessions were scrapped and Polydor found new producers.

The 1987 Song for Europe saw record companies becoming involved for the first time in years. As such, Polydor decided that Heavy Pettin' should be entered into the contest with one of the tracks they had been recording, the melodic and sugary "Romeo", written by Bonnar, Hayman and Moat. The band was unenthusiastic, but relented when told that there were going to be well-known artists in the pre-selection. There weren't. However, "Romeo" was to be released as a single and so the band did the show and the concomitant "Wogan" preview. Unfortunately, the band finished 6th in the contest behind Rikki and "Only The Light".

The single stiffed and the sound of "Romeo" alienated the band's following, being more poppy than their normal harder rock. As a direct result there was a lack of confidence and Polydor refused to release the third album, "Big Bang", citing the band's name as a

reason for lack of success in the USA. Within a few months, Mendoza and Waugh had instigated a split and Heavy Pettin' was no more. It may be easy to lay the blame at the feet of Song for Europe – certainly the NWOBHM movement had run its course and the band had disputes with their record company; but the 1987 contest was a clear catalyst in ending the band.

The "Big Bang" album did see the light of day in 1989 on FM Records and "Romeo" was on the release. By then Hamie had formed Chyld who performed sporadically throughout the 1990s, even recording a track for an album of covers of Motley Crue. Mendoza formed a series of bands including Criminal Minds and Wild, who were a Kiss covers band. He did some production work, but quit the music business to go into teaching. A live Heavy Pettin' album was discovered and released in 2000, "Heart Attack Live", and the band has had their studio albums released on CD.

Perhaps the Heavy Pettin' story was one of unfulfilled promise. Perhaps it was a story of too much hype. Perhaps it was a story of a record company and a band not on the same page. Whatever else, it is clear that entering the Song for Europe brought the band to an end.

Eurovision 2007

Although it is far too early to know when and where the 52nd Eurovision Song Contest is to be held, anyone planning to travel in 2007 and apply for tickets through OGAE UK is advised to make an appropriate written request as early as possible. While tickets are never guaranteed, only those who follow this procedure and ensure their subscriptions are current can be considered.

OGAE UK, 51 Greenfields Avenue, Totton, Southampton SO40 3LU

London Nights

Intrepid Vision reporter, Andy Brook, ventures into the netherworld of the Eurovision night that is Douze Points.



Douze Points is a monthly Eurovision tribute night, held in the Retro Bar in central London. Now in its seventh season, there have been more editions of Douze Points than there have of the Eurovision Song Contest itself! The evening is hosted by Peter, Paul and Wendy, and if you think that sounds like the name of a Swiss group from the 1970s, then the Retro bar is just the place to go to hone your knowledge of all things Eurovision. It is best to arrive early, as the place is always packed by the time the 'Te Deum' fanfare opens the show. From then until close the only music you will hear is Eurovision music.

Compere Paul (Scotland's answer to Terry Wogan) hosts a quiz, in which everyone tries to answer ridiculously obscure, trivial questions. Answers,

and an awful lot of guesses, are written on scraps of paper and deposited in a bucket on the stage. Wendy then discards the incorrect answers on the floor, of which there are always many, with a disdain that belies her own scanty knowledge of Eurovision, until only the correct answers are left. The winner - drawn at random - receives a free drink. This happens throughout the course of the evening. Not that people tend to drink a lot. Honestly.

DJ Peter Bettles gets us in the mood with a selection of new and old Eurovision songs, with a couple of obscure numbers thrown into the mix. Looking around, it's surprising how many people know the words to every song, no matter what language it is. Peter has a collection of almost two thousand Eurovision tracks and when I suggested that this meant that he must have absolutely every Eurovision release ever, he thought for a minute before telling me he doesn't have the Spanish version of "Boom Bang A Bang"! I didn't even know that there was one.

Guests have included Katrina Leskanich, Fabrizio Faniello and Nikki French – who, as a big fan of Eurovision herself, is always warmly welcomed. And while it's always a thrill when a Eurovision star turns up, this is really an event for fans and friends; to meet, swap news and gossip about the contest while listening and dancing to Eurovision music.

Retro Bar manager Wendy says "as far as I know we're the only place in the world doing a regular tribute night. People travel from not only all over the UK, but also abroad. Guys time their trips to London from Finland, France, Austria, Sweden, Italy, Spain, and even Australia and the USA to coincide with the second Thursday of the month. We can never say sorry - full up!"

Anyone wondering whether they would be welcome at this gay bar need not worry. It is one of the most friendly and welcoming bars in the capital, and many firm friendships are forged at the monthly gatherings. The Retro bar holds other regular alternative music and quiz nights, including an open deck night where the record decks are turned over to customers for fifteen minute sessions, and Wendy extends an open invitation to Douze Point regulars to come along and spin their Eurovision discs.

