

# vision

THE OGAE UK MAGAZINE APRIL 2007 ISSUE 68



# Flying the flag!

Affiliated to Organisation Générale des Amateurs Eurovision

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All contributions for issue 69 of Vision should reach the Editor no later than 10th June 2007

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# Edlines

It's almost a year since Lordi triumphed in Athens and provided Finland with their first Eurovision victory. Twelve months later, and all eyes will soon be focussed on Helsinki where a record 42 nations will compete at the musical Grand Prix. The 52nd contest also marks the return of Serbia and Montenegro as two separate countries, as well as debut appearances from Georgia and the Czech Republic. Austria and Hungary will also reappear on the international stage.

The United Kingdom will be represented by Scooch who have reformed especially for the Eurovision Song Contest. Not only do they have the honour of singing for their country, but they also mark 50 years of UK participation since Patricia Bredin performed "All" way back in 1957. And because the country did not enter in 1958, Scooch will also be singing the 50th UK Eurovision song!

So whether you are fortunate enough to be in the live audience or are watching the contest on the small screen, I am sure you will want to join all Vision readers in "Flying The Flag" while wishing Scooch the very best of luck.

Enjoy the show!

*Gordon Lewis*

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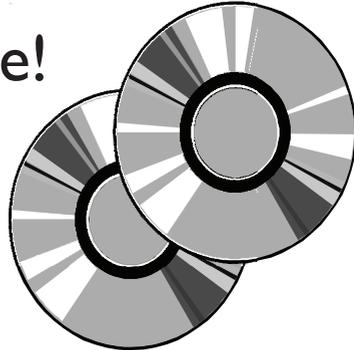
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Making Your Mind Up/Scooch photographs copyright © BBC/Dean Chalkley and used with permission. All other images are copyright © their respective owners



**A** newer bigger venue, a bigger set, all on prime-time TV - the BBC were taking Eurovision seriously again this year! That old stalwart Sir Terry Wogan was back - this time supported - in what seems to have been in more ways than one - by the beautiful and unflappable Fearné Cotton. This year's guest speakers were the camp commander himself, John Barrowman (from Dr Who and Torchwood fame) and Mel Giedroyc (previously of the Mel & Sue double-act) who turned out to be an encyclopedia of Euro-knowledge - anyone who remembers Vlado & Isolda, the Yugoslavian performers (she was tall, blonde and beautiful, and he gargled razor-blades) for Eurovision 1984, gets a gold star from me!

Perhaps the only thing lacking was a really enthusiastic flag-waving Euro-crowd, though the BBC did invite 41 ethnic viewers representing the other countries in the ESC this year. They also invited six very different acts for our taste buds to savour.

First off was ex-Atomic Kitten Liz McClarnon singing '(Don't It Make You) Happy!' It was a nice performance by the shapely-legged Liz who looked quite stunning - though she could've looked a bit happier. Maybe she wasn't impressed by the wardrobe budget



flying  
the  
flag!



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A personal report from **Hassan Yusuf** on this year's BBC extravaganza - Making Your Mind Up! - to find the British entry for Eurovision

for her backing dancers. Nevertheless, it was a good start to the show, but the song lacked any great spark to it.

It was good to see that the next performer, Brian Harvey (formerly of East 17) had recovered from his bad road accident. His mother naturally seemed delighted that Brian was once again performing. Some viewers may have been put off by the seemingly blatant attempt to get the



Liz McClarnon



Scooch with Terry and Fearme

sympathy vote. To be honest Brian has seen better days - obviously the accident didn't help - but you could feel the audience willing him to produce a strong performance of 'I Can'. Trouble is, it was never a strong song so not a serious contender.

You couldn't say that of the next act - which won the popular vote of the 41 Euro-ethnic audience members - popular R&B and Hip-



Brian Harvey

Hop band Big Brovaz. They said they would like to be the black ABBA. No offence BB, but I don't think ABBA fans would thank you for the music, or give you a ring, ring. Their performance of 'Big Bro Thang' was, however, full of energy, and the group looked great! Trouble is, if you don't like rap, then this really wasn't for you - and let's remember how badly we did last year with a rap song!

Maybe it was time for the UK to be represented by a powerful anthem-like ballad - like the one that won us the contest a decade ago! Hence, and in the spirit of Entente Cordiale, enter French beauty Cyndi! A talented doll indeed.

Cyndi had the best voice of the contest so far and the most memorable song with a definite Celtic feel to 'I'll Leave My Heart'. Just think - twelve points from France to the UK!

The next act reformed especially for the contest - Scooch! After a short run of a chart hits a few years ago they disbanded, but were back again for a blatant pop song 'Flying The Flag (For You)'. And they certainly did! This performance

had everything! Camp! Kitsch! Glamour! Costumes! Props! And there were even a few double entendres that Carry On fans could beat off to. Hey, if they didn't succeed with this song, then there's every chance British



Big Brovaz

Airways would've picked it up as their anthem!

The final song featured an unlikely pairing of black diva, Beverlie Brown and ex-Darkness front man, Justin Hawkins performing 'They Don't Make 'Em Like They Used To'. How true. They jokingly described themselves as a new version of Peters & Lee. Justin endeared himself to Eurovision fans when he said it was poppycock to think that entering the contest was a bad thing. But he ruined it when he revealed that he only became a Eurovision fan for the last month. Nevertheless, it was a great performance - with both performers in great outfits - as were backing singers in their Beefeater-like outfits (so that's where the BBC wardrobe budget went too). What let the performance down was the slightly disjointed song.

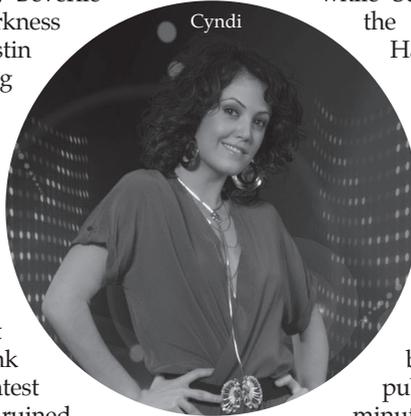
And that was that. An hour later, the live show was back with the results! There was a catch to this year's results - there would be a sing off between the top two songs. The four failures were to be announced in no particular order. It was alas no surprise to see Brian Harvey and Liz McClarnon go first - both of whom seemed very upset. In hindsight it would've been kinder to have just announced the two highest placings and left it at that. Anyway, it was now

between Cyndi or Big Brovaz, and either Scooch or Hawkins & Brown. Against all expectations, Cyndi won over Big Brovaz, while Scooch triumphed over the more contemporary Hawkins & Brown.

It was time for the sing-off. Cyndi put in another powerful performance, and Scooch another impressive camp one! Talk about opposite ends of the spectrum! Before the actual winner could be revealed, giving the public a few more precious minutes to vote, we were treated to a performance of last year's winners from Finland - Lordi! Still looking as good as ever, they've probably been the most successful winners in many a year.

The Making Your Mind Up winner was announced under some controversy - in unison Sir Terry announced Cyndi, while Fearne called out Scooch. Sir Terry's voice was louder so it seemed that Cyndi had won, but after a quick word by Fearne into his ear, the real winner was announced - Scooch!

Time will tell if the British public made the right decision - their track record hasn't been great of late - but let's wish Scooch the best of British luck - although if we're honest, the UK is still getting bad press about Iraq, so let's hope the rest of Europe don't interpret the lyrics "flying the flag" as spreading British imperialism! ■



Cyndi



Hawkins & Brown

# Presenting the presenters

Who are the good-looking couple presenting this years Eurovision shows?

Mikko Leppilampi, born in 1978, is an actor and singer, and graduated from the Finnish Theatre Academy. He got recognised with his role in the Finnish film *Helmiä ja sikoja* (2003) for which he was also awarded the Jussi Award for best male actor. His film career has included *Keisarikunta* (2004), *Paha Maa* (2005), *Kaksipäisen kotkan varjossa* (2005), *Tytto sinä olet tähti* (2005) and *Saippuaprinssi* (2006). Mikko has also done film voice-overs, including the Finnish version of *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*.

Jaana Pelkonen, born 1977, has hosted many TV programmes, including the Eurovision national final in Finland as well as the international competition in Finnish since 2005. She started her TV career in the game show *Tilt* in 1998, after which she hosted further shows, *Jyrki*, *FarOut* and *Escort* on MTV3. She worked for YLE's radio channel Radiomafia in 1997-98 and for Radio 99 in Lahti in 1995-97. She is now working on her Master's thesis in political science at the University of Helsinki.



Jaana and Mikko did an excellent job in announcing the Eurovision draws – and will likewise impress us when presenting both the Semi-final and Final shows for this years Eurovision.





Scooch are the United Kingdom's representatives for the 2007 Eurovision Song Contest, although the ending of Making Your Mind Up may go down in history as one of the most famous gaffes not only in the British national final, but in Eurovision itself. After the show, Vision reader and UK Editor for [www.oikotimes.com](http://www.oikotimes.com), **Alasdair Rendall** caught up with Russ and Caroline (the blonde ones) from the winning act to get their thoughts

**AR :** What a show! So, has it sunk in yet?

**Caroline:** No not yet! It's amazing - our phones haven't stopped ringing and getting messages! Just getting through to the original shortlist was amazing, then to make it to the final six was a dream come true. But then when it was announced that we got through to the super-final was just like 'what?!'. It really hasn't sunk in yet.

**AR:** But what about that ending though? That must have been pretty mixed emotions!

**Russ:** Deep down, I had a feeling that we were going to win, and when they said that Cyndi had I was a bit surprised. But then it appeared we had won after all, everything happened so fast, we just weren't sure what was happening! It certainly worked out okay in the end though didn't it!

**Caroline:** We just heard Wogan, so we thought Cyndi had won, and we all started clapping for her. Then we were told it was us, and we just couldn't work out what was going on. It's still not sunk in yet that we're off to Helsinki - wow!

**AR :** But what about Cyndi?

**Russ :** Well she had a kick-ass ballad and a great voice, and we really feel for her to be told that she'd won and then have it taken away. Whereas we have our group to look after us, she was all alone.

**Caroline:** We were so happy that both of us got to the super-final as Cyndi is the other contestant that we got on with



All images © BBC/Dean Chalkley

the most and spoke to a lot during the build up to the show. I guess in among all the big names taking part this year, it felt like we were both the underdogs. I'm sure we haven't heard the last of her though, as she's such a fantastic singer.

**AR: What was the atmosphere like out on stage?**

**Russ:** Absolutely fantastic – seeing people with flags and Scooch banners just gave us an amazing lift.

**Caroline:** In the super-final it was great, with the audience getting on their feet for us throughout the performance.

**AR : So how would you describe your winning song?**

**Caroline:** Well we think it's just fun. We think there's definitely a place for our type of fun, cheesy, pop in the Eurovision and in the music industry!

**Russ:** Yeah, it's funny that pure pop like this seems to have moved out of the limelight in this country, but if you look on the continent, then you'll see that fun pop is still massively popular!

**AR : How does it feel to be back together again?**

**Russ:** It's great! It's just like it was seven years ago, and although we've all done individual things we're loving every minute of it.

**Caroline:** I can't look at Russ without laughing all the time! It's just fantastic, we'd never have thought that coming back together would lead to us representing the UK at the Eurovision Song Contest. Wow!!

**AR: Is doing Eurovision something you guys have always wanted to do?**

**Russ:** Yeah totally, it's something we've always wanted to do, and whatever happens now we're going down in history as having represented our country! We just can't wait to get out there. Our brand of fun, happy pop usually does well, so we're really excited!

**AR : And finally, what's your message to all the UK Eurovision fans?**

**Russ & Caroline:** POP IS BACK!!!

# 52nd Eurovision Song Contest

Hartwall Areena, Helsinki, Finland

10th and 12th May 2007

Presenters - Jaana Pelkonen and Mikko Leppilampi

**Gordon Lewis** takes you through all the finalists

Semi-final		10th May 2007
Country	Song	Performer
Bulgaria	"Water"	Elitsa Todorova & Stoyan Yankulov
Israel	"Push The Button"	Teapacks
Cyprus	"Comme Ci, Comme Ca"	Evridiki
Belarus	"Work Your Magic"	Koldun
Iceland	"Valentine Lost"	Eirkur Hauksson
Georgia	"Visionary Dream"	Sopho Khalvashi
Montenegro	"Hajde Kroci"	Stevan Faddy
Switzerland	"Vampires Are Alive"	DJ Bobo
Moldova	"Fight"	Natalia Barbu
Netherlands	"On Top Of The World"	Edsilia Rombley
Albania	"Hear My Plea"	Frederik Ndoci feat. Aida
Denmark	"Drama Queen"	DQ
Croatia	"Vjerujem U Ljubav"	Dragonfly feat. Dado Topic
Poland	"Time To Party"	The Jet Set
Serbia	"Molitva"	Marija Šerifovic
Czech Republic	"Malá Dáma"	Kabat
Portugal	"Dança Comigo (Vem Ser Feliz)"	Sabrina
FYR Macedonia	"Mojot Svet"	Karolina Goceva
Norway	"Ven A Bailar Conmigo"	Guri Scanke
Malta	"Vertigo"	Olivia Lewis
Andorra	"Salvem Al Mon"	Anonymos
Hungary	"Unsubstantial Blues"	Magdi Rúzsa
Estonia	"Partners In Crime"	Gerli Padar
Belgium	"Love Power"	Krazy Mess Groovers
Slovenia	"Cvet Z Juga"	Alenka Gotar
Turkey	"Shake It Up Shekerim"	Kenan Dogulu
Austria	"Get Alive, Get A Life"	Eric Papilaya
Latvia	"Questa Notte"	Bonaparti.lv

<b>Final</b>		<b>12th May 2007</b>
<b>Country</b>	<b>Song</b>	<b>Performer</b>
Bosnia Herzegovina	"Rijeka Bez Imena"	Marija Sestic
Spain	"I Love You Mi Vida"	D'Nash
Semi-final Qualifier		
Ireland	"They Can't Stop The Spring"	Dervish
Finland	"Leave Me Alone"	Hanna Pakarinen
Semi-final Qualifier		
Semi-final Qualifier		
Semi-final Qualifier		
Lithuania	"Love Or Leave"	4Fun
Greece	"Yassou Maria"	Sarbel
Semi-final Qualifier		
Sweden	"The Worrying Kind"	The Ark
France	"L'amour A La Francais"	Les Fatals Picards
Semi-final Qualifier		
Russia	"Song #1"	Serebro
Germany	"Frauen Regier'n Die Welt"	Roger Cicero
Semi-final Qualifier		
Ukraine	"Dancing Lasha Tumbai"	Verka Serduchka
United Kingdom	"Flying The Flag (For You)"	Scooch
Romania	"Liubi, Liubi, I Love You"	Todomondo
Semi-final Qualifier		
Semi-final Qualifier		
Armenia	"Anytime You Need"	Hayko
Semi-final Qualifier		

Information correct at the time of going to print. Any late changes will be announced, where possible, at [www.ukogae.net](http://www.ukogae.net)



The Hartwell Arena



**Albania**

**Song:** "Hear My Plea"

**Original Title:** "Balada E Gurit"

**Performer:** Frederik Ndoci feat. Aida

The 45th Festivali I Këngës, an established Albanian song festival, was used by Albania to select their fourth Eurovision entry. Preceded by two semi-finals, the 16 qualifying songs as well as the ultimate winner were chosen by an expert jury. "Baladi E Gurit" is an ethnic number that has been written by Pandi Laço and composed by Adrian Hila. The song will be performed in English.