Centrepiece of the evening is a mini Eurovision, with six videos from different contests shown on a big screen, and juries chosen from the audience according to authenticity, ability to speak the language of the competing country, or propensity to blag it. The latter normally wins out. After watching the videos, Paul and Wendy invite the jurors on stage to announce the results in traditional Eurovision style. This is guaranteed to provide the comedy moments of the night, not least because Wendy's grasp on European geography is, to say the least, sketchy. The prize for the winning jury is a bottle of champagne. Every May there is a pre-contest video vote which for the past six years seems to have been the kiss of death for the winner, as you see from the following Douze Points Hall of Fame:

- 2000 Netherlands
Linda Waagenmakers
"No Goodbyes"
- 2001 Slovenia
Nusa Derenda
"Energy"
- 2002 Germany
Corinna May
"Can't Live Without Music"

- 2003 Latvia
F.L.Y
"Hello From Mars"
- 2004 Sweden
Lena Phillipsson
"It Hurts"
- 2005 Iceland
Selma
"If I Had Your Love"

However, Douze Points did score one notable success back in 2002 when Paul risked ridicule amongst the Eurovision fraternity by coming out in favour of a complete outsider. But when "I Wanna" went on to win, so did he – Paul won £2,125 from the bookies, making the front page of a national newspaper in Estonia in the process.

Since the first Douze Points in January 1999, Peter and Paul have only ever missed one session, and that was when Vicky Leandros was appearing at the Royal Festival Hall on the same evening. Not a bad excuse, is it? Even then they arrived in time for what many consider the highlight of the evening – the final thirty minutes, when the dance floor erupts as Dana International, Sertab, Sahlene, Helena and the rest of our favourite Eurovision disco divas take centre stage.

The evening always ends too soon, but unlike the real thing it's only a month until the next edition.

Douze Points is held at the Retro Bar, 2 George Court, Strand, London WC2N 6HH on the second Thursday of each month, 8.30pm – 11pm. Entry is free of charge.

Further information is available at www.douzepoints.org

ESC Online

As is traditional at this time of year, we'll be taking a look at some of the best websites to surf to if you're looking to follow the goings-on leading up to our favourite contest.

The obligatory mention for www.esctoday.com aside – love it or hate it, it's still the biggest and invariably the fastest news site around – a number of sites appear to have spotted the potential offered by the massed ranks of visitors that are expected to descend upon Athens in May. The EBU's official site, www.eurovision.tv, takes a novel approach with one of its headlines claiming "Athens – where men wear skirts and thousands of old stones attract hundreds of tourists". It's also likely to be the best page to watch the preview videos, as it doesn't suffer from the bandwidth problems that plague so many fan sites. Meanwhile, the tabloidesque www.oikotimes.com optimistically suggests that "no serious crimes are reported in the capital during the day or night" and "Greeks speak good English". We'll see about that, but I suppose anything beats tent cities on radioactive islands.

Getting down to the nitty-gritty, if it's downloadable media you're after, then you should of course slap yourself on the wrist – before going to Charlotte Jensen's www.hoteyes.net which is a seriously comprehensive, if somewhat chaotically structured, resource. Keith Mills' "All Kinds Of Everything" has also expanded its Irish focus to become very much the place to find video clips of entries and other curios, not to mention Keith's typically strident views and reviews – you can find them at <http://devoted.to/eurovision>.

As always in the fast-moving world of Eurovision online, there are some newbies on the block. First up this time is a Romanian site, www.euromusic.3x.ro, which is very fond of self-promotion and has its own idiosyncratic style, but contains a good amount of information and links to some interesting sound files. It also looks set to become a key resource for the next Junior ESC, which will, of course, be held in Romania.

A slicker approach is offered by Danish site Hallo Copenhagen (www.hallo-copenhagen.dk). Taking its name from the legendary quote from ESC 1957, and Feminnem's preview video for that matter, it features all the latest news from this year's contest and some retrospective material, all presented with a canny eye for the visual. ESC Forever (www.eseforever.com) is another newer site that shouldn't be written off, with smart design and up-to-date content, as well as a smattering of exclusive interviews and other articles. British fan Graham Soutl is not afraid to stick his neck out – his Eurovision site (www.soutl.com/eurovision) provides some interesting analysis and personal opinions on each country's chances at the contest, and he doesn't delete his articles on previous years, no matter how far wide of the mark he may have been! There are also links to relevant podcasts and other media.

Meanwhile an old hand, Eurovision Madrid (www.eurovisionmadrid.com), has recently launched its 2006 National Finals Song Contest, so if you're one of those fans who likes to download and investigate every last Lithuanian quarter-finalist, this is the place to vent your frustration and show your support for that preselection winner that should have been but never was!

Of course, almost every artist taking part in ESC 2006 has their own website

and, concluding our trawl through the world of the Internet this time, here are some of the better ones. Lordi's site (www.lordi.org) is as dark and gothic as you'd expect, with plenty of videos, photos and entertaining extras, while Fabrizio Faniello has jumped on the legal mp3 bandwagon, offering paid downloads of his latest album for those unfortunate enough not to live in a country where his CD's are released (www.fabriziofaniello.com).

Ich

Troje's site (www.ichtroje.pl) now has its own Eurovision section, albeit in Polish, and our own Daz Sampson has a site in development - www.dazsampson.co.uk demonstrates his quirky sense of humour, but is still short on content, although that should change as the contest draws closer. And that's it for now. Hope you all enjoy the festivities in May – and happy surfing!

For one day only Eurovision returns ...



Saturday, 2nd September 2006

Jury's Inn Hotel, Birmingham

An afternoon and evening of Eurovision fun and frolics, including competitions, contests and, of course, an unforgettable Eurovision disco!

For further details, including booking requests, contact

Paul Marks-Jones
33 Woodlawn Court, Whalley Range, Manchester M16 9FJ

or email birmingham.bash@ntlworld.com

Estimated (maximum) price per person £45*

** excludes accommodation which is the sole responsibility of individual delegates*

Richard's Round Up

Welcome to the latest news and gossip, but before we get going here's a quick round up of this years Making Your Mind Up artists. Anthony Costa had already had 12 hits as part of Blue with 11 Top 10 hits and three number ones, and his debut solo single, "Do You Ever Think Of Me"(Globe/Universal), has just peaked at number 19. So far he is the least successful, with Simon Webbe and Lee Ryan both having had three Top 20 hits and Duncan James, duetting with Keedie on "I Believe My Heart", reaching number two last year. Anthony's album was due out in April, but no news yet as to whether or not it will include "It's A Beautiful Thing".

City Chix reminded me of t.A.T.u but no sign of a release for "All About You", unlike "Hand On My Heart" (Chapter CHPT10CD) which was available the Monday after MYMU, but not that easy to find! The single was originally scheduled for release on the 20th February. The guys are backed by the former Mis-teeq manager and Ben Ofoedu has previously sung as part of Benz (five Top 75 hits 1995-97) and provided vocals for Phats & Small. Four Story already have an album ready for release, but following MYMU don't expect it to appear just yet.

When I heard the recorded versions of all six MYMU songs I was convinced that Goran Kay had a chance of winning. Unfortunately his inexperience as a live singer turned out to be his downfall. Goran and Hugo De Chaire wrote "Another Day" on the recently released "G4 & Friends" (Sony 82876747382) and if you want to hear something completely different check out a song called "Someday" on the Nodus Music website, although no sign of a commercial release. I still think

"Play Your Game" is a hit but probably for someone else. Another strong song in it's recorded version was "Whisper To Me" but somehow Kym sounded very flat on MYMU and the song lost it's appeal. I was hoping that MYMU might have re-launched her music career but, with the news that Kym is about to join Coronation Street, I think it's probably on hold for a while longer.

Well done to Daz Sampson. Although I have to admit that "Teenage Life" wasn't my favourite before the show, the performance and enthusiasm won me over. Even my mum liked it! Before MYMU it was stated that the single was going to be issued through Sony but promo's have surfaced on e-Bay issued by Ebul. By the time you read this we should know which (if either) is correct. Daz is already well known for his involvement with Bus Stop ("Kung Fu Fighting" #8 in 1998), Uniting Nations ("Out Of Touch" Top 10 last year) and, of course, one half of Rikki & Daz ("Rhinstone Cowboy" #12 in 2002) as well as remixing recent hits "Pump It Up" (Danzel) and "Star To Fall" (Cabin Crew). "Teenage Life" had already been recorded by Daz under the pseudonym of The Spacekats, but failed to gain a commercial issue.

By the way I still think "Touch My Fire" was a brilliant entry it was just Europe that was wrong! Talking of Javine, things seem to be looking up for her as she won "The Games", which also starred Bernie Nolan, and will be starring in the Boney M musical "Daddy Cool" due to open in September. Talking of musicals, James Fox is booked for a forthcoming Billy Joel musical, whilst Sally-Ann Triplett can be seen in the stage version of "Acorn Antiques" which is out on DVD. One show I urge you to see is "Frank Sinatra at the London Palladium"; not only is it amazing but it also features a snippet of

Dean Martin performing "Volare". Someone who's no stranger to the stage is Sarah Brightman and she is joined by Cliff Richard and Michael Ball on her latest album "Love Changes Everything - The Andrew Lloyd Webber Songbook Volume 2" (Universal 9874280). Tracks include "Phantom Of The Opera" (with Steve Harley), "The Perfect Year" and "Seeing Is Believing" from "Aspects Of Love" (on which she duets with Michael Ball), "Only You" from "Starlight Express" (with Cliff Richard) and, of course, the title track. Although he appeared in the 1962 SFE and had 11 hits between 1961 and 1964, Karl Denver's last chart appearance was in 1990 when he joined Happy Mondays on a track called "Lazyitis". Although the single had been recorded a couple of years earlier it finally entered the charts at the height of the groups' popularity. The single is now hard to find but it makes an appearance on "The Platinum Collection" (Warner 510117292) which is a budget release. t.A.T.u.'s second single from "Dangerous & Moving", "Friend Or Foe", missed the combined sales and download Top 40 but on sales alone it reached number 26. Mary Hopkin made a rare trip into the recording studio to join Dolly Parton on a new version of "Those Were The Days". The song also became the title track of Dolly's latest album (EMI 3501422). Labi Siffre has recorded for several labels, but only scored five hits. Most of them surface on "The Best Of" (EMI 3543542) but despite being on EMI there's no room for his SFE entry "Solid Love". Brian Kennedy scored three minor UK hits in the nineties but reached number 4 with his "Tribute To George Best EP". The EP includes songs performed at George Best's funeral by Brian and Peter Corry, among them "You Raise Me Up".