1st Semi-final		21st December 2006
Song title	Performer	Result
"Kjo Është Jeta"	Kujtim Prodani	Qualified
"Në Fund Të Botës"	Arbër Arapi	Qualified
"Ah Jetë, Oh Jetë"	Herciana Matmuja	Qualified
"Mik I Dhimbies"	Saimir Braho	Qualified
"Por Ti Mos Trego"	Amarda Arkaxhiu	Qualified
"Balada E Gurit"	Frederik Ndoci feat. Aida	Qualified
"Ku Është Dashuria"	Mariza Ikonomi	Qualified
"Hajde"	Ervin Bushati	
"Do Të Shkruaj Një Letër"	Sonila Mara	
"Të Jetosh"	Saimir Çili	
"Vallë Përse"	Joe Artid Fejzo	
"Ti Më"	Rovena Stefa	
"Falja Do Shpirt"	Erion Korini	
"Siluetë"	Andi Kongo	
"Mos Perëndo"	Sfinks	

2nd Semi-final		22nd December 2006
Song title	Performer	Result
"Kepi I Shpresës Së Mirë"	Besiana Mehmeti & Mustafa Ymeri	Qualified
"Eklips"	Alban Skenderaj	Qualified
"Hajde Sonte"	Eliza Hoxha	Qualified
"Eja Zemër"	Greta Koçi	Qualified
"Endrra Ime"	Tonin Marku	Qualified
"Pa Ty, Pa Mua"	Rosela Gjylbegu	Qualified
"Rrëfim Në Mesnatë"	Evis Mula	Qualified
"Pa Identitet"	Jonida Maliqi	Qualified
"Të Dua Zemër Ty Të Dua"	Alberie Hadërgjonaj	Qualified
"Ne Apo Kjo Kohë"	Edmond Mancaku	
"Dua Të Jem"	Silva Gunbardhi	
"Blozë E Bardhë"	Gerta Tafa	
"Ylli Im Polar"	Sarmanta Karavello	
"Nata E Fundit"	Evans Rama	
"Trill I Një Natë"	Mateus Froku	
"Jemi Kaq Të Largët"	Voltan Prodani & Alfred Habibi	

45th festivali I Këngës		22nd December 2006
Song title	Performer	Result
"Balada E Gurit"	Frederik Ndoci feat. Aida	55 points
"Pa Ty, Pa Mua"	Rosela Gjylbegu	52 points
"Ku Eshhtë Dashuria"	Mariza Ikonomi	49 points
"Por Ti Mos Trego"	Amarda Arkaxhiu	49 points
"Eja Zemër"	Greta Koçi	40 points
"Rrëfim Në Mesnatë"	Evis Mula	39 points
"Eklips"	Alban Skenderaj	37 points
"Pa Identitet"	Jonida Maliqi	21 points
"Në Fund Të Botës"	Arbër Arapi	14 points
"Ah Jetë, Oh Jetë"	Herciana Matmuja	11 points
"Të Dua Zemër Ty Të Dua"	Alberie Hadërgjonaj	10 points
"Hajde Sonte"	Eliza Hoxha	10 points
"Mik I Dhimbies"	Saimir Braho	6 points
"Kjo Eshhtë Jeta"	Kujtim Prodani	4 points
"Kepi I Shpresës Së Mirë"	Besiana Mehmeti & Mustafa Ymeri	3 points
"Endrra Imë"	Tonin Marku	0 points



#### Andorra

**Song:** "Salvem Al Mon"

**Translation:** "Let's Save The World"

**Performer:** Anonymous

Having tried various selection processes since their debut in 2004 without success, Andorra decided to internally appoint their song and singer for 2007. It was still a difficult task though, with the state broadcaster receiving 82 potential compositions and 27 interested performers from which to choose just one. However, turning their backs on female soloists who have, so far, proved unsuccessful for the small country, three piece teenage punk band Anonymous will hope to 'save the world' in Helsinki with their self penned entry. Band members Niki, Alejandro and Gallego are still in their late teens, but are already enjoying a third year of success as well as becoming increasingly popular with their growing army of young fans. The song will be performed in Catalan and English.



**Armenia**

**Song:** "Anything You Need"

**Performer:** Hayko

After a successful debut on the Eurovision stage in Athens last year, Armenia are determined to do even better this time around. A weekend of music formed the basis of their 2007 selection process, with two semi-finals of ten songs each that allowed SMS voters and jury members to select a total of six song for the final night; six, that is, until the television company changed the rules and added an additional wildcard at the last moment! During the final show a televote was held, but it was left to the expert jury to announce that Hayko would follow in Andre's footsteps in representing Armenia. The song, a love ballad, has been written and composed by Hayko, assisted by Karen Kavaleryan who has also co-written the entry for Belarus.



**1st Semi-final**

**23rd February 2007**

Song title	Performer	Result
"Colour Of My Tears"	Arina Hovhannisyán	Qualified
"My Story"	Asta	Qualified
"I'm Yours"	Sergey Grigoryan	Qualified
"Angel"	Jacklina Tumanyan	
"Let It Not Seem Less"	Erik	
"Let Today"	Arshaluys Sargsyan	
"Blue Bird"	R.P.	
"Only Music Makes Me Strong"	Hariel Sando	
"So I Will Go"	Nelly Poghosyan	
"New Ways"	Gevorg Martirosyan	

**2nd Semi-final**

**24th February 2007**

Song title	Performer	Result
"Anything You Need"	Hayko	Qualified
"You've Done It"	Emmy	Qualified
"Your Heart Is Hot"	Karine Asiryán	Qualified
"Carry Me In"	Meri Voskanyan	Wildcard
"You Need A Girl"	Hayer	
"Again, Again"	Meri Voskanyan	
"I'll Prove I Am Stronger"	Marianna Hovhannisyán	
"Rain"	Sargis Edwards	
"I'm My Lover's"	Vo.X	
"Hate When You're Gone"	Lana Khachatryan	

final		25th February 2007
Song title	Performer	Result
"Anything You Need"	Hayko	1st
"Colour Of My Tears"	Arina Hovhannisyán	
"My Story"	Asta	
"I'm Yours"	Sergey Grigoryan	
"You've Done It"	Emmy	
"Your Heart Is Hot"	Karine Asiryan	
"Carry Me In"	Meri Voskanyan	



## Austria

**Song:** "Get Alive, Get A Life"**Performer:** Eric Papilaya

Returning to the competition after a self imposed absence, an internal committee appointed Eric Papilaya to represent Austria in 2007. Eric is no stranger to music competitions, having previously been a finalist in the third series of Starmania earlier this year. Eric's song was presented to the public on 7th March 2007 and has also been adopted by Life Ball, an AIDS charity event, the proceeds from which will help support a number of organisations, including the Elton John AIDS Foundation. The music has been composed by Greg Usek, who has previously worked with Kylie Minogue, to accompany lyrics by Austin Howard.



## Belarus

**Song:** "Work Your Magic"**Performer:** Koldun

Belarus once again chose their entry in two stages. A semi-final held in Minsk during December selected the top three songs that would proceed to the national final. Angelica Agurbash (2005) had been due to take part, but withdrew shortly before the first event. Regular readers will know that she caused controversy by changing her song from the one selected in Belarus to the one performed in Ukraine. Similar events also occurred this year when a combined jury and televote decided that the 1st, 3rd and 4th placed songs should be considered further, ignoring the 2nd placed entry completely.

The semi-final winner, Dmitry Koldun, then announced that he was changing his song to one written and composed by Karen Kavaleryan and Philip Kirkirov, because



his original entry was not suited to the contest. The television company decided that this change should be permitted and, in so doing, subsequently allowed the jury to select a song to represent Belarus that wasn't even featured in the first round! Dmitry will use his surname as a stage name when he takes the Eurovision stage in May.

<b>Semi-final</b>		<b>15th December 2006</b>
<b>Song title</b>	<b>Performer</b>	<b>Result</b>
"Angel Mechty"	Dmitry Koldun	4,412 votes
"Summer Trip"	Litesound	1,999 votes
"How Long"	Diana Gurtskaya	1,582 votes
"S.U.P.E.R.S.T.A.R"	The Project	1,288 votes
"Smachny Myodzik"	Svayaki	1,140 votes
"Fingertips"	Borneo	693 votes
"So Badly High"	Natalia Tamelo	585 votes
"Sorvatsa I Vniz"	Ana Sharkunova	553 votes
"Call Me"	Lena	467 votes
"Sooner Or Later"	Victor Pshenichniy	462 votes
"I Don't Know Why"	XXXLight	334 votes
"Belarus"	New Generation	172 votes
"Mechtai So Mnoy"	Dali	142 votes
"Korotkiy Dozhd"	Irina Yarina	81 votes
"I Feel Good Tonight"	Oleg Karpenko	39 votes

<b>Final</b>		<b>22nd January 2007</b>
<b>Song title</b>	<b>Performer</b>	<b>Result</b>
"Work Your Magic"	Dmitry Koldun	1st
"How Long"	Diana Gurtskaya	
"S.U.P.E.R.S.T.A.R"	The Project	

**Belgium**  
**Song:** "Love Power"  
**Performer:** Crazy Mess Groovers aka KMG's

This years' Belgian entry has been decided internally by the French speaking broadcaster, RTBF. The KMG's are a nine piece funk jazz band comprising Sexyfire, Mr Scotch, Mr French Kiss, Big Boss, Mr Cream and Lady Soulflower. In order to comply with Eurovision rules, additional group members Mr The Answer, Mr Dee Bee Dee Bop and Mr Y will have to remain off stage in Helsinki as the maximum number of performers allowed is six. The song is by Wakas Ashiq and Paul Curtiz.





**Bosnia Herzegovina**

**Song:** "Rijeka Bez Imena"

**Translation:** "River Without A Name"

**Performer:** Marija Sestic

Following their best ever Eurovision result last year, Bosnia Herzegovina have appointed their singer and songwriters for Helsinki. Marija Sestic is only 19, but has already won several music awards for her country and is the daughter of Dusan Sestic who was responsible for writing a new national anthem for Bosnia Herzegovina following its independence from the former Yugoslavia. The song, which was presented to the public on 4th March 2007, has been written and composed by Aleksandra Milutinovic and Goran Kovacic, both of whom are well known throughout the Balkans for their song writing abilities.



**Bulgaria**

**Song:** "Water"

**Original Title:** "Voda"

**Performer:** Elitsa Todorova & Stoyan Yankulov

Desperate to reach the Eurovision final, Bulgaria staged a semi-final at the beginning of February that selected nine songs to join three specially commission wildcards (\*) in a television show broadcast three weeks later. Viewers were given the opportunity



to vote for their favourite song with the top three being confirmed at the end of the show. The winner, "Voda" performed by Elitsa Todorova and Stoyan Yankulov, has an electro pop rhythm but possesses an otherwise ethnic melody that is reminiscent of the Indian sub-continent. Somewhat repetitive, the song could still provide Bulgaria with its highest Eurovision placing to date, and has been written and composed by the performers. Retaining an English title for the contest, the performance will only feature Bulgarian.

<b>Semi-final</b>		<b>3rd February 2007</b>
<b>Song</b>	<b>Performer</b>	<b>Result</b>
"Back In Your Heart"	Grupata	Qualified
"Super Fire"	Teddy Karetsova	Qualified
"Ya Tvoya"	Sofi Marinova & Ustata	Qualified
"Getting Crazy"	Mastilo	Qualified
"Say You Would"	Toni Dimitrova & Goresch Pysak	Qualified
"Moya Lyubov"	Margarita Hranova	Qualified
"Az Znam"	Aksinia	Qualified
"Higher (Balkan Heart)"	S-lavina	Qualified
"Our Way Back Home"	Dimitar Atanasov	Qualified
"If You Come Baby"	Svetozar Christov & Lora Vladova	
"Runaway"	Petya Pavlova	
"Days Of Old"	Pantommind	
"No, No, No"	Svetla Ivanova	
"Confession"	Dilyana Tsenova	
"Falling Angel"	Bella	
"Open Your Eyes"	Charlene & Natasha	
"Dokoga"	Krum	
"In Expectance"	Galin Raychev	

<b>Final</b>		<b>24th February 2007</b>
<b>Song</b>	<b>Performer</b>	<b>Result</b>
"Voda"	Elitsa Todorova & Stoyan Yankulov *	31,376 votes
"Fool For You"	KariZma *	5,232 votes
"Ya Tvoya"	Sofi Marinova & Ustata	4,345 votes
"The Love And The Freedom"	Kotseto Kalki *	3,253 votes
"Back In Your Heart"	Grupata	2,574 votes
"Our Way Back Home"	Dimitar Atanasov	2,386 votes
"Super Fire"	Teddy Karetsova	2,174 votes
"Getting Crazy"	Mastilo	1,772 votes
"Say You Would"	Toni Dimitrova & Goresch Pysak	1,703 votes
"Higher (Balkan Heart)"	S-lavina	1,256 votes
"Moya Lyubov"	Margarita Hranova	629 votes
"Az Znam"	Aksinia	562 votes



Croatia

Song: "Vjerujem U Ljubav"

Translation: "I Believe In Love"

Performer: Dragonfly feat. Dado Topic

Dora 2007 was held on the first three nights of March and comprised two semi-finals ahead of the show that selected the next Croatian Eurovision entry. The voting was split equally between a jury and televoting, with the latter converted into points rather than actual votes. This meant that each song received between 1 and 16 points from each voting sector with a maximum of 32 points possible. The top eight from the two semi-finals then proceeded to the Saturday night competition. In a closely fought battle, Dragonfly, featuring famous rock singer Dado Topic, took the crown by one single vote and will now have the opportunity to perform their rock ballad to an international audience. The song, which has been written and composed by Dado Topic, will be performed in Croat and English.



1st semi-final		1st March 2007
Song	Performer	Result
"Vjerujem U Ljubav"	Dragonfly feat. Dado Topic	32 points
"Pjesma Za Novcic"	Kraljevi Ulice	31 points
"Pismom Te Ljubi Mlijun Mandolina"	Giuliano	28 points
"Navika"	Feminnem	23 points
"Pusti Me U San"	Luka Nižetic	22 points
"Gitara I Čaša Vina"	Klapa Maslina	21 points
"Dějà Vu"	Marko Tolja	21 points
"Gravitacija"	Lana Klingor	17 points
"Nikada Zaboravljena"	Ibrica Jusic	13 points
"Sve Bi Za Nju Da"	Alen Vitasovic	13 points
"Male Vještice"	Angels	12 points
"Malo Za Zauvijek"	Esmeralda Kresina	11 points
"Rijec Dvije"	Voljen Grbac & Vivien Galletta	10 points
"Samo Probaj"	Ivana Radovnikovic	9 points
"Ljubavnica"	Milan Terze	7 points
"Još Sam Uvijek Tvoj"	Ayra	5 points

2nd Semi-final		2nd March 2007
Song	Performer	Result
"Moj Svijet"	Danijela Pintaric	29 points
"Tata"	Tina Vukov	29 points
"Nemam"	Jelena Rozga	27 points
"Šlager Pjevac"	The Sick Swing Orchestra	24 points
"Volim Ja"	Livio Morosin & Miroslav Evacic	23 points
"Nema Šanse Šeceru"	Trio Fantasticus	23 points
"Poljubi Me"	Kemal Monteno	21 points
"Teatar"	Anja Šovagovic & Galiano Pahor	19 points
"Neka Bude Zauvijek"	Antonija Šola	17 points
"Što Je To Ljudima"	Brentini	13 points
"Jedino Moje"	Žanamari	11 points
"Ti Si Tu"	Barbara Munjas	11 points
"Tražit Cu Te"	Sabrina	10 points
"Bio Bih Samo Njen"	Raspashow	9 points
"Ti Si Moj"	Ness	7 points
"Ljubavna Prica"	Valentina Bralo	6 points

Dora 2007		3rd March 2007
Song	Performer	Result
"Vjerujem U Ljubav"	Dragonfly feat. Dado Topic	31 points
"Pjesma Za Novcic"	Kraljevi Ulice	30 points
"Moj Svijet"	Danijela Pintaric	26 points
"Tata"	Tina Vukov	24 points
"Pismom Te Ljubi Milijun Mandolina"	Giuliano	23 points
"Volim Ja"	Livio Morosin & Miroslav Evacic	21 points
"Nemam"	Jelena Rozga	21 points
"Gitara I Čaša Vina"	Klapa Maslina	17 points
"Navika"	Feminnem	16 points
"Nema Šanse Šeceru"	Trio Fantasticus	15 points
"Pusti Me U San"	Luka Nižetic	13 points
"Déjà Vu"	Marko Tolja	12 points
"Gravitacija"	Lana Klingor	11 points
"Teatar"	Anja Šovagovic & Galiano Pahor	9 points
"Poljubi Me"	Kemal Monteno	8 points
"Šlager Pjevac"	The Sick Swing Orchestra	5 points



Cyprus

**Song:** "Comme Ci, Comme Ca"  
**Translation:** "Like This, Like That"  
**Performer:** Evridiki



Following their disappointment in Athens, Cyprus have appointed Evridiki to sing their next Eurovision entry which is a song written and composed by the singers' fiancé, Dimitris Korgialas, and Posidonas Giannopoulos.

Now spending much of her time in France, many were still surprised to learn that the song has a French title and that the performance is likely to combine French with a little Greek in what is described as an electro pop melody. Other suggestions have indicated that English may also feature when Evridiki takes to the stage in Helsinki, but this has been denied by the Cypriot team. No stranger to Eurovision, Evridiki represented Cyprus in 1992 and 1994, and remains as beautiful and popular as ever.



**Czech Republic**  
**Song:** "Malá Dáma"  
**Translation:** "Little Lady"  
**Performer:** Kabat

Debutants Czech Republic chose ten of their most experienced performers to take part in the competition that would decide their first Eurovision entry. The decision as to who this should be was left entirely to the voting public and, after everyone who wanted to had sent their SMS, the winner was announced as being rock band Kabat with their song "Malá Dáma". The band have been performing since 1983, and have ten successful albums behind them. They now plan to reach a wider audience with their self-composed Eurovision entry.



Result		
Song	Performer	Result
"Malá Dáma"	Kabat	1st
"Story Of Life"	L.B.P	
"Zaklínám Svě More"	Petr Bende	
"Adios"	Vlasta Horváth	
"Žena Ze Stínadel"	Lili Marlene	
"When I Am With Her"	Sámer Issa	
"Love Me Again"	Helena Zetová	
"Muloland"	Gipsy.cz	
"Přísahám"	Petr Kolár	
"Samba"	Helena Vondráčková	Withdrawn



**Denmark**  
**Song:** "Drama Queen"  
**Performer:** DQ aka Peter Andersen

Sixteen songs, two semi-finals, eight qualifiers and two wildcards were the processes used to decide who should take part in the 2007 Dansk Melodi Grand Prix. At the end of the two semi-finals the four songs that had qualified were announced without any reference to their scores, but early favourite and former Eurovision winner, Jørgen Olsen, was denied a place in the final, as was another Danish representative, Aud

Wilken. However, the non-qualifiers were then randomly placed in two wildcard radio rounds that gave the Olsen brother another chance at possible victory along with drag artist, DQ aka Peter Andersen. Ten songs subsequently entered into a closely fought battle on 10th February 2007 that saw one of Denmark's leading club entertainers win the prize. The result has, however, divided critics and fans alike, with some wondering whether the Danish nation is ready for such a flamboyant appearance on the international stage. "Drama Queen" is an up-tempo schlager song written and composed by Peter Andersen, Simon Munk and Claus Christensen



<b>1st Semi-final</b>		<b>26th January 2007</b>
<b>Song</b>	<b>Performer</b>	<b>Result</b>
"Meaning Of Life"	Danni Elmo	Qualified
"Listen To Love"	Jacob Andersen	Qualified
"Copenhagen Airport"	Annette Heick	Qualified
"Fly"	Annika Askman	Qualified
"It Ain't For The Money"	Camille feat. DJ Mary	
"Flammer Inden I"	Dariana & Olau	
"On Top Of The World"	Heidi Degn	
"Paparazzi"	Christoffer Brodersen	

<b>2nd Semi-final</b>		<b>2nd February 2007</b>
<b>Song</b>	<b>Performer</b>	<b>Result</b>
"It's A Beautiful Day"	Katrine Falkenberg	Qualified
"Så Nær Som Nu"	Stig Rossen	Qualified
"Say You Love Me"	James Sampson	Qualified
"Two Are Stronger Than One"	Me & My	Qualified
"Drama Queen"	DQ	
"Vi Elska Bare Danske Piger"	Jørgen Olsen	
"Husker Du"	Aud Wilken	
"Merhaba"	Julie Lund	

<b>1st Wildcard P3 Radio Roud</b>		<b>5th-8th February 2007</b>
<b>Song</b>	<b>Performer</b>	<b>Result</b>
"Drama Queen"	DQ	60%
"Merhaba"	Julie Lund	18%
"It Ain't For The Money"	Camille feat. DJ Mary	11%
"Husker Du"	Aud Wilken	11%

<b>2nd Wildcard P4 Radio Roud</b>		<b>5th-8th February 2007</b>
<b>Song</b>	<b>Performer</b>	<b>Result</b>
"Vi Elska Bare Danske Piger"	Jørgen Olsen	47%
"Paparazzi"	Christoffer Brodersen	22%
"On Top Of The World"	Heidi Degn	18%
"Flammer Inden I"	Dariana & Olau	12%

<b>Dansk Melodi Grand Prix</b>		<b>10th February 2007</b>
<b>Song</b>	<b>Performer</b>	<b>Result</b>
"Drama Queen"	DQ	56 points
"Say You Love Me"	James Sampson	52 points
"Så Nær Som Nu"	Stig Rossen	42 points
"It's A Beautiful Day"	Katrine Falkenberg	30 points
"Listen To Love"	Jacob Andersen	12 points
"Two Are Stronger Than One"	Me & My	8 points
"Vi Elska Bare Danske Piger"	Jørgen Olsen	0 points
"Meaning Of Life"	Danni Elmo	0 points
"Copenhagen Airport"	Annette Heick	0 points
"Fly"	Annika Askman	0 points

**Estonia****Song:** "Partners In Crime"**Performer:** Gerli Padar

The Estonian final was held on 3rd February 2007 and saw past representatives Ines and Koit Toome, as well as former Swiss representatives Vanilla Ninja, trying to represent their homeland. 2XL, who backed winners Tanel Padar and Dave Benton in 2001, were also competing in the contest under their new name Soul Militia. The first televote decided which three songs should proceed to a super vote, but in the event there was no change to the overall winner who was confirmed as Gerli Padar and the rock-pop "Partners In Crime". Gerli has previously taken part in the Estonian final and now hopes to follow in her brother Tanel's footsteps by going on to win the Eurovision Song Contest itself. Hendrik Sal-Saller has written the lyrics to accompany music composed by Berit Veiber.



<b>Result</b>		
<b>Song</b>	<b>Performer</b>	<b>Result</b>
"Partners In Crime"	Gerli Padar	16,759 / 55,416 votes
"Romeo & Julia"	Hele Kõre & Kristjan Kasearu	9,350 / 36,881 votes
"Sunflowers"	Laura Põldvere	8,170 / 25,896 votes
"Birds Of Peace"	Vanilla Ninja	7,552 votes
"My Place"	Soul Militia	4,524 votes
"In Good And Bad"	Ines	2,583 votes
"So Much To Say"	Kristjan Kasearu & Paradise Crew	1,771 votes
"One Year From Now"	Linda	1,701 votes
"Supreme Nature"	Deva Deva Dance	1,543 votes
"Veidi Veel"	Koit Toome	1,371 votes

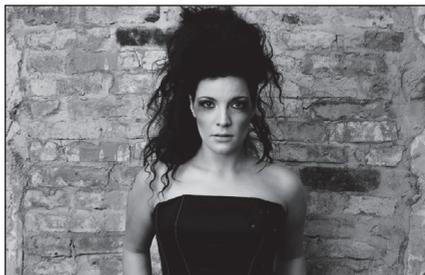


**Finland**

**Song:** "Leave Me Alone"

**Performer:** Hanna Pakarinen

As well as organising the 2007 Eurovision Song Contest, Finland had the unenviable task of selecting a song and singer to follow in the footsteps of Lordi. Following the successful pattern of last year, 12 singers each performed two songs in a series of semi-finals that selected one from each performer to proceed to final selection. Culminating in a televote, the top three songs then went through to a super final that completed the overall process. "Leave Me Alone" follows the rock style of Lordi, but has some folk influences that can be detected throughout the song. Written and composed by Martti Vuorinen, Miikka Huttunen and Hanna Pakarinen, the female rock star will now perform on home territory for a country that, until 2006, had received little success on the international stage.



**1st Semi-final**

**20th January 2007**

Song	Performer	Result
"Musta Sulhanen"	Jani & Jetsetters	53%
"Etupenkilä"	Jani & Jetsetters	47%
"Leave Me Alone"	Hanna Pakarinen	69%
"Tell Me What To Do"	Hanna Pakarinen	31%
"Face In The Mirror"	Thunderstone	64%
"Forever More"	Thunderstone	36%

**2nd Semi-final**

**27 January 2007**

Song	Performer	Result
"Levitä Siivet"	Jukka Kuoppamäki	61%
"Pikajuna"	Jukka Kuoppamäki	39%
"Plane Away"	Humane	79%
"Bubble Shell"	Humane	21%
"Tietäjä"	Katra	75%
"Vaaratar"	Katra	25%

**3rd Semi-final**

**3rd February 2007**

Song	Performer	Result
"Olet Uneni Kaunein"	Johanna Kurkela	65%
"Jossain Metsäin Takana"	Johanna Kurkela	35%
"Left My Heart Behind"	Kentala	64%
"Merry-Go-Round"	Kentala	36%
"Anyone Anymore"	Lovex	84%
"Wild And Violent"	Lovex	16%

4th Semi-final		10th February 2007
Song	Performer	Result
"Take A Chance"	Laura	62%
"Kosketa Mua"	Laura	38%
"See The Signs"	Beats & Styles	59%
"Take It Back"	Beats & Styles	41%
"Rock'n'Roll Dreams"	Jann Wilde & Rose Avenue	61%
"Cinnamon"	Jann Wilde & Rose Avenue	39%

Final		17th February 2007
Song	Performer	Result
"Leave Me Alone"	Hanna Pakarinen	17.7% / 73,052 votes
"Face In The Mirror"	Thunderstone	11.5% / 54,716 votes
"Anyone Anymore"	Lovex	15.8% / 38,175 votes
"Take A Chance"	Laura	9.4%
"Rock'n'Roll Dreams"	Jann Wilde & Rose Avenue	8.3%
"Olet Uneni Kaunein"	Johanna Kurkela	8.1%
"Plane Away"	Humane	7.1%
"Tietäjä"	Katra	5.5%
"Left My Heart Behind"	Kentala	5.3%
"Levitä Siivet"	Jukka Kuoppamäki	5.0%
"Musta Sulhanen"	Jani & Jetsetters	3.7%
"See The Signs"	Beats & Styles	2.6%



### France

**Song:** "L'amour À La Française"

**Translation:** "French Love"

**Performer:** Les Fatals Picards

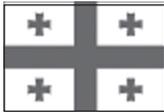
"Et si on gagnait?" was the question on French lips as five major television companies joined forces on 6th March 2007 to select the song and singer that would go on to represent France at the Eurovision Song Contest. The voting, which combined jury points with a televote, was split into two rounds; the first selecting two songs for a super vote while the second decided which song would become the French choice for



Finland. The song is, perhaps, an unusual choice for France, combining English and French lyrics within a punk sounding song. Although Natasha St. Pier performed a verse in English during the 2001 contest, this will be the first time a French entry

has officially and predominantly featured another language. Les Fatals Picards is a five-piece band comprising Ivan, Paul, Laurent, Jean-Marc and Yves who also wrote the song.

<b>Result</b>		
<b>Song</b>	<b>Performer</b>	<b>Result</b>
"L'amour Á La Française"	Les Fatals Picards	1st
"On And On"	Medi-T	2nd
"Bye Bye Papa"	Les Vedettes	
"Grain D'sel"	MAP	
"Mon Étoile"	Jennifer Chevallier	
"Galbi"	BZR feat. Cheb Hamid	
"Besoin D'ailleurs"	Valérie Louri	
"Faut Voter Pour Nous"	Les Wampas	
"Je Veux Tout"	Charlotte Becquin	
"Comme Un Rêve"	Estelle Lemée	



**Georgia**

**Song:** "Visionary Dream"

**Original Title:** "My Story"

**Performer:** Sopho Khalvashi

Debuting for Georgia will be 20 year old music student Sopho Khalvashi who was appointed by her state broadcasting company to perform five songs to the Georgian public on 3rd March 2007. The songs had been previewed earlier, allowing for two weeks of televoting to take place before the final show was broadcast. There was little doubt which song the Georgian public wanted to represent them, with the winner receiving more than 50% of the overall score. The ethnic sounding "My Story", which has been re-titled for Eurovision, has been written and composed by Beqa Jafaridze and Bibi Kvachadze.

<b>Result</b>	
<b>Song</b>	<b>Result</b>
"My Story"	51%
"Tell Me Why"	36%
"On Adjarian Motives"	5%
"Fantasy Land"	4%
"Freedom"	4%





## Germany

**Song:** "Frauen Regier'n Die Welt"

**Translation:** "Women Rule The World"

**Performer:** Roger Cicero



For a second year Germany appointed three performers to sing three songs in a final held on 8th March 2007, but many felt that the choices put forward were not representative of German popular opinion. Nonetheless, the live show went ahead as planned and saw the three contenders each perform a classic contest hit before their own Eurosong. The viewing public were then invited to give their votes by telephone, allowing Roger Cicero to represent Germany with a swing style song about women ruling the world! It is not known which song came second or third, as only the winner was publicly announced. "Frauen Regier'n Die Welt" has been written and composed by Matthias Hass and Frank Ramond.

## Result

Song	Performer	Result
"Frauen Regier'n Die Welt"	Roger Cicero	1st
"Die Welt Ist Pop"	Heinz Rudolf Kunze	
"Even Heaven Cries"	Monrose	

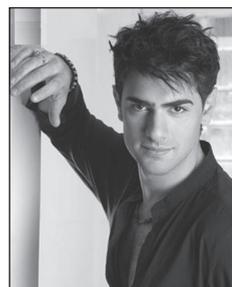


## Greece

**Song:** "Yassou Maria"

**Translation:** "Hello Maria"

**Performer:** Sarbel



A star studded show that could rival the actual Eurovision Song Contest was held in Athens on 28th February 2007 and, as well as the three shortlisted songs and singers, saw a selection of international acts who will soon grace the stage in Helsinki taking part. Voting was equally divided between an expert jury and the Greek viewing public, but the final result saw pre-show favourite, Christos Dantis, failing to attract sufficient votes and falling into second place. In contrast, the winning outsider, Sarbel, managed to score almost 40% and will represent Greece with a song that has been written and composed by the team of Mack, Marcus Englof and Alex Papaconstantinou.

## Result

Song	Performer	Result
"Yassou Maria"	Sarbel	39.70 %
"No Madonna"	Christos Dantis	31.28 %
"With Love"	Tamta	29.02 %



**Hungary**

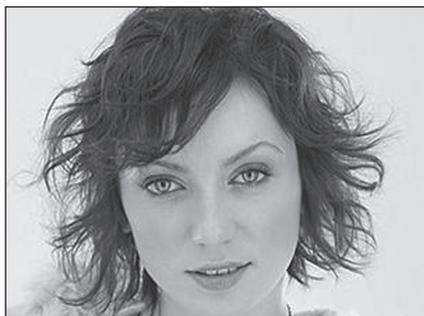
**Song:** "Unsubstantial Blues"

**Performer:** Magdi Rúzsa

Two years ago Hungary returned to the contest with Vox, but then decided to take a break in 2006. 12 months on and the country will be back once again and have chosen Megasztár winner, Magdi Rúzsa, who won the Fonogram award for Best Hungarian Newcomer 2006 in a special award show broadcast on 24th February 2007. However, Magdi is a Serb by birth, causing other nominees and the general public to question why a Hungarian is not representing their country. Nonetheless, the popular singer will represent her adopted country in May and will be singing a song that she has personally selected from her latest album. Magdi has written the music with lyrics by Imre Mozsik.

**Best Hungarian Newcomer Nominees**

Performer	Result
Magdi Rúzsa	1st
Eszter Bartók	
Angéla Póka	
Eszter Szabó	
Wendigo	
Wisdom	



**Iceland**

**Song:** "Valentine Lost"

**Original Title:** "Ég Les Í Lófa þínum"

**Performer:** Eiríkur Hauksson

Although some critics would suggest that Iceland only have Silvia Night to blame for failing to qualify last year, there has been little Icelandic success at Eurovision since the introduction of semi-finals with even the lovely Selma proving unsuccessful in 2005. Anxious to reverse this trend, RUV staged three preliminary rounds and allowed televoters to select three songs from each for the final. However, the ultimate result still came as a surprise to many and seems unlikely to achieve any real success in May. Although an accomplished singer and Eurovision veteran, having represented Iceland as part of icy in 1986 and five years later for Norway as a member of Just4Fun, Eiríkur Hauksson is not an obvious choice for international victory. The song has been written and composed by Kristján Hreinsson and Sveinn Rúnar Sigurðsson, and will be performed in its English version.

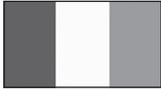


<b>1st Semi-final</b>		<b>20th January 2007</b>
<b>Song</b>	<b>Performer</b>	<b>Result</b>
"Blómabörn"	Bríet Sunna Valdemarsdóttir	Qualified
"Áfram"	Sigurjón Brink	Qualified
"Húsin Hafa Augu"	Matthías Matthíasson, Pétur Ó Guðmundsson & Einar Þ Jóhannsson	Qualified
"Orðin Komu Aldrei"	Snorri Snorrason	
"Enginn Eins Og þú"	Aðalheiður Ólafsdóttir	
"Allt Eða Ekki Neitt"	Finnur Jóhannesson	
"Þú Gafst Mér Allt"	Bergþór Smári	
"Draumur"	Hreimur Heimisson	

<b>2nd Semi-final</b>		<b>27th January 2007</b>
<b>Song</b>	<b>Performer</b>	<b>Result</b>
"Eldur"	Fríðrik Ómar Hjörleifsson	Qualified
"Ég Les Í Lófa þínum"	Eiríkur Hauksson	Qualified
"Segðu Mér"	Jón Jósep Snæbjörnsson	Qualified
"Dásamleg Raun"	Richard Scobie	
"Ég Hef Fengið Nóg"	Hlómsveitin VON	
"Mig Dreymdi"	Hera Björk Þórhallsdóttir	
"Eitt Símtal Í Burtu"	Guðrún Lís Einarsdóttir	
"Fyrir þig"	Hjalti Ómar Ágústsson	

<b>3rd Semi-final</b>		<b>3rd February 2007</b>
<b>Song</b>	<b>Performer</b>	<b>Result</b>
"Ég Og Heilinn Minn"	Ragnheiður Eiríksdóttir	Qualified
"Þú Tryllir Mig"	Hafsteinn Þórólfsson	Qualified
"Bjarta Brosið"	Andri Bergmann	Qualified
"Leiðin Liggur Heim"	Davíð Smári Harðarsson	
"Viltir Skuggar"	Alexander Aron Guðbjartsson	
"Vor"	Helgi Rafn Ingvarsson	
"Júnínótt"	Soffía Karlsdóttir	
"Órlagadís"	Erna Hrönn Ólafsdóttir	

<b>Final</b>		<b>17th February 2007</b>
<b>Song</b>	<b>Performer</b>	<b>Result</b>
"Ég Les Í Lófa þínum"	Eiríkur Hauksson	1st
"Eldur"	Fríðrik Ómar Hjörleifsson	2nd
"Þú Tryllir Mig"	Hafsteinn Þórólfsson	3rd
"Ég Og Heilinn Minn"	Ragnheiður Eiríksdóttir	
"Bjarta Brosið"	Andri Bergmann	
"Blómabörn"	Bríet Sunna Valdemarsdóttir	
"Áfram"	Sigurjón Brink	
"Húsin Hafa Augu"	Matthías Matthíasson, Pétur Ó Guðmundsson & Einar Þ Jóhannsson	
"Segðu Mér"	Jón Jósep Snæbjörnsson	



**Ireland**

**Song:** "They Can't Stop The Spring"

**Performer:** Dervish

When RTE announced that Brian Kennedy would represent the Emerald Isle in 2006 many people were surprised at their choice of singer, but the announcement that Irish folk band Dervish would travel to Finland in 2007 was an even greater surprise. Originating from Co. Sligo, the band has been performing to worldwide audiences for nearly 20 years and have released a string of albums. Their four potential Eurosongs, all of which were clearly influenced by traditional Celtic music which is the preferred style of the six piece group, were performed on the Late Late Show broadcast on 16th February 2007. At the end of the programme Pat Kenny simply announced the order in which the songs had scored, with no votes being provided as part of the show. The song that will now represent Ireland has been written and composed by John Waters and Tommy Marsh.