Two new Roy Wood compilations appeared in April. "The Wizzard" (EMI 3441362) features solo and group recordings made between 1972 and 1974 while "Look Thru' The Eyes Of Roy Wood - The Jet Years" (Castle CMQDD1300) covers 1975 - 1976. Neither includes his version of the 1972 SFE entry "Songs Of Praise". "Family Favourites" (Cedar REXX 303) includes tracks by Lee Lawerence, Lita Roza (with Dennis Lotis), David Hughes and Teddy Johnson. No news yet on the proposed Matt Monro CD's "Ultimate 2" and "Rarities", both of which were pencilled in for release early in 2006. Kathy Kirby's biography has finally seen the light of day. "Secrets, Loves and Lip Gloss" is written by James Harman, but the proposed mini series about Kathy has been put on hold while the shows' producers look for someone to portray her. Meanwhile another compilation CD is due to hit the shops soon with the provisional title "More Hits, Rarities and Lip Gloss". Eurovision has finally caught up with America, with NBC commissioning a programme that will see the American states compete against each other in a singing contest. According to Ben Silverman, the chairman of Revielle who will produce the show, "Eurovision is the grand daddy of all talent shows and the super bowl of singing". If you were wondering what happened to founding Co-Co member Terry Bradford, he has written songs for Johnny Mathis and Dominic Kirwan, performed old tyme music hall with Susan Arvesen and provided the voice for B & Q's 'you can do it when you B & Q it! Finally, I'm very pleased to tell you that Gina G is back! "Tonight's The Night" was in the Top 5 dance charts and Top 30 in the upfront club charts at the time of writing. Let's hope it's not long before she's back in the Top 40!

Quiz Time

Compiled by Martin Faulkner and Sam Broderick

A look back at some of the legendary comments uttered by the BBC's Eurovision stalwart, Sir Terry Wogan. Answers on page 70

1. Who have been writing the German entries "since the Weimar Republic" and "since God was a boy"?
2. About which "five old wallopers" did Wogan plead "let them be in leather!"
3. It was a "sorry day for the contest" when who won it the year before co-hosting?
4. The receptions given to which two British entrants merited the verdict "A big hand for the little lady"?
5. The Mongolian variety of which instrument is Wogan's catch-all description for any obscure ethnic instrument?
6. Of whom did Wogan say "Watch out for this – she'll smoulder your television set"?
7. Who was somewhat improbably likened to "Vanessa Feltz in a wig"?
8. Which Teutonic singer boasted "a chest to remember"?
9. And who had "a necklace to remember... a neck to remember!"?
10. Which country did Wogan describe as the "land of reindeer, cloudberry and anorak"?
11. Who was recently described by Wogan as a "fine, set-up lump of a woman"?
12. Which presenter blessed us with her "Manhattan accent"?
13. Which duo were "wearing their mother's underwear"?
14. Which girl group were dubbed "Silly, Spotty, Sippy and Saucy"?
15. Ruslana was dubbed "Xena, Warrior Princess", but which Balkan singer did Wogan give the same name?

Bonus Question : In which year did Ken Bruce comment "And now, from Germany, we move to Poland ... that's been done before!"

Retrospective 2006

Darren Jenkins returns once again with his unique and infamous Retrospective, giving you the opportunity to vote for your favourite songs **AFTER** you have seen the live performances. You can also add your comments for each entry.

Please remember, Retrospective should be completed during or after the actual Eurovision broadcasts. A voting form will be found in the centre of this issue.

OGAE Song Contest 2005

The frozen nights of winter are often at their coldest in the hills of Russia, but on 15th December 2005 the streets of Moscow were filled with the heat and excitement that was the 20th OGAE Song Contest. Eurovision fans from across the European continent and beyond had selected their favourite non-contest songs to compete in what has become a major highlight in the year, brightening up those months preceding a new round of national finals. Ireland were unfortunately disqualified when it was found that Brian Kennedy's song had been released before this time. However, 28 songs still took part in the show that was distributed across Europe. Voting was close and Lemar took an early lead, but as he was forced into fourth place, with the winner being Italian Alexia and her song "Da Grande".



Alexia

Country	Song	Singer	Pts	Pos
Greece	"O Aggelos Mou"	Alkistis Protopsalti	129	2 nd
Slovenia	"Samo"	Ylenia	7	27 th
Sweden	"Delirium"	Lena Philipsson	111	5 th
Lebanon	"Ana Haifaa"	Haifaa Wahbi	43	16 th
Spain	"Ea"	Diana Navarro	76	10 th
Finland	"Kahdestaan"	Antti Tuisku feat. Jenni	50	15 th
Serbia Mont.	"Svetlo Koje Trazim"	Ivana Jordan	42	18 th
Croatia	"Ne Tice Me Se"	Magazin feat. Jelena Rozga	100	7 th
Italy	"Da Grande"	Alexia	164	1 st
Bosnia Herz.	"Gubi Se!"	Erato & Dr Zoo	2	28 th
Ireland	"Ailelú"	Brian Kennedy	Disq.	--
FYRoM	"Zena Balkanska"	Tose Proeski & Synthesis	42	17 th
UK	"If There's Any Justice"	Lemar	118	4 th
Norway	"Venn"	Norwegian Singers	54	13 th
Cyprus	"Ego Edo – Esi Eki"	George Gabriel	16	25 th
Malta	"Love Me Or Hate Me"	Ira Losco	31	19 th
France	"Petite Soeur"	Lam	119	3 rd
Germany	"Perfekte Welle"	Juli	22	22 nd
Russia	"Pereley Voda"	Valeria	82	9 th
Portugal	"Espretei Para O Ceu"	Terese Radamanto	83	8 th
Israel	"Yest Bi Odd Koach"	Idan Reichel's Project	52	14 th
Denmark	"Drommer Jeg"	Johnny Deluxe feat. Anna Nordell	23	21 st
Luxembourg	"Ech Verlaangeren"	Noemie Francois	12	26 th
Turkey	"Kirmizi Biber"	Bendeniz	63	12 th
Poland	"Prócz Ciebie Nic"	Krzysztof Kiljanski & Kayah	18	24 th
Netherlands	"Over De Top"	De Toppers	21	23 rd
Estonia	"Kauge Kuu"	Vanilla Ninja	106	6 th
Austria	"Ich Kann Dich Heilen"	Aschenputtel	28	20 th
Belgium	"La Lettre"	Lara Fabian	68	11 th

Record Reviews



MICHAEL BALL *Music*
Universal 9874241

MICHAEL BALL *Seasons Of Love* Music Club Deluxe MCDLX019

It's 17 years since "Love Changes Everything" brought Michael Ball into the public eye and, since then, his career has been plagued by album after album of uninspired cover versions. While I can still listen to "Michael Ball", "One Careful Owner" and 2003's "A Love Story", albums like "Musicals", "Movies" and "Centre Stage" leave me cold. "Music" continues this never-ending run of cover versions, but at least Michael adds his own style to "The Show Must Go On", "Fields Of Gold" and "Bridge Over Troubled Water". There's no denying Michael's talent as a singer; I just wish he'd record more original material like the superb "I Am Loved". "Music" also includes the limpest version of "You Raise Me Up" so far, and is not an album I'm likely to revisit often. "Seasons Of Love" pulls together 36 of those aforementioned insipid re-workings of famous songs and is die-hard fans only!

Come on Michael, get your act together! RC

DEEN *Anđeo Sa Greškom* City Records CD 000440
Deen released a mini album in 2004 with his Eurovision songs on. For this, his follow-up, he reverts to a more R'n'B flavour rather than the all out "In The Disco" vibe - although that song is included on this CD. Deen has a hand in writing most of the songs on the album, which sets its store out in the first two tracks, "Party" and "Sexy Chica". In among the uptempo stompers are a couple of breathy ballads. The title track is my favourite on what is a more mature album. Deen seems likely to be around for some time yet in the Balkan firmament. You should check out the photos in the inlay too. MKP

DUBROVACKI TRU-BADURI *Pusti Da Ti Leut Sbiru* Croatia Records CD 5037095

Yugoslav representatives in 1968 with "Jedan Dan", although not credited as such, release this 24 track greatest hits CD that documents the career of Dubrovnik's finest troubadour band. Strange in dress and using medieval instrumentation, the group had a style all their own and probably unique in Eurovision. Sadly this collection does not contain their 1976 Yugoslav pre-selection songs, but does feature a bewildering number of traditional styles, including the Dalmatian formal dance "Lindo". You are unlikely to

find anything else similar by Eurovision artists! MKP

EVE GRAHAM *Mountains Welcome Me Home* SCOTDISC - CDITV721

It has been a good time for New Seekers fans lately. At the end of last year Eve Graham released her first solo album since 1980's "Woman Of The World", and despite the intervening quarter of a century it's great to see that she is still in such fine voice. The re-recordings of New Seeker's songs, such as "Beg Steal Or Borrow", are presumably included for commercial reasons but they provide an interesting vision of what might have been when, as for example with the UK's 1972 Eurovision entry, Eve was not the original lead singer. The remaining tracks are mainly inspired by the singer's Scottish roots, and although they sometimes fail to match the quality of more familiar material, any new release from such an accomplished singer and her crystal clear tones is very welcome indeed. TL

ZELJKO JOKSIMOVIC *Zeljko Joksimovic* City Records CD 000470

While some people may have preferred Ruslana, for many people "Lane Moja" was the class song of 2004. Strangely, Zeljko failed to release an album in light of his success, preferring to tour instead. So it is now, nearly two years later, that we finally get a new album and it contains neither "Lane Moja" nor the other singles released since. With only 10 tracks clocking in at under 40

minutes, it is a good thing that each song is musically strong and our hero is in fine dramatic voice throughout. Fans of his miserable style are directed to "Mila Moja", while his stomper "Zovi Me" deserves a wide audience. A sure-footed outing which will consolidate Zeljko's position as the Balkan superstar. Let's hope the next album follows more quickly! MKP



KYM MARSH *Standing Tall* Universal/Island MCD60087
Following the announcement that Kym Marsh was to participate in MYMU I saw this CD in a bargain bin and decided to take a chance on it. The album reached number 9 in August 2003, but only remained in the charts for three weeks despite including two top 10 singles, "Cry" and "Come On Over". "Sentimental" was released as a single after the album but failed to crack the Top 30. The label dropped Kym and that was the end of her recording career to date. Yet "Standing Tall" is a great album crammed full of pop gems amongst its 13 tracks. If you like Kylie, Rachel Stevens or Charlotte Church then check this out as it's far more enjoyable than any of their recent offerings! RC