<b>Result</b>	
<b>Song</b>	<b>Result</b>
"They Can't Stop The Spring"	1st
"Until We Meet Again"	2nd
"Walk With Me"	3rd
"The Thought Of You"	4th



**Israel**

**Song:** "Push The Button"

**Performer:** Teapacks

Although consideration was given to K'dam 2007, imminent changes within the way the Israeli Broadcasting Authority is managed led to the appointment of Teapacks; a somewhat unusual band from the southern part of the country who combine traditional Hebrew sounds with more contemporary music and a dose of humour! Four songs were selected and performed in a special television broadcast on 27th February 2007, although online voting had commenced a few days earlier. The final result was decided through a combination of public and jury votes, and led to the winning song receiving 100% of the available points although how this was actually achieved remains uncertain. Performed in English, French and Hebrew, the song is politically motivated and suggests imminent world



destruction, without naming the world leader who will "Push The Button". Such a theme is likely to cause some controversy in Finland and has already led to calls for Israel to be disqualified from the contest. Kobi Oz has written and composed the song.

Results	
Song	Result
"Push The Button"	100%
"Salam Salami"	0%
"I 2 Points"	0%
"Voulez Vous?"	0%



**Latvia**  
**Song:** "Questa Notte"  
**Translation:** "This Night"  
**Performer:** Bonaparti.lv

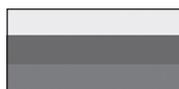
Sticking with two semi-finals ahead of Eirodziesma 2007, a total of ten acts found themselves competing on the final night for the honour of representing Latvia. The qualifiers were chosen by the combined efforts of SMS and jury voting, while the final night saw two rounds of televoting. The first decided which three songs should enter a super final, while the second decided the song that would go through as the Latvian Eurovision entry. This honour was subsequently awarded to Bonaparti.lv, a six member classically trained group who are similar to Il Divo in style. Their song will be performed completely in Italian with lyrics and music from Swedish team Kjell Jennstig, Torbjörn Wassenius and Francesca Wassenius.



1st Semi-final		27th January 2007
Song	Performer	Result
"Take Off Your Mask"	Lenni	Qualified
"What A Love Can Do To Me"	Gunars Kalnins & Jolanda Suvorova	Qualified
"Home"	Re:Public	Qualified
"Dundri Dandari"	Igeta Gaika & Balni	Qualified
"Can't Buy Good Lovin'"	Red Bee	Qualified
"I Will"	Beate	
"Trans-European Express"	Elli U	
"Always"	Enas	
"In Our Life"	Iveta Baumanė	
"Boys Never Tell They're Sorry"	H2O	

2nd Semi-final		3rd February 2007
Song	Performer	Result
"Questa Notte"	Bonoparti.lv	Qualified
"My Vow To You"	Klaidonis & Linita	Qualified
"You Are Losing Me"	Ksenija	Qualified
"Gonki"	Intars Busulis	Qualified
"The Legends Of Rock'n'Roll"	Robert Wells, Johnny Salamander & Meldra	Qualified
"Little Bit Of This"	VIA Meitenes	
"Bye My Baby, Bye"	Morning After	
"Close Your Eyes"	Aisha	
"Feels Like Heaven"	Stacey	
"Always And Forever"	Eli U	

Eirodziesma 2007		24th February 2007
Song	Performer	Result
"Questa Notte"	Bonoparti.lv	32,900 / 49,422 votes
"Gonki"	Intars Busulis	13,219 / 16,676 votes
"What A Love Can Do To Me"	Gunars Kalnins & Jolanda Suvorova	12,776 / 13,838 votes
"Take Off Your Mask"	Lenii	10,477 votes
"My Vow To You"	Klaidonis & Linita	6,702 votes
"Home"	Re:Public	5,945 votes
"The Legends Of Rock'n'Roll"	Mats Leven, Johnny Salamander & Meldra	3,728 votes
"Dundri Dandari"	Igeta Gaike & Balni	3,329 votes
"You Are Losing Me"	Ksenija	2,635 votes
"Can't Buy Good Lovin'"	Red Bee	2,002 votes



**Lithuania**

**Song:** "Love Or Leave"

**Performer:** 4Fun

Having qualified to the final in 2006 and gaining a top ten placing that keeps them in the final this year, Lithuania were determined to further build on their recent outing by inviting performers with varying musical experience to take part in three quarter finals. It is not entirely certain how many songs



and singers were originally meant to qualify for the two semi-finals as, due to a mix up in the combined jury and televote, several thought they had qualified ... before being told they hadn't ... and then being granted a wildcard (\*) to remove their disappointment! Five songs from each semi-final, together with a wildcard chosen by the jury, then went through the final show where, after the first round of voting, the top three songs proceeded to a super final. Four piece band 4Fun was awarded with the overall prize, having been the dark horse throughout the competition with their entry "Love Or Leave". The song is by Julija Ritcik.

<b>Quarter-final Newcomers</b>		<b>27th January 2007</b>
<b>Song</b>	<b>Performer</b>	<b>Result</b>
"Lust And Sexy Shadows"	Slapjack	70 points
"Save Me"	Sweetness Theory	69 points
"Like You"	Mini-Me	59 points
"Feel Your Lips"	Barbe-Q	32 points
"A Cool Guy With Long Hair"	Alien Run Amuck*	32 points
"Hero Of Today"	Kupido	30 points
"Man Reikia Meiles"	Pokeris	29 points
"Stay Away"	Marta	26 points
"It's Time To Say Goodbye"	Dykaja Zemlia	26 points
"I Will Survive Without You"	Edgaras Kapocius	17 points
"Tavo Pirktos Geles"	Angelina	10 points
"Air"	Jolita	6 points

<b>Quarter-final Semi-established performers</b>		<b>3rd February 2007</b>
<b>Song</b>	<b>Performer</b>	<b>Result</b>
"Something About Love"	Edita & Erika	55 points
"At Your Door"	U Soul	53 points
"The Green Sun"	Ashtrey	48 points
"Bad Salad Ballad"	Mesa	48 points
"Just Leave"	Stringaj	40 points
"Breaking Free"	Nerri	38 points
"It Was Good To Be With You"	Žydre	32 points
"The Fall"	Natas*	31 points
"Buk Arti"	Helada	21 points
"Wherever I Go"	Edita*	18 points
"Let's Pray"	Ingrida Paukštyte*	12 points
"PiaR"	Super Kolegos	9 points
"There's No Matter"	Igors	1 point

<b>Quarter-final Established performers</b>		<b>10 February 2007</b>
<b>Song</b>	<b>Performer</b>	<b>Result</b>
"Love Or Leave"	4Fun	84 points
"Fate"	Auguste	66 points
"If I Ever Make You Cry"	Ruta Šciogolevaite	56 points
"Tell Me Why"	Saules Kliošas	51 points
"Each Day Of My Life"	Dove & Gerda	36 points
"Emotional Crisis"	Aiste Pilvelyte	33 points
"Stay Here"	Onsa	30 points
"Aukšinis Ruduo"	The Road Band	22 points
"Fly Up Together"	Nacija	16 points
"Stranger"	Rasa Kaušyte	12 points

<b>1st Semi-final</b>		<b>17th February 2007</b>
<b>Song</b>	<b>Performer</b>	<b>Result</b>
"Love Or Leave"	4Fun	80 points
"Emotional Crisis"	Aiste Pilvelyte	56 points
"The Green Sun"	Ashtrey	52 points
"Lust And Sexy Shadows"	Slapjack	47 points
"Save Me"	Sweetness Theory	47 points
"The Fall"	Natas*	46 points
"At Your Door"	U Soul	26 points
"Just Leave"	Stringaj	19 points
"Feel Your Lips"	Barbe-Q	14 points
"Stay Here"	Onsa	14 points
"Auksinis Ruduo"	The Road Band	5 points
"Something About Love"	Edita & Erika	0 points

<b>2nd Semi-final</b>		<b>24th February 2007</b>
<b>Song</b>	<b>Performer</b>	<b>Result</b>
"If I Ever Make You Cry"	Ruta Šciogolevaite	82 points
"Tell Me Why"	Saules Kliošas	72 points
"Like You"	Mini-Me	48 points
"Each Day Of My Life"	Dove & Gerda	45 points
"Fate"	Auguste	44 points
"Bad Salad Ballad"	Mesa	38 points
"A Cool Guy With Long Hair"	Alien Run Amuck*	27 points
"It Was Good To Be With You"	Žydre	22 points
"Breaking Free"	Nerri	19 points
"Wherever I Go"	Edita*	6 points
"Let's Pray"	Ingrida Paukštyte*	6 points

<b>Final</b>		<b>3rd March 2007</b>
<b>Song</b>	<b>Performer</b>	<b>Result</b>
"Love Or Leave"	4Fun	6,863 / 23,888 points
"If I Ever Make You Cry"	Ruta Šciogolevaite	10,299 / 20,133 points
"Emotional Crisis"	Aiste Pilvelyte	8,022 / 10,155 points
"Fate"	Auguste	4,520 points
"Tell Me Why"	Saules Kliošas	3,600 points
"The Green Sun"	Ashtrey	1,958 points
"Lust And Sexy Shadows"	Slapjack	1,566 points
"The Fall"	Natas*	1,454 points
"Save Me"	Sweetness Theory	1,432 points
"Like You"	Mini-Me	1,179 points
"Each Day Of My Life"	Dove & Gerda	511 points



**FYR Macedonia**

**Song:** "Mojot Svet"

**Translation:** "My World"

**Performer:** Karolina Goceva

The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia held its final on 24th January 2007 and, for the first time, used regional voting to choose the song that would represent the small country in Helsinki. The ultimate winner, who received full marks from every region, is no stranger to Eurovision having represented her country in 2002. Karolina Goceva has also been a regular performer at Skopje Fest, the competition sometimes used to select the Macedonia entry, since 1994. "Mojot Svet", which is understood will be performed in the original language, is once again influenced by ethnic styles but with a more pop based interpretation. The song has been written and composed by Grigor Koprov and Ognen Nedelkovski.



### Result

Song	Performer	Result
"Mojot Svet"	Karolina Goceva	144 points
"Kazi Koj Si Ti"	Tamara Todevska	105 points
"Belo E Se"	Lambe Alabakovski	101 points
"1, 2, 3"	Maja Sazdanovska & Jovan Jovanov	71 points
"Peam"	Elena Petreska	67 points
"Otrov I Lek"	Sanja Levkova	40 points
"Letni Dozdovi"	Gjorgi Krstevski	30 points
"Potseti Me"	Super Nova	30 points
"Cuvaj Me"	Biba Dodeva	21 points
"Ako Te Rasplacat"	Marijan Stojanovski	20 points
"Epizoda"	Andrijana Janevska	19 points
"Odi Si"	Ivana Andonovska	16 points
"Pomogni Mi"	Vasil Gavranliev	15 points
"Nebo"	Dejana Nikolovska	11 points
"Kavijar I Svila"	Maja Grozdanovska Panceva	6 points



Malta

Song: "Vertigo"

Performer: Olivia Lewis



Held in two stages, a semi-final allowed expert jurors and televoters to choose the six songs that should take part in this years' Malta Song for Europe broadcast just 48 hours later from Valetta. There were fewer regular names in the line up, but William Mangion who represented Malta in 1993 re-appeared as did Olivia Lewis with her 13th entry at the Maltese final. Unlucky for some perhaps, Olivia threw any superstition aside by gaining a remarkable landslide victory following the Saturday broadcast. Having come second in the national competition for the last three years, she deservedly earns her ticket to Helsinki with a flamenco sounding number that has been written and composed by Gerald James Borg and Philip Vella.

Semi-final		1st February 2007
Song	Performer	Result
"Vertigo"	Olivia Lewis	24%
"Starlight"	Trilogy	11%
"She Gives Me Wings"	Klinsmann Coleiro	9%
"Whenever"	Kevin Borg	7%
"All About A Life"	Pamela Bezzina	7%
"As Long As You Know"	Scar	7%
"Places To Go"	Tarcisio Barbara	5%
"L-imhabba Ghamja"	Claudia Faniello	5%
"Roller Coaster Ride"	Rosman Pace	5%
"Forever Mine"	William Mangion	4%
"My Love"	Isabelle	4%
"Night Wish"	Annabelle Debono	3%
"Ice Queen"	Julia Grima	3%
"Little Islands In Your Heart"	Daniela Delicata	3%
"Look At Me"	Julie Pomorski	2%
"Unite"	Mauro Kitcher	1%

Semi-final		3rd February 2007
Song	Performer	Result
"Vertigo"	Olivia Lewis	30,977 votes
"Starlight"	Trilogy	7,647 votes
"She Gives Me Wings"	Klinsmann Coleiro	7,550 votes
"Whenever"	Kevin Borg	4,365 votes
"All About A Life"	Pamela Bezzina	3,047 votes
"As Long As You Know"	Scar	2,103 votes



**Moldova**

**Song:** "Fight"

**Performer:** Natalia Barbu

Having short listed 34 songs and singers ahead of the December 2006 deadline, plus a further song that was disqualified, an internal committee meeting at TRM's television centre announced the three that would go forward to a nine member jury. Made up of music professionals, the general public and a chairperson, this small group were responsible for deciding which song should become the third entry for Moldova. It was speculated that Zdob si Zdub, who scored well with Grandma two years ago, would represent their country for a second time, but the honour was given to Natalia Barbu and her powerful song, "Fight", written and composed by Elena Buga and Alexandru Brasoveanu. It was later revealed that Zdob si Zdub's entry had violated the rules in that it had been publicly performed last summer and, had it been selected, would have been disqualified instantly.



### Result

Song	Performer	Result
"Fight"	Natalia Barbu	94 points
"Space Cowboys"	Zdob si Zdub	76 points
"Your Place Or Mine?"	Olia Tira	70 points



**Montenegro**

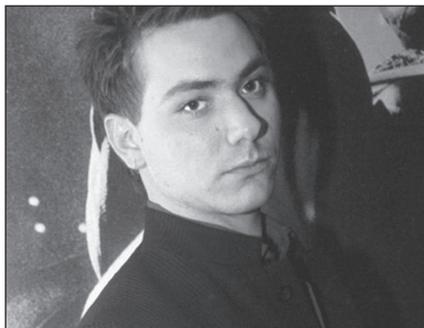
**Song:** "Hajde Kroci"

**Translation:** "Come, Step On"

**Performer:** Stevan Faddy

Returning to the Eurovision Song Contest for the first time as an independent country, Montenegro used the process previously used to select songs for the Serbian & Montenegrin final by holding Montevizija on 25th February 2007. Despite having successfully staged this competition during the last two years, the

state broadcaster reserved the right to cancel the event should the songs submitted be considered unsuitable. Such contingency plans were not required and the clear favourite with the televoters, Stevan Faddy, now represents his country on its debut appearance as a new nation. The music to "Hajde Kroci" has been composed by Slaven Knezović, with lyrics from the pen of Milan-Minjo Perić.



**Result**

Song	Performer	Result
"Hajde Kroci"	Stevan Faddy	4,747 votes
"Ne Mogu Bez Tebe"	Stefan Filipovic	2,842 votes
"Svaki Put Me Tebi Vodi"	Marko Vukcevic	845 votes
"Anđele"	Nina & Dan Poslije	604 votes
"Kada Ona Ljubi Te"	Grim	573 votes
"Duga"	Milena Vidakovic	372 votes
"Zašto"	Dalibor Đurovic	323 votes
"Nemam Snage"	Ivana Radinovic	302 votes
"Kad Se Sjetim"	Rolly	261 votes
"Luda Sam Bez Tebe"	Crveno & Crno	137 votes



**Netherlands**

**Song:** "On Top Of The World"

**Original Title:** "Nooit Meer Zonder Jou"

**Performer:** Edsilia Rombley

For more than 30 years the Dutch have been trying to win Eurovision once again, but even when they have entered exceptionally good songs that long overdue victory has eluded them. In recent years their results have been particularly disappointing and so, in a change of tactic, Edsilia Rombley was appointed as the next representative for



**Result**

Song	Result
"Nooit Meer Zonder Jou"	1st
"Een Keer Meer Dan Jij"	
"Meer Dan Ooit"	

the Netherlands. Having competed nine years ago in Birmingham, Edsilia is known as a strong singer and performer, while her outgoing and bubbly personality should do no harm when the televoting starts in Finland this May. Performing three songs in a special television show, all of which were written by her husband Tjeerd Oosterhuis assisted by Martin Gijzemijter, it was Edsilia's own responsibility to decide which one she would take to Helsinki and, as such, there was no jury or televote this year. The confident singer originally indicated that she would perform in Dutch but, during early March, conceded that English was likely to prove more advantageous.



Norway

**Song:** "Ven A Bailar Conmigo"

**Translation:** "Come Dance With Me"

**Performer:** Guri Schanke

Three semi-finals and a wildcard round selected the eight songs that would battle it out to represent the Norwegian people in Helsinki. These eight were then reduced to four, after which a combined jury and televote decided the song and singer that should win the show. This honour went to Guri Schanke, the winner of Norway's Strictly Come



Dancing series, and the Spanish titled, Latino sounding "Ven A Bailar Conmigo" that mainly features English lyrics. The song has been written and composed by Thomas G:son, known to followers of Melodifestival as a regular Swedish contributor and who entered no less than four national finals across Europe this year.