KAREN MATHESON *Down River* Vertical VERTCD075
This, her third solo outing, sees Karen Matheson returning to her Celtic roots. She describes the album as "a special place for me - a place in my memory where many of these songs have remained since my childhood". Nine of the 11 songs are sung in Gaelic while the other two, written by fellow Capercaille member James Grant, are sung in English. If you prefer the group's earlier material then this is a CD that you'll want to add to your collection. Co-incidentally "Cruca Na Bpaiste (Burial Place Of The Children) is written by ESC regular, Brendan Graham. RC

NEW SEEKERS, THE
Songbook 1970-1974
Universal 983 201-2

For Eurovision fans the most noteworthy content on this double CD release is the inclusion of The New Seekers' six SFE entries from 1972, three of which have never appeared on CD before. While "Sing Out", "Out On The Edge Of Beyond" and "Why Can't We All Get Together" have all dated quite badly, the remaining three still stand up and can be considered good songs in their own right. However, for fans of the group this release is noteworthy for bringing more than thirty tracks to CD for the first time, including a number of B-sides, rarities and one live track. The compiler, Trevor Wright, is to be congratulated for producing such an excellent overview of The New

Seekers' output between 1970 and 1974. Despite pressure to include the usual singles, three of which had to be licensed as Universal no longer own the rights, he has picked a track listing that includes a large number of fan favourites, such as the beautiful "I'll Be Home" and the tragicomic "When I Was Small". Although a few of my personal favourites, "Night In The City", "Down By The River" and "Rain" for example, are missing, there's certainly enough here to keep even the most diehard fan happy until the appearance of either an already proposed second volume or "Songbook 1975-80" - hopefully to include "Tell Me" which was disqualified from the 1980 SFE. TL

LUKA NIŽETIĆ *Premijera Extra*
MENART
385888286962

Reviewed a few Vision's ago, Luka's first album has been re-issued with an extra song and a multimedia section including two videos and a naked photoshoot. There is also an additional track, being his most recent single "Meni Trebas Ti". If you can tear yourself away from the visuals to listen to the music, you'll find a selection of songs in a variety of styles. Some of the songs take on that lush Dalmatian style, while others include a more mandolin and balalaika flavoured ethno-beat. Sadly Luka didn't participate in the 2006 Dora, but I suspect we'll see him back on the Euro stage in 2007. MKP

MIKE PRESTON *Mr Blue*
Vocalion CDLK 4314

Born Jack Davis, he was christened Mike Preston by readers of the Daily Mirror, but struggled to maintain a career in pop music. His debut single, "A House, A Car And A Wedding Ring", failed to chart in 1958 but did make inroads into the American hit parade. A year and three singles later, he finally cracked the UK Top 20 with "Mr Blue". His next single missed the charts but a version of "I'll Do Anything" (from "Oliver") returned him to the Top 30. "Togetherness" just missed the Top 40 at the end of 1960 and his final hit, "Marry Me", won the ITV Song Contest beating Matt Monro into second place! Over the next five years he released another five singles for Decca before moving to Emerald, but what makes this CD indispensable to ESC fans is the inclusion of a previously undocumented English version of the 1962 ESC winner "Un Premier Amour". "My First Love Affair" was issued as a single in May 1962 and, although the CD has no songwriting credits, I can confirm that it is the same song. I have been unable to find any previous mention of this cover version so I hope you will enjoy it as much as I do. RC

KATE RYAN *Different*
Antler-Subway AS9003

I have to admit I've had this album for sometime but never actually got round to listening to it. I bought it because I remember liking a single called "Desenchantee" and this CD included it. The

album was originally issued in 2002 and the majority of tracks are sung in English, although three of the songs are reprised in French as bonus tracks. It's good to listen to while you're getting ready to go out or for driving to, as most of the numbers are uptempo dance tracks. "Desenchantee" was a hit all over Europe and even made an impression on the club charts in the UK. I only hope her ESC appearance is as impressive. RC



ALVIN STARDUST *The Platinum Collection* Warner
5101118312

Between 1973 and 1975 Alvin Stardust (formerly Shane Fenton) scored seven Top 40 hits and the only one absent from this compilation is his final hit on Magnet, "Sweet Cheatin' Rita". This CD otherwise pulls together 16 tracks recorded up to, and including, "Growin' Up" which was a cover of a 1973 Bruce Springsteen song. Alvin's career nose-dived when it was revealed in the mid-seventies that Pete Shelley, who also recorded for Magnet, had provided the vocals on many of Alvin's recordings. Pete wrote the majority of the tracks on this collection but it's still good to relive the hits, while cover

versions of "20 Flight Rock" and "Move It" prove that Alvin was still Shane Fenton at heart! Fans of 70's kitsch might be pleased to see that "Be Smart, Be Safe (The Green Cross Code Song)" makes its CD debut here alongside the mature and previously mentioned "Growin' Up". Warner lose two stars for including "Chili Willi" because it was recorded by his backing band, Alvin's Heartbeats, and the exclusion of "Sweet Cheatin' Rita"! RC

VARIOUS *Dansk Melodi Grand Prix 2006* My Way
Music M 20072-2

Compilations of national finals are strange things. Since the visual aspect is missing it can be hard to tell why one song was preferred over another. This is the case here where no particular entry stands head and shoulders above the rest, and the actual winner "Twist Of Love" seems to be neither the best nor the worst. Better songs featured here include "En Som Dig" and "2 in 1", and even the otherwise unremarkable power ballad "Make This Night Forever". I hope the Danes present a visual feast in Athens, as otherwise they would appear to be heading back to the semi-final for 2007. TL

VARIOUS *DORA - 10 Godina* Croatia Records CD
5521808

It's been out a couple of years now, but it's taken me some time to get hold of a copy of this valuable summary of the first ten years of Croatian

participation in Eurovision. Croatia has been amongst the most consistent of the post-Yugoslavia countries, scoring highly under both jury and televoting systems. This compilation brings together in chronological order the ten entrants from Put to Vesna Pisarović, and adds a further ten favourites from Dora to the mix. One of those other songs comes from Boris Novković, who of course won Dora in 2005. As a collection of Croatian songs this is interesting, but for the Eurovision collector this is a must. MKP

VARIOUS *Eurosong '06*
EMI 00946 355318 2 4

The Belgian pre-selection in 2006, organised by the Flemish TV service Een, seemed to go on forever until, in the end, Kate Ryan won with her Swedish schlager "Je T'Adore". For the first time a double CD of all the entries has been made available and this is it. The inner sleeve includes photos of all participants and song details. Everyone will have their own favourites – judge Johnny Logan favoured Kaye Styles' R'n'B lite song. This reviewer would point out Peter Evrard's "Coward" and Pim's "I'm Your Man" as being the two songs which should have made the final. Although there are 28 songs on display, few would argue that Kate Ryan's song is the catchiest on display here. Another valuable addition to any collection. MKP

VARIOUS *Melodifestivalen*
2006 M&L Records
MLCD009

For British followers of Eurovision it's still hard to fully appreciate the efforts of Sweden in organising a national selection process that puts many others to shame. 32 songs were once again shortlisted to take part in the phenomenon that has become Melodifestivalen, with each and every entry found on this double CD. The Swedish version of Carola's winning song, "Evighet", is featured alongside other finalists including former entrant Kikki Danielsson and chart topping hillbillies Rednex. The quality of each recording is generally high and, unlike some other national compilations, the lack of visuals is less important. Favourites? Difficult to choose as always, but Magnuss Carlsson's "Lev Livet" is likely to remain a song of personal choice. GL

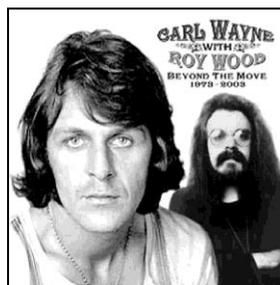
VARIOUS *MGP Melodi Grand Prix 2006* NRK N 50024 2

The Norwegian pre-selection involved 18 songs and, unexpectedly, the only one performed in Norwegian won out. Whether you agree with the conservative Norwegian public or not, this compilation gives you the chance to hear all the songs. Undeniably fan-favourite "Absolutely Fabulous" loses a little without the visuals, while Trine Rein and "Here For The Show" comes across better in its recorded version. I have a weakness for "Paparazzi World" by Kathrine Strugstad, while I suspect that Jorun Erdal (here duetting with Geir Ronning) will get the ticket

soon to Eurovision. The whole package includes a most informative booklet. Excellent. MKP

MARTIN VUCIC *Put Do Istine* City Records CD 000439

One of the surprises of Eurovision 2005 was the strong placing for Macedonia's Martin Vucic and "Make My Day". Hot on the heels of that success follows this, his debut CD which not unnaturally contains his ESC entry. That is the only track in English but the rest of the songs have a strong pedigree; the title track, a catchy moody mid-tempo song, is written by Tose Proeski. Martin duets with Danijela on the fetching "Ljubav Se Zasluzuje", while the best song is the skittering "Upali Svetlo" which shows off Martin at his best. Interesting for those who liked "Make My Day". MKP



CARL WAYNE *Songs From The Wood & Beyond 1973-2003* Castle CMRCD 1255
Carl Wayne is probably best remembered for his theme tune to the talent show "You're A Star". He also recorded the theme tune to "Magpie", was the lead singer with The Wood,

performed with ELO and replaced Alan Clarke in The Hollies in 2000. Sadly he died in 2003. Wayne also appeared in SFE in 1977 with "A Little Give, A Little Take" and in 1982 released a cover version of Cliff's "Miss You Nights" which featured "Someday" as the B-side. The song was co-written by Gary Benson and had been previously recorded by Olivia Newton John as one of her six SFE tracks. Considering this CD spans thirty years it's a bit sparse with just 11 tracks, most of which are previously unreleased. Five of these are written by Roy Wood and two by Jeff Lynne, and have a similar style to The Move. Wayne released three singles on the Jet label and all six tracks are included here, although two are alternative versions. "Steppin' Out" was recorded in 2001, but there's no recording information for the rest of the songs. The CD debut of "Someday" makes this a welcome release, but you get the feeling it's all a bit hasty. Hopefully the promised "Anthology" will rectify this and include "A Little Give, A Little Take". As it is not a fitting epitaph for Carl Wayne. RC