1st Semi-final		20th January 2007
Song	Performer	Result
"Love On The Dancefloor"	Torhild Sivertsen & Funky Family	Qualified
"Hooked On You"	Infinity	Qualified
"Goodbye To Yesterday"	Blue Moon Band	
"Perfect Sin"	Marika Lejon	
"Livets Små Stjerner"	Marianne Solberg	
"Are You Ready"	Stian Joneid	

2nd Semi-final		27th January 2007
Song	Performer	Result
"Ven A Bailar Conmigo"	Guri Schanke	Qualified
"Chicken Rodeo"	Dusty Cowshit	Qualified
"Better Than This"	Hazen	
"Under Stjernene"	Malin Schavenius	
"I Wanna Be With You"	Andreea	
"Unbelievable"	Amelia	

3rd Semi-final		3rd February 2007
Song	Performer	Result
"Vil Du Ha Svar"	Jenny Jenssen	Qualified
"Wannabe"	Crash!	Qualified
"Rocket Ride"	Jannicke Abrahamsen	
"Maybe"	Trine Rein feat. Andreas Ljones	
"Creator"	Monica Hjelle	
"Here"	Christina Undhjem	

Wildcard Round		9th February 2007
Song	Performer	Result
"Maybe"	Trine Rein feat. Andreas Ljones	Qualified
"Rocket Ride"	Jannicke Abrahamsen	Qualified
"Are You Ready"	Stian Joneid	
"Under Stjernene"	Malin Schavenius	
"Better Than This"	Hazen	
"Goodbye To Yesterday"	Blue Moon Band	

Norsk Melodi Grand Prix		10th February 2007
Song	Performer	Result
"Ven A Bailar Conmigo"	Guri Schanke	108,541 votes
"Rocket Ride"	Jannicke Abrahamsen	78,433 votes
"Wannabe"	Crash!	70,203 votes
"Chicken Rodeo"	Dusty Cowshit	69,062 votes
"Hooked On You"	Infinity	
"Vil Du Ha Svar"	Jenny Jenssen	
"Maybe"	Trine Rein feat. Andreas Ljones	
"Love On The Dancefloor"	Torhild Sivertsen & Funky Family	



**Poland**

**Song:** "Time To Party"

**Performer:** The Jet Set

Since their debut in 1994 the Polish nation have been struggling to emulate the success of Edyta Gorniak following that first performance 13 years ago. Piosenka dla Europy 2007, held on 3rd February, saw ten acts come together on which the public voted after all the songs had been performed. Only the top three were announced and it is The Jet Set, who came third to Ich Troje last year, who now have the opportunity to party for their country. It remains to be seen whether the song is strong enough to return Poland to the grand final of Eurovision. "Time To Party" has been written and composed by songwriting team Kamil Varen, David Junior Serame and Mateusz Krezan.



<b>Result</b>		
<b>Song</b>	<b>Performer</b>	<b>Result</b>
"Time To Party"	The Jet Set	1st
"Regroup"	Hania Stach	2nd
"I Like It Loud"	Natasza Urbanska	3rd
"Open Your Mind"	Ania Szarmach	
"Emily"	Charizma	
"On My Mind"	Button Hackers	
"Come In My Heart"	Vino	
"No Second Chance"	Kuba & Maciek Molleda	
"Love In The Air"	Mikael Erlandsson	
"Don't Judge Me"	Bikini	



### Portugal

**Song:** "Dança Comigo (Vem Ser Feliz)"

**Translation:** "Dance With Me (And Be Happy)"

**Performer:** Sabrina

Following Finland's victory in Athens, Portugal is now the only country to have participated for the longest period of time without a win. Despite entering 40 songs since their debut in 1964, they have only reached the top ten on eight occasions and, so far, have failed to qualify from any of the three semi-finals. Desperate to make an impact on the Eurovision stage, ten songs took part in a national final held on 10th March 2007 in the hope of reversing Portuguese fortune. Chosen by televoting, Sabrina possibly has one of the strongest entries to represent Portugal in recent years with its popular Latino style. But one question still remains. Is it strong enough to qualify from the semi-final let alone win? Songwriters Emmanuel and Maria Vinhas certainly hope so!



<b>Result</b>		
<b>Song</b>	<b>Performer</b>	<b>Result</b>
"Dança Comigo (Vem Ser Feliz)"	Sabrina	8,874 votes
"Ai De Quem Nunca Cantou"	Teresa Radamanto	4,757 votes
"Além Do Sonho"	Vanessa & Henrique Feist	3,730 votes
"Dá-me A Lua"	Triburbana	3,046 votes
"A Ilha"	Zé P	3,013 votes
"Desta Vez"	Edmundo Vieira & Filipa Cardoso	2,396 votes
"Piano Piano"	Marta Plantier & Os Corvos	2,182 votes
"Aipode"	Luís & A Lata	2,013 votes
"Será Cedo?"	Melo D feat. Elaisa	1,364 votes
"Chega...Foi Demais"	Diogo T	386 votes



**Romania**

**Song:** "Liubi, Liubi, I Love You"

**Translation:** "Love, Love, I Love You"

**Performer:** Todomondo (formerly Locomondo)

Having achieved two of their best Eurovision placings in recent years, Romanian Television were optimistic that they could do it again by holding a three stage national final to choose their next entry. Despite a minor discrepancy that meant two songs had to be disqualified from the semi-finals, the selection process was proceeding well. Well, that is, until a few days before the grand final when a further three songs were disqualified, including the favourite "Dracula My Love", when it was found that they had been either performed or broadcast ahead of the earliest allowed date of 1st October 2006. One of the disqualified songwriters, who had originally qualified with two songs, then chose to boycott the competition completely, leading

to the withdrawal of a fourth song! This meant that only eight of the original twelve selected songs were performed on the final night, and a combination of jury and televotes, converted into points, decided that Locomondo should represent the Romanian nation. Sadly, the difficulties did not stop there when Locomondo were challenged over the use of their name which is, apparently, used by another group in Greece. Added to the slightly unusual sounding song that they will now perform in Finland, things do not bode well for the country of Romania. Written by group members Mister M, Vlad Cretu & Ghedi Kamara, the song will feature Romanian, Spanish, French, English, Italian and Russian!



<b>1st Semi-final</b>		<b>27th January 2007</b>
<b>Song</b>	<b>Performer</b>	<b>Result</b>
"Crazy"	Morandi & Wassabi	Qualified
"Where Were You"	Desperado & Tony Poptamas	Qualified
"Liubi, Liubi I Love You"	Locomondo	Qualified
"Sinada"	New Effect feat. Moni-K	Qualified
"Well-o-Wee"	Rednex feat. Ro-Mania	Qualified
"Dulce-amaruie"	Nico	Qualified
"Music In My Soul"	Jasmine	
"Stay United"	Spitalul de Urgenta	
"I Will Love You"	Respect	
"Nu Insista"	Daniela Raduica	
"Rubber Girl"	Gabriel Huiban	
"Make It"	Giulia Nahmany	Disqualified

2nd Semi-final		3rd February 2007
Song	Performer	Result
"Dracula, My Love"	Simplu & Andra	Qualified
"Nu Pot Sa Uit"	Tibi Scobiola	Qualified
"European - A Beautiful Sin"	Desperado & Tony Poptamas	Qualified
"Time"	Ionut Ungureanu-Provincialii	Qualified
"Deci 20"	Trupa Veche	Qualified
"No Poder Vivir"	Marcel Pavel	Qualified
"Love Is All You Need"	Nico	
"Soapte"	Celia	
"You And Me"	Ada	
"Do The Tango With Me"	Wassabi	
"In Lumea Mea"	Moni-K	
"Lovestruck"	Indiggo	Disqualified

Final		10th February 2007
Song	Performer	Result
"Liubi, Liubi I Love You"	Locomondo	22 points
"Where Were You"	Desperado & Tony Poptamas	17 points
"Time"	Ionut Ungureanu-Provincialii	17 points
"European - A Beautiful Sin"	Desperado & Tony Poptamas	16 points
"No Poder Vivir"	Marcel Pavel	13 points
"Dulce-amaruie"	Nico	10 points
"Nu Pot Sa Uit"	Tibi Scobiola	9 points
"Deci 20"	Trupa Veche	6 points
"Sinada"	New Effect feat. Moni-K	Disqualified
"Well-o-Wee"	Rednex feat. Ro-Mania	Disqualified
"Dracula, My Love"	Simplu & Andra	Disqualified
"Crazy"	Morandi & Wassabi	Withdrawn



**Russia**

**Song:** "Song #1"

**Performer:** Serebro

Following Dima Bilan's near victory 12 months ago, Russia once again chose their latest offering through an internal committee shrouded in secrecy. Few names were leaked, with those that were being quickly dismissed, and the honour of representing what is the largest geographic country in Europe was eventually given to three piece girl group, Serebro, and the dance number "Song #1". Whether the song will be 'Number One' in Europe this year remains to be seen! The song was written by Danii Babitchev and Max Fadeev.





Serbia

Song: "Motliva"

Translation: "Prayer"

Performer: Marija Šerifovic



Held over 7th and 8th March 2007, Serbia selected its first independent entry by first choosing ten songs from a semi-final that preceded Beovizija on the second night. What is technically the first Serbian entry was ultimately decided by the votes of viewers and jurors which were combined into points, allowing 23 year old Marija Šerifovic to represent her country with the strong ballad "Molitva". Written and composed by Vladimir Graić and S M Mare, this entry could possibly be a contender for Eurovision victory in May. Belgrade anyone?

Semi-final		7th March 2007
Song	Performer	Result
"Nebo"	Slobodan Trkulja & Balkanopolis	Qualified
"Kao Da Je Bilo Juce"	Peca Jovanovic	Qualified
"Nije Nam Se Dalo"	Maja Markovic	Qualified
"Prava Stvar"	Negativ	Qualified
"Molitva"	Marija Šerifovic	Qualified
"Bomba"	Ivana Jordan	Qualified
"Mambo Jambo Serbiano"	Blizanci	Qualified
"Beli Grad"	Aleksa Jelic	Qualified
"Jablan"	Miki Peric	Qualified
"Sama"	Betty Boop	Qualified
"Simpatija"	Bane & Tanja	
"Senjorita"	Jelena Kovacevic	
"Nocas Budi Moj"	Aleksandra Perovic	
"Dobro Te Znam"	Igor Vukojevic	
"Zato Što Znam"	Amadeus Bend	
"Ruski Rulet"	Blah Blah Bend	
"Ja Znam Da Ti Me Ne Volis"	Maja Nikolic	
"Voli Je"	Mira Škoric	
"Nudim Ti Srce Svoje"	Suzana Dinic	
"Ljubav Za Sve"	IQ	

Beovizija		8th March 2007
Song	Performer	Result
"Molitva"	Marija Šerifovic	22 points
"Nebo"	Slobodan Trkulja & Balkanopolis	17 points
"Prava Stvar"	Negativ	15 points
"Bomba"	Ivana Jordan	13 points
"Beli Grad"	Aleksa Jelic	10 points
"Mambo Jambo Serbiano"	Blizanci	9 points
"Jablan"	Miki Peric	8 points
"Sama"	Betty Boop	7 points
"Kao Da Je Bilo Juce"	Peca Jovanovic	6 points
"Nije Nam Se Dalo"	Maja Markovic	5 points



## Slovenia

**Song:** "Cvet Z Juga"**Translation:** "Flower From The South"**Performer:** Alenka Gotar

Compared to their Balkan neighbours, Slovenia have enjoyed little success at the Eurovision Song Contest, reaching the top 10 on just two occasions and failing to qualify from any of the three semi-finals of recent years. Determined to improve their chances, three days of music commenced the month of February and resulted in the choosing of opera singer Alenka Gotar as the next Slovenian representative. Although many classical singers have performed at Eurovision, few songs of operatic nature have appeared on its stage. The most successful of such songs was performed by Magazin & Lidija for Croatia in 1995, gaining 6th place. Alenka now hopes to emulate the success of her neighbours with a song that has been created by Andrej Babic and Aleksandar Valencica, and a musical style that has become increasingly popular throughout Europe during recent years.



## 1st Semi-final

1st February 2007

Song	Performer	Result
"Cvet Z Juga"	Alenka Gotar	Qualified
"Kdo Hoce Plesati Z Menoj"	Zablujena Generacija	Qualified
"Zadeni Me"	Martin Perovic	Qualified
"Naj Svet Zakrici"	Sebastian	Qualified
"Oce"	Diona Dimm Team	Qualified
"Hitmejker"	Dean Vivod & Tonus Kitaris	Qualified
"Stiki"	Alya	Qualified
"Bella Mia"	Don Corleone	Qualified
"Nemima Leta"	Panda	
"Slike"	Lunapark	
"Ljubim Se"	Eva Moškon & Crnobelo	
"Moj Planet"	Jernej Dermota	

2nd Semi-final		2nd February 2007
Song	Performer	Result
"Cudeži Smehljaja"	Eva Cerne	Qualified
"Element L"	Nude	Qualified
"Druga Violina"	Žana	Qualified
"Pepelka"	Zlati Muzikanti	Qualified
"Drugacna (Pesem)"	Tadeja Fatur	Qualified
"Zadel Si Me V Živo"	Steffy & Donald Trumpet	Qualified
"Nor Sem Nate"	Denis	Qualified
"Vse Se Isto Zdi"	Bojana Glatz	
"Light Eternal Flame"	Birgitt	
"I9XX"	Folkrola	
"Ko Še Spiš"	Rok Kosmac	
"Virtual Girl"	Teja Haver	

Final		3rd February 2007
Song	Performer	Result
"Cvet Z Juga"	Alenka Gotar	44,636 votes
"Cudeži Smehljaja"	Eva Cerne	31,324 votes
"Bella Mia"	Don Corleone	10,356 votes
"Kdo Hoče Plesati Z Menoj"	Zablujena Generacija	9,953 votes
"Element L"	Nude	9,136 votes
"Druga Violina"	Žana	7,804 votes
"Hitmejker"	Dean Vivod & Tonus Kitaris	6,500 votes
"Pepelka"	Zlati Muzikanti	6,141 votes
"Naj Svet Zakrlici"	Sebastian	5,567 votes
"Zadel Si Me V Živo"	Steffy & Donald Trumpet	5,193 votes
"Zadeni Me"	Martin Perovic	4,467 votes
"Stiki"	Alya	3,971 votes
"Nor Sem Nate"	Denis	3,806 votes
"Drugacna (Pesem)"	Tadeja Fatur	1,791 votes



**Spain**

**Song:** "I Love You Mi Vida"

**Translation:** "I Love You My Life"

**Performer:** D'Nash

Following the disappointment of the last two years, Spain decided to choose its latest entry by way of the extremely complex Misión Eurovisión competition. The process began with four elimination heats; the first three comprising 15 acts singing cover versions of well known songs and the fourth featuring 12 acts plus four duos made up of singers who had qualified from the earlier rounds. From a total of 57 acts or 61 performances, depending which way the calculation is made, televoters (T) and jurors (J) decided which should proceed to a semi-final that further reduced the performers to five. Confused? You will be! While the performers were busy being eliminated, Spanish Television placed 15 potential Eurovision songs on the Internet and invited visitors and jurors to reduce this number to ten and then five. This process happened between 15th – 29th January 2007. On 17th February, the five selected songs were then performed on television by former Spanish entrants, including Massiel and Nina.

One week later and Misión Eurovisión saw the five qualifying acts each perform part of the five qualifying songs. The five most popular combinations of song and singer were then performed again in full before Spanish televoters chose their entry at the end of what must be one of



the most complicated Eurovision selection processes ever! Nash, renamed D'Nash for copyright reasons are one of Spain's most successful boy bands, comprising Mikel, Javi, Basti and Ony, while their winning song is the joint work of Antonio Sanchez Ohlsson, Thomas G:son, Rebeca Pous del Toro and Andreas Rickstrand. Thomas G:son has also written and composed the Norwegian entry this year.

**1st Elimination Heat – Performer  
9th January 2007**

Performer	Result
Santa Fe	195 points (T)
Nessa	149 points (T)
Miguel Cañadas	141 points (T)
Póker	97 points (J)
Baltanás	92 points
Amaya Saizar	81 points
Gerard	70 points (J)
María López	70 points
Carmen Miriam	54 points
Nacho Embid	49 points
Ybraem	48 points
Keke	40 points
Cristina Conde	30 points
Juan Ikaró	22 points
Katia Ballester	22 points

**2nd Elimination Heat – Performer  
16th January 2007**

Performer	Result
Nazaret	171 points (T)
Mirela	164 points (T)
Montse Mallorquín	104 points (T)
Paco Arrojo	100 points (J)
Hotel Cochambre	97 points
Mercedes Sayas	96 points
Rut Marcos	95 points
Paraelissa	72 points (J)
La Década Prodigiosa	69 points
Eisac	51 points
Frank Bravo	49 points
Los Amantes	42 points
Tahis	22 points
Melo Bakale	17 points
Agustín Aspa	11 points

**3rd Elimination Heat – Performer  
23rd January 2007**

Performer	Result
Nash	216 points (T)
Yanira Figueroa	165 points (T)
Marta Llenas	139 points (T)
Rebeca	125 points (J)
Yolanda	108 points
Javier Ríos	89 points
Sheila Rodríguez	79 points (J)
The Sweet Metal Band	63 points
Javier Enzo	48 points
Arde Troya	40 points
Robin	27 points
Just 4 Voices	21 points
Paris	21 points
Luis Fierro	15 points
Lourdes Savarese	4 points

**4th Elimination Heat – Performer  
3rd February 2007**

Performer	Result
Duets	
Gerard & Mirela	Qualified (T)
2 Heaven (Mercedes Sayas & Baltanás)	
Rebeca & Paco Arrojo	
Rut Marcos & Yolanda	
Merche Llobera	191 points (T)
Fran	154 points (T)
Miriam Roca	113 points (T)
Davinia	95 points
Alberto Vázquez	93 points
Diego Cosío	88 points
Luis Amando	85 points (J)
Crystina	85 points
Covadonga	83 points
El Síndrome del Martes	66 points
Rosavil	64 points
Lola King	43 points

**Semi-final – Performer  
10th February 2007**

Performer	Result
Yanira Figueroa	162 points (T)
Nash	159 points (T)
Merche Llobera	129 points (T)
Fran	112 points
Nazaret	95 points (J)
Mirela	87 points (J)
Paco Arrojo	72 points
Montse Mallorquín	52 points
Miriam Roca	45 points
Rebeca	43 points
Miguel Cañadas	38 points
Gerard	37 points
Póker	24 points
Paraelissa	22 points
Marta Llenas	19 points
Santa Fe	19 points
Gerard & Mirela	17 points
Nessa	11 points
Sheila Rodríguez	10 points
Luis Amando	7 points

**The Song**

"Busco Un Hombre (Chica)"	Finalist
"I Love You Mi Vida"	Finalist
"Una Lágrima"	Finalist
"La Reina De La Noche"	Finalist
"Tu Voz Se Apagará"	Finalist
"Ya Estás Aquí"	Semi-finalist
"Me Gusta Hacer Canciones Con Un Hey"	Semi-finalist
"Ley Le Lee"	Semi-finalist
"Cuánto Amor Por Ti"	Semi-finalist
"Destiny"	Semi-finalist
"Rienda Suelta A Mi Corazón"	Eliminated
"Angel"	Eliminated
"Ain Veri Japi Nau"	Eliminated
"Ven A Bailar"	Eliminated
"Báilame"	Eliminated

**Misión Eurovisión**

**24th February 2007**

Song	Performer	Result
"I Love You Mi Vida"	Nash	85 points
"La Reina De La Noche"	Mirela	67 points
"Tu Voz Se Apagará"	Nazaret	44 points
"Busco Una Chica"	Nash	20 points
"Busco Un Hombre"	Nazaret	4 points
Eliminated Performers :Yanira Figueroa and Merche Llobera		
Eliminated Song : "Una Lágrima"		



**Sweden**

**Song:** "The Worrying Kind"

**Performer:** The Ark

Considered by many to be one of the most committed countries to take part in Eurovision, Sweden continued the successful run of six-show Melodifestival's and once again held four semi-finals, a wildcard round and the finale that was held in Stockholm's Globe arena. As usual, the top two songs from the semi-finals were given a place at Melodifestival, with the third and fourth



placed songs going through to the wildcard round. However, the latter was changed this year in that each wildcard song was paired with another. A sing-off then took place, with voting in-between, until two songs remained and qualified for the final. During the last few days before Melodifestival, broadcast on 10th March 2007, popularity for the song performed by glam rock band The Ark started to gain momentum, and this was confirmed by the combined jury and televoters who chose "The Worrying Kind" to represent them in Helsinki. The song has been written and composed Ola Salo.

<b>1st Semi-final</b>		<b>3rd February 2007</b>
<b>Song</b>	<b>Performer</b>	<b>Result</b>
"Samba Sambero"	Anna Book	Qualified
"Jag Tror På Människan"	Tommy Nilsson	Qualified
"Money"	Elin Lanto	Wildcard
"God Morgon"	Uno & Irma	Wildcard
"Anything But You"	Andersson & Gibson	
"Move"	Andreas Lundstedt	
"Hypnotized"	Sofia Berntson	
"Clubbin'"	Addis BlackWidow	

<b>2nd Semi-final</b>		<b>10th February 2007</b>
<b>Song</b>	<b>Performer</b>	<b>Result</b>
"The Worrying Kind"	The Ark	Qualified
"Trying To Recall"	Marie Lindberg	Qualified
"Kom"	Jessica Andersson	Wildcard
"Amanda"	Jimmy Jansson	Wildcard
"What's Your Name"	Cosmo4	
"Allt Vi En Gång Trodde På"	Lustans Lakejer	
"Rainbow Star"	Regina Lund	
"Första Gången"	Svante Thuresson & Anne-Lie Rydén	

<b>3rd Semi-final</b>		<b>17th February 2007</b>
<b>Song</b>	<b>Performer</b>	<b>Result</b>
"Cara Mia"	Måns Zelmerlöw	Qualified
"When The Night Comes Falling"	Sebastian	Qualified
"För Att Du Finns"	Sonja Aldén	Wildcard
"Jag Måste Kyssa Dig"	Nanne Grönvall	Wildcard
"Live Forever"	Magnus Carlsson	
"Drop Dead"	MissMatch	
"I Mina Drömmar"	Kapell Sheida	
"The Arrival"	The Attic feat. Therese	

<b>4th Semi-final</b>		<b>24th February 2007</b>
<b>Song</b>	<b>Performer</b>	<b>Result</b>
"A Little Bit Of Love"	Andreas Johnson	Qualified
"I Remember Love"	Sarah Dawn Finer	Qualified
"Vågar Du, Vågar Jag"	Sanna Nielsen	Wildcard
"För Kung Och Fosterland"	Magnus Uggla	Wildcard
"Ah, När Ni Tar Saken I Egna Händer"	After Dark	
"Vi Hade Nåt"	Emile Azar	
"Tror På Dig"	Caroline af Ugglas	
"La Musica"	Verona	

<b>Wildcard round</b>		<b>3rd March 2007</b>
<b>Song</b>	<b>Performer</b>	<b>Result</b>
"Vågar Du, Vågar Jag"	Sanna Nielsen	Qualified
"För Att Du Finns"	Sonja Aldén	Qualified
"Kom"	Jessica Andersson	
"För Kung Och Fosterland"	Magnus Ugglå	
"Money"	Elin Lanto	
"Amanda"	Jimmy Jansson	
"God Morgon"	Uno & Irma	
"Jag Måste Kysa Dig"	Nanne Grönvall	

<b>Melodifestival 2007</b>		<b>10 March 2007</b>
<b>Song</b>	<b>Performer</b>	<b>Result</b>
"The Worrying Kind"	The Ark	248 points
"A Little Bit Of Love"	Andreas Johnson	189 points
"Cara Mia"	Måns Zelmerlöw	171 points
"I Remember Love"	Sarah Dawn Finer	122 points
"Trying To Recall"	Marie Lindberg	70 points
"För Att Du Finns"	Sonja Aldén	62 points
"Vågar Du, Vågar Jag"	Sanna Nielsen	44 points
"When The Night Comes Falling"	Sebastian	39 points
"Samba Sambero"	Anna Book	1 point
"Jag Tror På Människan"	Tommy Nilsson	0 points

**+** **Switzerland**  
**Song:** "Vampires Are Alive"  
**Performer:** DJ Bobo

Just before Christmas Switzerland announced that they had appointed DJ Bobo, whose real name is René Baumann, to write, compose and perform their entry in Helsinki. Following on from Six4One, whose members were drawn from six different nations, DJ Bobo is a Swiss national and one of the country's most successful singers ever. He has sold over 13 million records and performed in more than 44 different countries, including the United Kingdom where his international hit, "Chihuahua", reached the top 40 in 2003. Despite its unusual title, "Vampires Are Alive" is an up-tempo dance number that should improve on Switzerland's poor Eurovision record during recent years.





## Turkey

**Song:** "Shake It Up Shekerim"

**Translation:** "Shake It Up Sweetheart"

**Performer:** Kenan Dogulu

Once again Turkey have appointed their singer and have chosen Kenan Dogulu who already has a 14 year career and several albums behind him. Hoping to launch an international career in the near future, the popular male singer was delighted to have been chosen by TRT and hopes his Eurovision appearance will help him achieve his future ambitions. Kenan was equally delighted by the choice of his own composition, appointed by an internal committee, and is planning to perform the uptempo number in English. This, however, has led to some criticism from those who have accused him of turning his back on Turkish culture. Despite such criticisms, both Kenan and TRT remain adamant that they are likely to receive a better result by using a language that is understood by the majority of Europeans.



## Ukraine

**Song:** "Dancing Lasha Tumbai"

**Translation:** "Dancing"

**Performer:** Verka Serduchka

Held on 9th March 2007, the Ukrainian final saw seven acts compete to represent their country and possibly follow in the footsteps of 2004 winner Ruslana.

Televotes, converted into points, were combined with the marks given by a juror, with both awarding Verka Serduchka with the maximum of seven points. Verka will now travel to Finland but is certainly no ordinary singer! A well-known entertainment performer, s/he will be the second drag act taking part in this year's Eurovision Song Contest. Having been originally performed as "Danzing", the title has been extended by the further words, although no full translation or explanation for this change has been provided. The song is the work of Andrei Danilko.



## Result

Song	Performer	Result
"Danzing"	Verka Serduchka	14 points
"I Will Be"	Evgenia Vlasova	12 points
"Serebrom"	Vasily Bondarchuk	9 points
"Zla Bolshe Net"	Olyona Hrebenyuk	7 points
"Angely"	Aviator	6 points
"Ya Znayu, Eto Ty"	Ne Angely	5 points
"Stolen Rain"	GODO	3 points



**United Kingdom**  
**Song:** "Flying The Flag (For You)"  
**Performer:** Scooch

Six performances and six songs but there could only be two ... errh, sorry, one winner! For the first time ever in a UK final, four songs were eliminated after the initial round of voting leaving Cyndi and Scooch to go head-to-head in a sing-off. Following a further televote, Terry Wogan announced that Cyndi had won, only to be corrected by Fearnie Cotton who confirmed that Scooch will be "Flying The Flag" for the UK in Helsinki this year. Their winning entry has been written and composed by Russ Spencer, Morten Schjolin, Andrew Hill and Paul Tarry. Scooch are made up of Caroline, Natalie, David and Russ, and a full report of Making Your Mind Up broadcast on 17th March 2007 will be found elsewhere in this issue.

© BBC



Making Your Mind Up		17th March 2007
Song	Performer	Result
"Flying The Flag (For You)"	Scooch	1st
"I'll Leave My Heart"	Cyndi	2nd
"Big Bro Thang"	Big Brovaz	Eliminated
"They Don't Make 'Em Like They Used To"	Hawkins & Brown	Eliminated
"(Don't It Make You) Happy"	Liz McClamon	Eliminated
"I Can"	Brian Harvey	Eliminated



**Jury's Inn Hotel, Birmingham**  
**Saturday, 6th October 2007**  
**Arrival from 1.00 pm**

It's **B**igger, it's **B**righter, it's **B**etter ... it's **B**ack. Following on from the huge success of last year, the 2nd OGAE UK Birmingham Bash has been announced. The theme for 2007 will be **UK50** as we celebrate the United Kingdom entering its **50th** song in the Eurovision Song Contest in 2007 exactly **50** years after its first entry in 1957.

As well as the Video Voting contest, the Golden Star Awards and Stars in their Eurovision Eyes, there will be a Euro Quiz, a Record Fair ... and a panel of some very special guests. And, of course, the event will reach its climax with another successful Euro Disco where YOU choose the songs! Interested? Here are the details:

- **Record Fair** Buy and sell all things Eurovision!!
- **Names Names Names** Songs performed over the years with names in their titles will be voted on before the Bash by attendees and whittled down to just ten from which the winner will be chosen on the day!
- **The Weakest Link Euro Quiz** Test your Eurovision knowledge in this quiz about your favourite pastime!
- **Guest Panel** UK-related Eurovision panellists will hold their very own press conference, but you'll need to attend to find out who the top secret names are!
- **Buffet**
- **The UK Golden Star Awards** featuring **Stars in their Eurovision Eyes** The awards this year will be related to UK songs/singers of the past 50 years and there will be the much loved audience participation part of the evening where YOU become the stars!
- **Euro Disco** Be the DJ at the Eurovision Disco! Attendees will have the chance to supply their own play list before the event. As many suggested songs as possible will be played at the Bash.

If you'd like to come along, please send an e-mail to [birmingham.bash@ntlworld.com](mailto:birmingham.bash@ntlworld.com) to register your interest and we will send you more details and add you to the list ... but you need to register as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. To register your interest by post, please send a large stamped addressed envelope with the correct postage to Paul Marks-Jones, 33 Woodlawn Court, Whalley Range, Manchester M16 9FJ

After three years of ploughing the lone female furrow with little visible success, the news that Andorra were sending a teenage punk pop trio to Helsinki came as a welcome, if not a little surprising change. So who are these teenage troubadours of rollicking racket? **Roy Delaney** speaks to lead singer Niki Francesca and discovers a surprising UK connection

# mission: a

**T**he first thing you notice about Niki Francesca is that he is hearteneringly smart. In a contest often populated with unworldly stage school puppets or air-head narcissists, this boy seems to have his head screwed on.

**You seem to have your priorities sorted.**

Yeah, sorry I didn't answer the phone before. I was in the library, studying.

**In a Eurovision world where waitresses can become international stars in the blink of an eye, had the speed of things taken you by surprise?**

Oh it's really fun. It's like a dream come true. It really has changed from one day to another. One day no one knew who we were, and then, overnight, it's gone crazy. We're in all the papers and we've gone out on the news on TV. It's crazy.

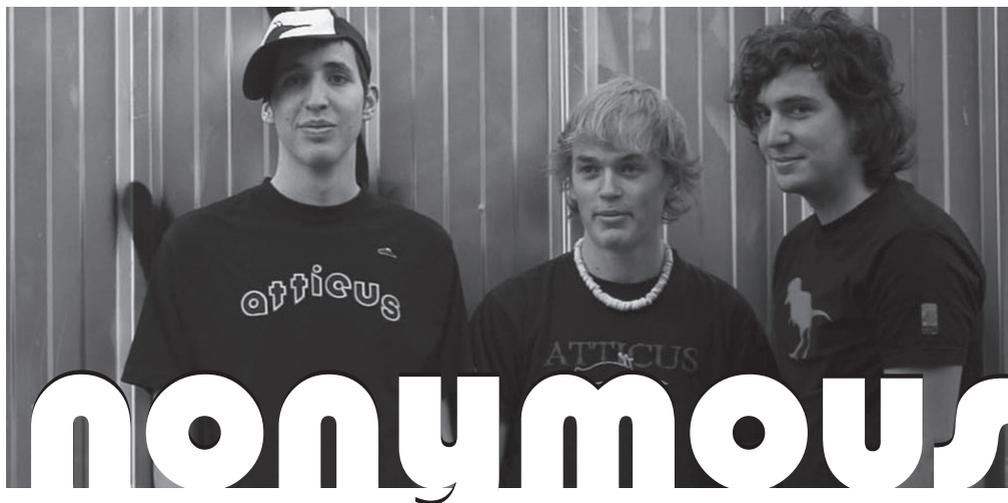
**Anonymous already have an alarmingly good track record in international music competitions like the Global Battle of the Bands (where you came second in the Spanish final)**

**and the Emergenza new bands contest. So how did you get involved in what is effectively the biggest Battle of the Bands of them all?**

Well originally a bunch of friends proposed we ought to go for it. So we decided to try it out and made a presentation to RTVA. They said 'Don't even try it... we won't listen to your song'. But we didn't give up and kept on talking to people and making ourselves known, and gradually some people at the TV station started to like the song. Then we left it till the last minute to enter. There were eighty songs, and a lot of famous Spanish singers and authors in the contest - although we can't really say who. There were ten judges, and they all gave us maximum points. We were always hopeful but we never imagined we'd ever get there.

**So how does this all fit in with college work?**

College is Monday to Friday, and the weekend is Eurovision - Although if Eurovision needs me I'll be there.



**You're all very young at 18 and 19 - but there is an even younger member of the band who you'll have to leave at home.**

Our bassist Cristian can't come because he's only sixteen, and the rules for the Andorran contest say that he must be 18. When we set out on this journey we knew the age limit was 18, but we all knew that if it was a success it would be something for the good of the band. He's still in the band, he's just not a part of the Eurovision project. In the beginning he was a bit disappointed, but he understands fully though. Right now we're saving up all our money to pay for him to get over there and get tickets, because we really want him to be there. We have nothing to complain about really with the TV station though, because they've done so much for us already.

**What about your song? Is it at all like the songs that are on your MySpace site?**

It will be punk rock in Catalan, and the chorus will be in English. The melody is quite catchy. I enjoy the song a lot. It's called 'Let's Save The World', and it has

an ecological subject - which is something I believe we all have to think about.

**Is it finished yet?**

We start the recording in February and we'll do the video when we've finished recording. At the moment our plan for the video is to film it with us playing in a skate park. But we're going to make sure it's completely finished before we let anyone hear it.

**You're going to be playing in front of a lot of people on the big night - both in the hall and on TV. So what's the biggest crowd you've ever played to?**

We've played to around 400 max... although that is around half the population of Andorra! (He laughs) We're making a presentation to the public of Andorra on 1st March though, so I think there'll be a few more there then.