Singled Out

ALINE LAHOUD *Quand Tout S'enfuit* Private Release Promo

One year after being withdrawn as the first Lebanese entry, copies of Aline's entry began to appear on promotional CD singles at the end of 2005. Her 'Eurovision' entry, which went on to win Tremplin International Charles Trenet 2005, is accompanied by the very pop sounding "It's Over" which won a special prize at La Fidof 2004. If politics prevent Aline representing her own country, she should certainly be allowed so singing for another! GL

with the same photographs, and early suggestions that some illustrations would be replaced are now proven to lack foundation. Four additional pages document the 50th contest from Kiev but, as for 2004, there is minimal reference to the semi-final within the text. The 'Eurostats' section has been fully updated to include any changing factors from 2005, while non-qualifying songs, including those from two semi-finals and the 1993/1996 qualifying rounds are listed for the first time. However, any extra pages are at the expense of losing the chronological lists for each competing country that was a feature of the first edition. Once again the cover claims to include the "artwork for every sleeve of each winning single", but this is not the case for several years and, for some strange reason, it is the press pack for Greece 2005 that is reproduced rather than the single inlay. Although the book remains an enjoyable read for the casual fan, its investment value for what amounts to just five extra pages and some updated facts is very much debatable. It may be 'official', but it's still not definitive! GL

Book Reviews

O'CONNOR, JOHN KENNEDY *The Eurovision Song Contest – The Official History* Carlton Books ISBN 1-84442-240-2 (2nd Edition) 192 pages

One year after the first edition of 'The Official History', this long awaited book makes its appearance in paperback yet continues to disappoint. The original pages documenting the first 49 contests are reprinted

Quiz Answers

1. Ralph Siegel and Bernd Meinunger
2. Mrs. Einstein (Netherlands 1997)
3. Toto Cutugno
4. Katrina (1997) and Nicki French (2000)
5. The nose flute
6. Evridiki (Cyprus 1992)
7. Christina Argyri (member of Voice, Cyprus 2000)
8. Michelle (Germany 2001)
9. Nayah (France 1999)
10. Norway
11. Chiara (Malta 2005)
12. Desirée Nosbusch (1984)
13. Cat Cat (Finland 1994)
14. E.N.I. (Croatia 1997)
15. Karolina (Macedonia 2002)
- Bonus:** 1997

Vision Smalls

WANTED

Looking for the following tracks by ABBA and Frida on CD and video : Mamma Mia (Live) ABBA; "SOS" (Live) ABBA; "The Sun Will Shine Again" Frida : Write to David James, 51 Glebe Road, Hornsey, London N8 7DA

Wanted on video : "Congratulations – 50 Years of Eurovision Song Contest". Please advise cost including postage to Sally Frith, 2 Coldwell Lane, Middleyard, Kings Stanley, Stonehouse, Glos. GL10 3PS

Looking for English versions of the 2005 entries from Croatia, Hungary, Israel and Poland. CDR's accepted. Please write to David Blunt, 162 Wyndham Court, Commercial Road, Southampton SO15 1GU

Wanted! Video or DVD recordings of each ESC from 1956 to 1966 plus the "Congratulations" show. Please contact Terry Clark, 19 Mimosa Close, Chelmsford, Essex. CM1 6NW or e-mail me at Clarks19@blueyonder.co.uk

Looking for previews from 1971, 1972 and 1973 on video or DVD. If you can help please contact me by e-mail at svein-j3@online.no or write to Svein Johansen, Fr. Nansensgt.1, N-1532 Moss, Norway

Help! My VCR let me down and I'm in desperate need of a video copy of 'Making Your Mind Up 2006'. If you can help please write to Peter Bainbridge, Flat 1, 52 Crowndale Road, London, NW1 1TP. Reasonable costs will be paid.

MISCELLANEOUS

Dina Carroll (OGAE SC 1994-2005). Free e-mail appreciation club "Definitely Dina" for Dina's fans and operated by OGAE UK member Phil Ronald-Price E-mail dinacarroll@hotmail.com or <http://www.geocities.com/carroldina/DinaCarroll>

Is anyone interested in becoming a contact for the purpose of swapping records, CD's and other ESC items? I'm a Norwegian fan aged 51 ... but does age really matter? E-mail svein-j3@online.no or write to Svein Johansen, Fr. Nansensgt.1, N-1532 Moss, Norway



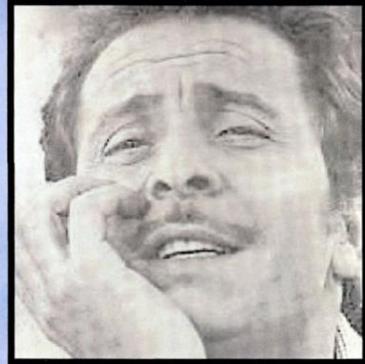
The 'Last' Page

Italy 1966

Dio, Come Ti Amo

Domenico Modugno

Received 'nil' points



Monaco 1966

Bien Plus Fort

Tereza

Received 'nil' points