**Now you're taking part in such a supposedly un-punk rock thing as Eurovision, have you been accused of selling out by your punky peers?**

That's a funny question. There will



**Looking up:** Anonymous revealed with (l-r) Gallego, Niki and Alejandro

always be people who believe in us and be with us. Others may say that we've sold out. But we will always play what we want to play. We'll never play what others want us to if we don't like it. The band will always move on, but the decisions that we take will mean that we'll always play in a way that we like.

**So what would your fantasy gig be? If Anonymous came on first, what other bands would be on the bill?**

Oh Blink 182. They're split up now, but I guess they're my heroes. And Sum 41. Then there's New Found Glory and any of the California punk bands. But it's not only punk that we listen to. I don't want people to think that. We listen to all other styles of music too!

**Noticing a familiar tinge to his accent, Niki confirms his family background.**

Ah yes, actually I was born in Guildford. I'm going back next week because I've still got family there. I go back two or three times a year. My mum is English and my dad is Catalan, so I speak both languages. And because we're on the

border of France and Spain I speak both those languages too. It's a pretty cool place to live!

**So what do you know of Eurovision? What is your personal history with the contest?**

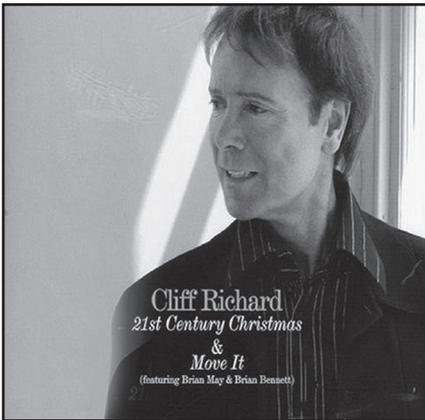
For me it started with Rosa in 2002. Everybody was speaking about it, so we all got very excited about her song. And then when my country got represented at such a big festival, we all got behind it. With Andorra being so small it was an honour to be represented at such a thing. It's funny, I remember the first time Andorra competed, with Marta Roure, my dad said to me 'next year that's going to be you!' And now I'm going! I just hope we can make the country proud and qualify for the final for the first time.

And with that refreshing attitude Vision hopes you do too! If you want to know more about Anonymous, have a look at their website at [www.anonymouspunkrock.com](http://www.anonymouspunkrock.com) or go to their MySpace at [www.myspace.com/anonymouspunkrock](http://www.myspace.com/anonymouspunkrock)

# Richard's Round Up

What's new from OGAE UK President Richard Crane

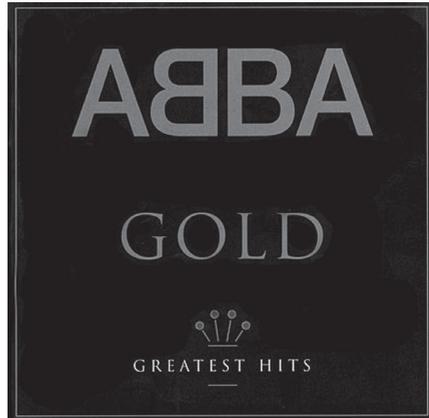
Firstly, congratulations and commiseration's to Cliff Richard because while "21st Christmas" reached number two on the combined singles chart, on the physical sales chart it was number one. All of which means, of course, that he was deprived the recognition of achieving a number one single in six consecutive decades. With only two more years left in this decade time is running out for Sir Cliff to achieve his goal, but fear not, help is at hand (if he accepts it). Lead



singer with The Feeling, Dan Gillespie Sells, has revealed that he has written a song called "Is It Christmas?" which he hopes to persuade Cliff to sing on. Dan wants to release the song later this year, saying "Cliff should always be the Christmas number one". Apart from Cliff, the only other recent Christmas hit Dan admires is "Christmas Time (Don't Let The Bells Chime)" by The Darkness. Cliff's download only single with Daniel O'Donnell failed to materialise, but keep an eye open for five original

Cliff albums being re-issued in March. Cliff completists might also like to check out Foster & Allen's version of "Congratulations" which can be found on "Sing The Number Ones" (DMGTV 022).

Both the album and the single "A Whole New World" by Peter Andre & Katie Price reached the Top 20, with the album selling over 100,000 copies in just four weeks. Despite being almost 15 years old "ABBA Gold" still managed to



rank in the Top 200 best selling albums of 2006 at 194. The success of "Gold" hasn't stopped Universal from issuing several further compilations during these past 15 years. One of these, "18 Hits" (Universal 9831452), made a belated entry into the charts at number 46 in January. The album, which contains several foreign language hits, was originally issued in 2005 and has sold over 60,000 copies to date.

Watch out for new artist Andrea Ross. Her debut album includes versions of

"You Raise Me Up" and "White Horses". You will be familiar with the origins of "You Raise Me Up", but "White Horses" was originally performed by Jacky and was the theme tune to a kids TV programme of the same name. Jacky was an alternative recording name for former Song For Europe entrant, Jackie Lee. You may remember Robyn from her four UK hits in the late nineties or from appearance in the 1997 Swedish Melodifestival. Either way she is back with a new single, "Konichiwa Bitches", on her own Konichiwa label. Apparently Sam Fox is threatening to re-issue her 1989 Top 20 hit "I Only Want To Be With You".



Konichiwa Bitches

I have seen several reports of an Olivia Newton John "Live" album but nothing seems to have materialized, although Olivia did appear in the film "A Christmas Romance" (Infinity INF230) which appeared on DVD in December. Lesley Garrett is joined by Michael Ball for "Come What May" (sadly not the Vicky Leandros song) on her latest album "When I Fall In Love" (Universal 1720319). Both Celine Dion and Dulce Pontes perform new tracks on the tribute album "We All Love Ennio Morricone"

(Sony BMG 88697065902). Despite the failure of recent Tony Christie releases to sell, Universal still went ahead with "The Love Collection" (9845933), a compilation of previously released material, just in time for Valentines Day. Although neither "Burning Heart" or "Goodbye" gained a commercial release, Daz Sampson has another track causing a stir. Even though "Absolutely Wasted" is at least two years old, the song has come to the attention of record companies through a video shown on myspace.com. The song was featured over the end credits of 'American Pie 5: The Naked Mile' and someone has made a video for the song using clips from the



film. You can view it at [www.myspace.com/getabsolutelywasted](http://www.myspace.com/getabsolutelywasted) The film was issued on DVD in December (Universal DVD 8246201), but was also due to be released as a double bill DVD with 'American Pie 4: Band Camp' (8247543) in March. Although the track is credited to Sporting Riff Raff it is just another one of Mr Sampson's many disguises. Sandie Shaw has celebrated her 40th anniversary of winning Eurovision by re-recording "Puppet On A String" with eighties pop star Howard Jones. Sandie

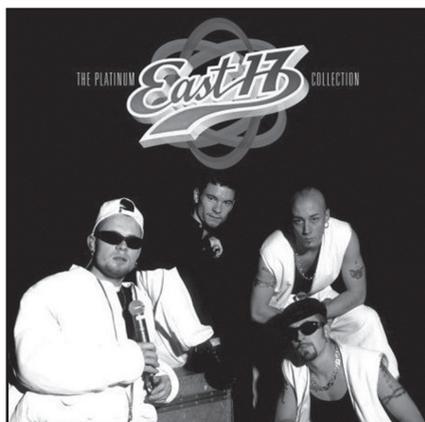
describes the new version as "super cool" and "nothing like the original" but, unfortunately, it is only available for a limited time through her website so far.

I'm sure that few of you would consider owning a Vera Lynn CD, but now you may have to reconsider! One of the most unusual Eurovision cover versions has finally surfaced on CD. In 1964 Vera Lynn recorded an English language version of "Non Ho L'eta". "This Is My Prayer" can be found on the double CD "Singles Collection" (EMI Gold 3873282) which has been issued to celebrate Dame Vera Lynn's 90th birthday. Graham Gouldman has recorded some new tracks with Kevin Godley which can be found on the new

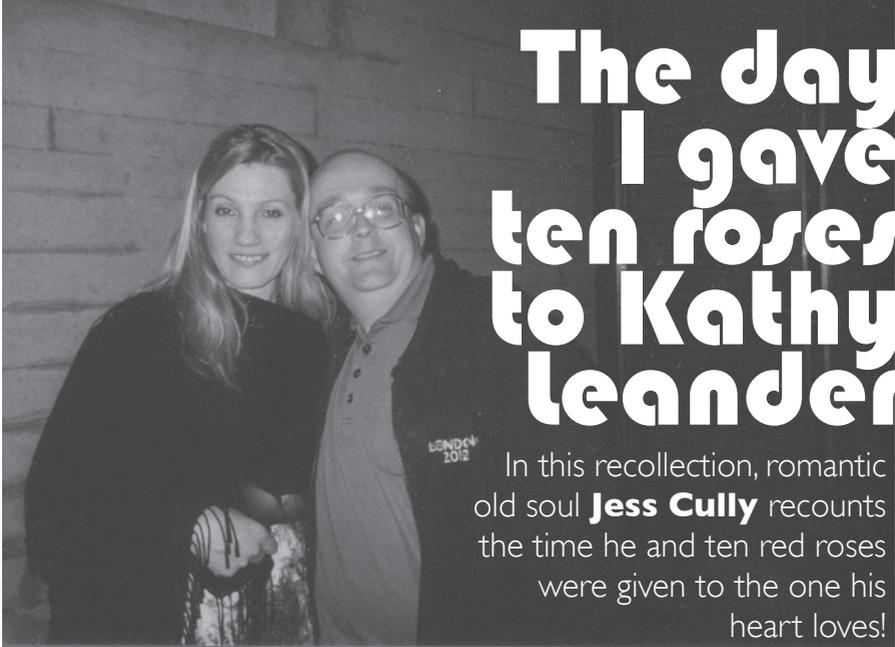
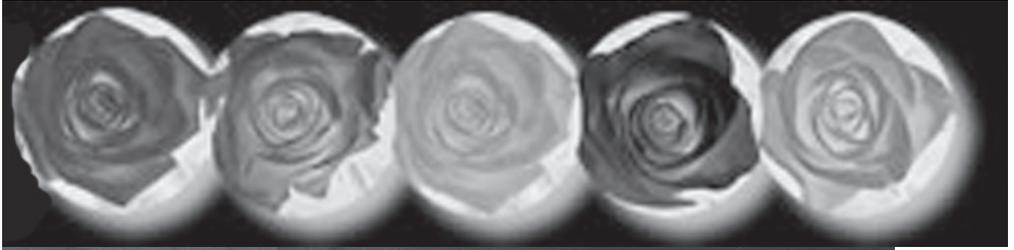
Finally, a few words about this years' "Making Your Mind Up" contestants. Brian Harvey's entry was first aired on "Being Brian Harvey", broadcast by BBC TV in December 2005. A short extract from the song was played in the background as Brian took the song around various record companies for release. The single was due to be issued by Tug Records, the home of Tony Christie and Right Said Fred, but the label has issued promo's under the name Brain Harvey! Meanwhile, if you want to catch up on Brian's earlier recordings London Records issued East 17 "The Platinum Collection" in December 2006. Beverlei Brown has issued several singles and two albums on



2CD compilation "10CC's Greatest Hits And More" (Universal 9844414). How many of you spotted Tricia Penrose coming second in Comic Relief's Fame Academy? And do you remember the band Avenue that got disqualified from last years X-Factor? Well, the group have just signed a recording contract and hope to have their first single issued in the summer. Among the group members is Jamie Tinkler, former Pop! member and previous entrant in the UK pre-selection in 2002 as part of Level Best.



Dome Records (the label that re-launched Lulu in the nineties and current home to Incognito). Although they had seven Top 20 hits, Big Brovaz were dropped by their label in 2004. "Big Bro Thang" is issued on their own Genetic label and first appeared in the Music Week Commercial Pop Top 30 dance chart in the issue dated 16th December 2006. The group also appeared in Scooby Doo 2! Thanks to all of you who have contacted me with information for Round Up. Keep 'em coming in.



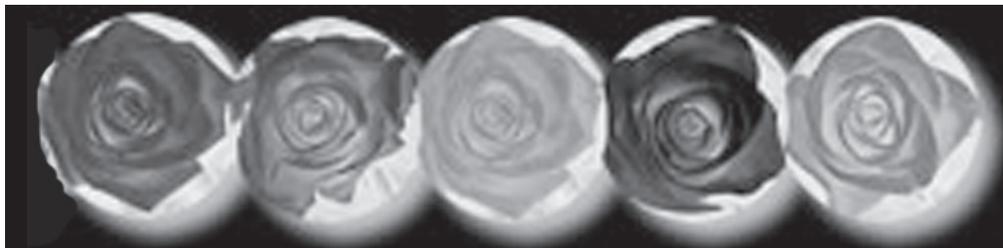
# The day I gave ten roses to Kathy Leander

In this recollection, romantic old soul **Jess Cully** recounts the time he and ten red roses were given to the one his heart loves!

Having reached the age of 25 without taking any notice of ESC, I became a Eurovision fan on the night of 18th May 1996. That evening launched me on a love affair with ESC that is still going strong today. But that night I also fell in love with the Swiss Nightingale, Kathy Leander. She was so attractive, with that beautiful voice, giving a very effective performance of a strong song. I was smitten. My heart broke when the juries so cruelly ignored her.

I continued to carry a torch for Kathy,

although I heard no more of her for the next eight years and even OGAE Switzerland said they had no idea what had become of her. Surely such a magnificent singer couldn't disappear without trace? Happily, no. In autumn 2004 one of my periodic Google searches for Kathy finally bore fruit - she was now a backing singer for chansonnier Stef de Genf, aka Stéphane Matteuzzi. Stef's web site included an e-mail address, so I promptly mailed him and he put me in touch with Kathy - or Catherine Leander as she now prefers. To my delight, she told me she



was working on a new album. For the next 18 months we e-mailed each other on and off and she kept me updated on the album's progress. Meanwhile I discovered she had released a single in 2000 and an album in 2001, both with male duet partners (I tracked down and bought copies online), and that she'd come third in a Swiss X Factor-style TV show at Christmas 2003. How did all that slip under OGAE Switzerland's radar?

As the April 2006 release date of her new album approached, Catherine said in an e-mail that she would be giving an intimate concert to promote it in Geneva on Saturday 13th May. I don't think she imagined for a moment that I'd make

## My heart broke when the juries so cruelly ignored her

the journey to see her, but I'd been waiting for this for a decade. I e-mailed back to say I'd be there, and straight away surfed off to book my hotel and flights.

The concert was taking place at 8.00 pm at Le Manège, a charming little old stone building in the suburb of Onex. I arrived at 7.10 pm to find the place locked up with no-one around. And it was raining; fortunately there was some sheltered paving in front of the entrance. Before long a silver car pulled up, but when its occupants got out they were nothing to do with the venue. They were

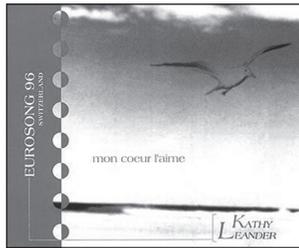
an old couple who, when they saw me standing there with the ten red roses I'd brought to present to Catherine, asked if I was going to a wedding! I'd been waiting there just over 20 minutes when two men arrived to open the venue. They confirmed the concert was on. I told them I'd travelled from England to see Catherine, having been a fan since ESC 1996; they were well impressed. They told me Catherine was away eating at the moment but she'd be along soon, and invited me to sit in the (closed) bar and wait.

It was only a few minutes before Catherine arrived. I introduced myself and gave her the ten red roses, explaining that they were for the 10th anniversary of her Eurovision appearance (which was only five days away). What a charming lady she was. She was absolutely delighted that I'd come all that way to see her, and the roses completely blew her away. Catherine outstretched her arms, we held each other and kissed. Then I took out my copy of her new CD and she signed the back of the lyric booklet for me; I thanked her, and produced my copy of the "Mon Cœur L'aime" promotional single. Catherine was absolutely stunned to see one of those again after 10 years! She signed that one too, we spent the next couple of minutes effusively thanking each other, then Catherine had to go and get made up for the show. As we said goodbye, she said she wouldn't be starting until 8.45 and suggested I go

out onto the main road for something to eat.

I arrived back at Le Manège with ten minutes to go. The bar was now full with people waiting for the show. At 8.47 pm we were all allowed through to the intimate little auditorium, the 100 or so of us about half-filling the seats. As soon as we'd all sat down the backing band came on stage and played a few chords. Then Catherine appeared to a huge

round of applause, looking stunning in a sky blue fairly low-cut blouse and tight white trousers, said 'bonsoir' to us and ran through the songs from her new



**Kathy singing "Mon Cœur L'aime" in 1996**

CD. It was incredible to experience her beautiful voice in a live performance. Catherine put the songs across very well, and from the few words she said to introduce each number it was soon apparent that she had confided a lot in her songwriter, Fred Vonlanthen, and that he had written several of the songs to reflect Catherine's own emotions. "Ici Et Ailleurs", a haunting ballad, was a tribute to Catherine's younger brother who died in a helicopter accident, while her most moving rendition was of "On A Vendu La Maison", about her family's sale of the house where Catherine grew up. When she introduced "Je Pourrais" as about something that struck a chord with her - an ache to have a child - you sensed that, at 42, Catherine was hearing the ticking of her biological clock, and her performance of the song was clearly straight from the heart.

With one song to go, Catherine introduced her band, which included

Stéphane Matteuzzi. The anthemic "Ma Prière" made a great finale to the show, except Catherine responded to our shouts for an encore by coming back and reprising her own favourite, the album's title track "Je M'ennuie De Vous". I couldn't be disappointed that she didn't sing "Mon Cœur L'aime". Although I would have loved to hear it live, tonight was about promoting Catherine's new album. After the show I, with the rest

of the audience, had a free plastic cup of wine and sampled the crisps laid out on plates on the bar. Catherine and a girlfriend were busy selling copies of her CD; she clearly had quite a few

friends in the audience, as people kept coming up and sharing the customary francophone double-cheek kiss with her.

Just after 10.00 pm I went over to Catherine, explained that I had to catch the tram back to my hotel and asked whether she would have her photo taken with me. She agreed enthusiastically and her friend took a couple of shots of us. I thanked her for a wonderful evening, she thanked me for coming over, we talked a little more and I wished her the very best with the CD. We shared a double-cheek kiss as we said goodbye.

Catherine Leander is a supremely gifted singer and a lovely lady. Eurovision and its fans still have a place in her heart and I fervently hope that her new album, which she has issued independently herself, will provide a springboard to the success she so richly deserves - better ten years late than never! ■

# Quiz Time

This edition of the quiz finds **Sam Broderick** and **Marcus Keppel-Palmer** looking at stage musicals with ESC connections

**1.** Three members of 'Les Miserables' Original London Cast have taken part at Eurovision. Name them.

**2.** Which German Eurovision representative appeared on stage and on the cast recording of 'Les Miserables' in Vienna?

**3.** Linda Wagenmakers gained her breakthrough in musical theatre by playing the lead role of which musical in the Netherlands?



**4.** Which UK Eurovision representative is currently treading the boards in the musical 'Daddy Cool'?

**5.** Which Swedish Eurovision representative appeared on stage in London in 'Les Miserables', and then reprised the role in Sweden?

**6.** Portuguese singers Lucia Moniz and Anabela have both played which leading role?

**7.** Which Eurovision singer played the role of Audrey in the Barcelona production of 'Little Shop of Horrors'?

**8.** Who wrote the universally panned musical 'Which Witch'?

**9.** What is the name of the musical written by Benny and Bjorn, detailing a family's poverty-driven migration from Sweden to America in the mid-19th century?

**10.** Who has played the role of The Russian in 'Chess' in both English and Swedish?

**11.** In which stage musical did Patrick Fiori play the lead role of Phoebus when it originally opened in Paris in 1998?

**12.** Which UK Eurovision performer replaced Cheryl Baker in the London stage version of 'Footloose' in 2006?

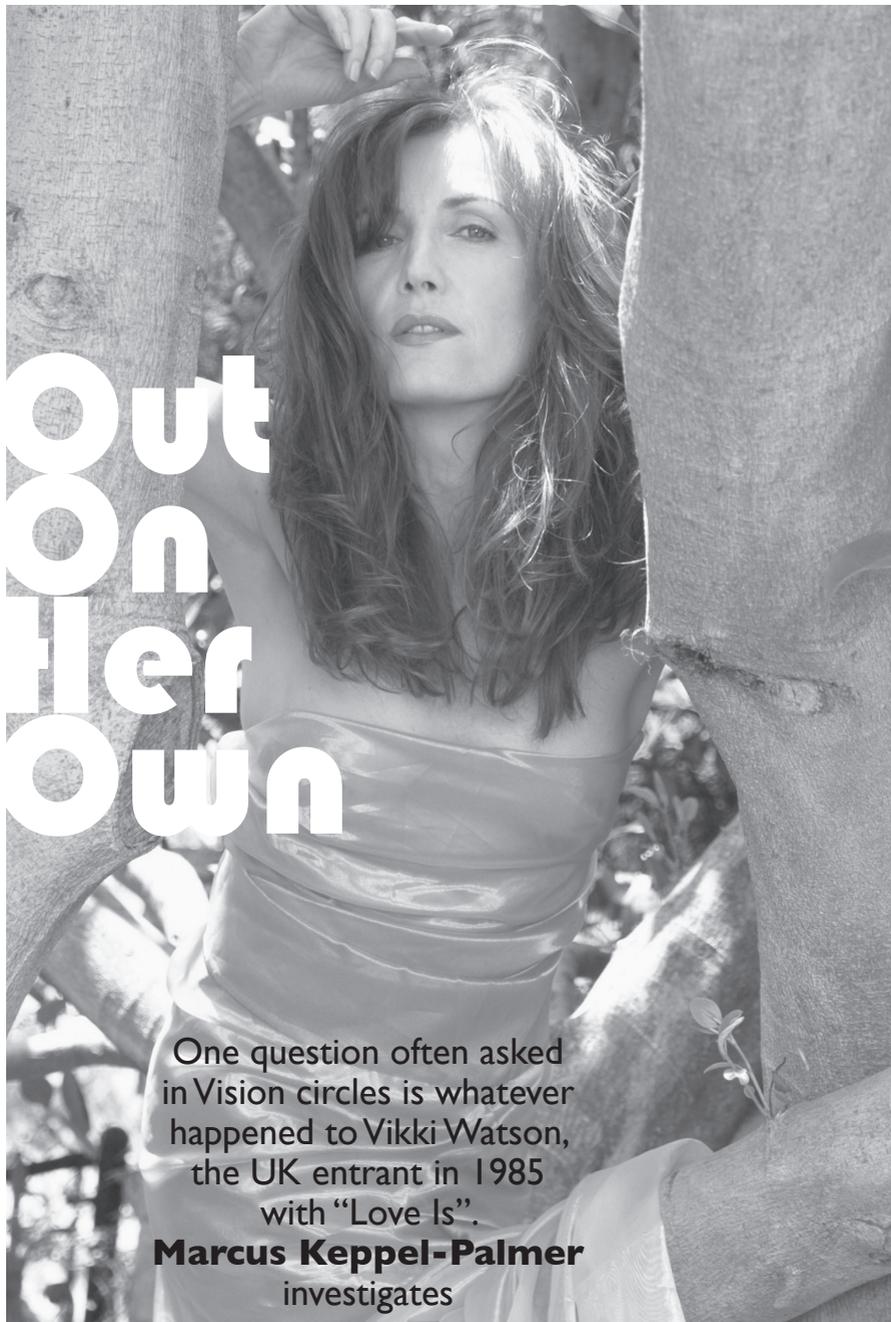
**13.** Cliff Richard has starred in two musicals on the London stage. 'Heathcliff' was one. What is the other?

**14.** Sally-Ann Triplett of Bardo and Prima Donna starred alongside Dr Who's John Barrowman in a 2003



London revival of which Cole Porter musical?

(See inside back cover for answers)



# Out On Her Own

One question often asked in Vision circles is whatever happened to Vikki Watson, the UK entrant in 1985 with “Love Is”.

**Marcus Keppel-Palmer**  
investigates

●f ever a British Eurovision entrant epitomised elegance, it is Vikki Watson. She sang a cracking song too. But that was 22 years ago. Now living in Los Angeles, Vikki Watson is no more. Instead she has become Aeone (pronounced Ay-own), continuing with a recording and music career. It is mid-morning in balmy Southern California when we speak by phone. With some jealousy, I have to ask Aeone how she came to relocate to where it never rains.

"I knew two people in LA," she explains brightly, her voice still anglicised, "and not long after the Eurovision Song Contest I moved purely on a whim and I never came back. Shortly after that I met my husband, although we are divorced now, and musically I began my journey, in particular developing my voice. After Eurovision, I found that I was stuck in a 'pop box', and this wasn't really me. I needed to find myself musically through working, and ultimately this has led to me producing myself. I became very interested, as a woman alone, in finding my voice through the female journey, the female role in society particularly, and musically in discovering Celtic roots." And the name? "As I journeyed musically and found my sound, I was also journeying spiritually and during that time the name Aeone came up. It worked for the music and for me. I am Aeone Victoria now!"

She has released several albums on CD and MP3, most recently 'Point Of Faith'. Comparisons have been made to Enya. Is this fair? "Certainly, some of my music is Celtic flavoured and has that Irish feeling to it. But I think the music is more cinematic and layered. I work on the computer a lot and this makes me self-contained, particularly after my marriage to Jeff (her ex-producer) ended. The computer freed me; it is so empowering to create all my music myself. Mind you,

Jeff is a genius", Aeone adds. "As well as the three albums, I have done a lot of movie trailer music. This disciplines you to make music quickly; and I have done almost every style from hip-hop onwards. You have to sit down and write a piece of music which works cinematically. It taught me to move the perfection level! Anyway, the albums; the first one was called 'Window To The World' and was really trying to find a sound. I don't think there is as much sonic strength there."

And the second self-titled album? "The second album was really the story of my female journey. But 'Point Of Faith' is where my true voice comes through. It is a distillation of my experience of life, my inward strength. I think it takes quite a spiritual point of view, not a religious point of view, but a place of spirit. This

**"As I journeyed musically and found my sound, I was also journeying spiritually"**

is perhaps the antithesis of Eurovision which was purely commercial." 'Point Of Faith' is a fine album too comprising a wide range of styles. With that in mind, I asked Aeone what her future direction might be. "I find songwriting is not quite so planned. A body of work just evolves and you find that crux, that central piece of music which defines your work, your sound. A body of work needs to summate a landmark in your songwriting. In terms of themes, I am still keen to describe my place as a woman in society and my journey as a woman. I can't speak for all women. It's a very personal journey and I am not observing woman."

One of her projects was scoring

the music for the TV series 'Mists of Avalon', based on the book reflecting the Arthurian legend from a feminine perspective. Some of the songs can be found on 'Point Of Faith'. Aeone admits to being a huge fan of the book. "I love the book. I have read it and re-read it," she says passionately. "I think that is part of my journey, particularly the change from the mystical to the more patriarchal society. When people stop believing in the mystical, things disappear. In my life, I feel we need to access the mystical part of oneself. It is important to understand the place of dreams." This seems to be quite central to Aeone's creative spirit.

We discuss whether it is difficult for a woman on her own to make it in the music business. "It is very male dominated" agrees Aeone, "but that is something I needed to work through. I had to be strong to get my stuff out initially. I realised I was being masculine, and women shouldn't need to copy men. I believe you should do what you love and follow your heart. You must not allow yourself not to be set free. But it was difficult when all my role models in the industry were male. The dynamics need to change. Women need to feel their role better".

Aeone is keen to talk about Eurovision. She finds it hard to believe that people still take an interest in her performance. 'Love Is' was a nice tune. James Kaleth

was a jingle writer and I met him when he needed someone to sing them. He had a publisher and we just wrote the song together. The song was built around a feeling and we kept going until we had polished it." What about Song For Europe? Aeone recalls, "I was convinced Alvin Stardust was going to win it. We did rehearsals like crazy and I tried to sing the song with honesty. Alvin was very nice, but everyone thought it was

fixed! Although it was kind of fun, I didn't feel much joy. And then we won and went to Gothenburg and the whole thing got terribly serious."

What did Aeone mean? "In retrospect," she remembers wistfully, "I felt under huge pressure. We had great support from the BBC in the UK, but when we got to Sweden I felt really on my own. Eurovision was tremendous; so why does the UK treat it as a joke? We were in a great big stadium, I remember. After the performance,

I remember the German team leaving early when they didn't win (that'll be Wind then!). I also think the order of performance was critical, being drawn after the Norwegians had an impact. And I felt the voting was very political." It is interesting to note that Aeone has the BBC view even at such a remove.

Born in Hampshire, Aeone grew up studying music, dance and drama in the 70s. She received classical vocal training, but who were her influences I mused. Did she have a Donny Osmond poster on



**Feeling great:** From Vikki to Aeone

her wall? "No not Donny", she laughs. "Most of my musical influences came through the folk singer route – Carole King, James Taylor, although I loved the Monkees. And of course Peter Gabriel. He influenced my songwriting."

So how does Aeone write songs? Do they just evolve on the computer or does she write them traditionally? "My songwriting is very sound based. I find a groove and then that will inspire me to find a melody. I think my creative process is just shaken up. I sing down the mike in a stream of consciousness fashion. This allows me to express the song in its fullest way. I always say you mustn't judge what you are doing until you have finished." Aeone continues, "A song should be able to stand up without the production!" How very true for all Eurovision songwriters.

"I am interested in creating an experience which has a song in there. Everything that surrounds it is just a part of it." Aeone is not keen on performing live at the present time. Studio creation is more important for her. Our conversation is drawing to a close, sadly. Aeone is a fascinating passionate opinionated woman who loves discussing music. She tells me about her current projects. She is scoring some music for the new TV series 'Black Donnellys', which is an Irish Sopranos, and due to be shown on Sky. She is also involved in scoring a ghost story film called 'Wind Chill'. She also hints that she will be writing music for another film, but that is not finalised yet.

Aeone has come quite a way since 'Love Is' and is clearly a very busy woman running a successful music career a long way from the Eurovision stage. Cheekily I ask if she might at some stage re-visit her Eurovision success on her next album. She suggests not, but ... "I won't rule anything out" she twinkles. ■



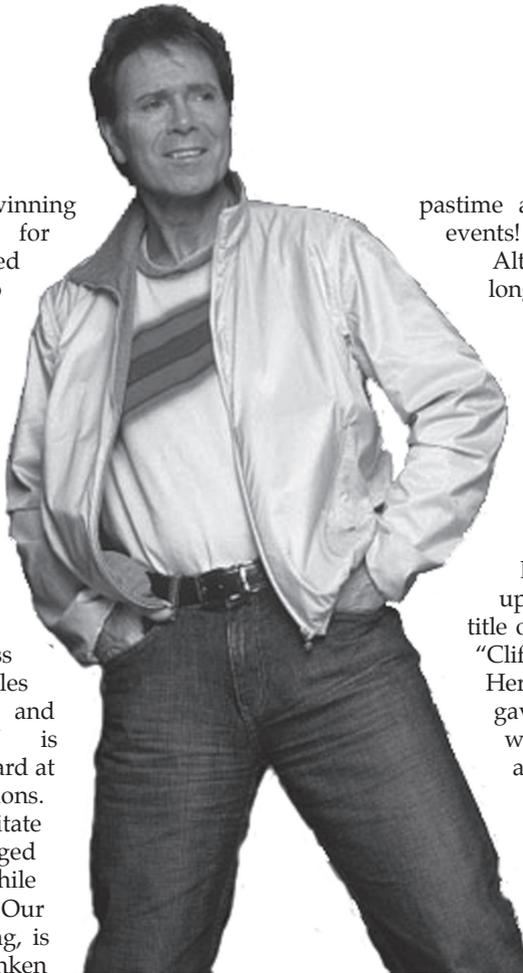
**"I believe you should do what you love and follow your heart. You must not allow yourself not to be set free"**

# Cliff Richard Live Here And Now

Wembley Arena 4th November 2006.

**Roy Bennett** was there

**D**espite not winning Eurovision for the United Kingdom on two separate occasions (1968/1973) Cliff Richard is as popular as ever, especially with the 'Radio Crinkly' crowd. His hit records, from 1958 to the present day, take up nearly two whole pages in the Guinness Book Of Hit Singles & Albums and "Congratulations" is still frequently heard at wedding receptions. Trying to imitate Cliff's bandy legged swaying dance while "Power To All Our Friends" is playing, is still a popular drunken



pastime at some OGAE events!

Although he's no longer the Peter Pan Of Pop in that he now qualifies for a bus pass, he shows no sign of retiring and still loves performing to a live audience. "As long as you keep showing up, so will I." The title of his latest tour, "Cliff Richard - Live Here And Now" gave an idea of what to expect, but anyone wanting a greatest hits' set list was to be disappointed. The first night of the tour at Wembley Arena

was, surprisingly, not full with a large black curtain blocking off the seats at the back. Looking at the audience, one could be forgiven for thinking that the event had been sponsored by SAGA Holidays, BUPA Hip Replacements or Stannah Stair Lifts!

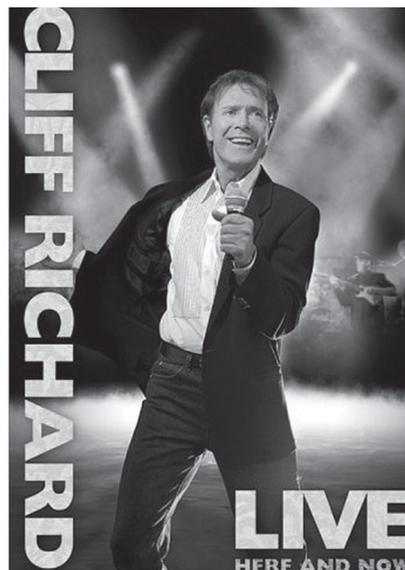
The main purpose of the tour was to promote Cliff's latest CD of duets called "Two's Company" which is, in fact, a collection of previous collaborations with only six fresh cover versions. Only these new songs were featured in the show, with each celebrity being replaced by a backing singer (although Brian May did turn up on the night they filmed for the DVD). Frequent mentions were also made to his preceding album "Something's Going On" which, as Cliff told us repeatedly, was recorded in Nashville.

A selection of older songs ("Devil Woman", "Miss You Nights", "We Don't Talk Anymore", "The Young Ones" and "Green Light") were delivered in workman-like fashion as medleys, so as not to detract from the new album and that one recorded in Nashville. Have I mentioned

Nashville yet? In the diverse set list we were also treated to some rarely heard minor hits that included "My Kinda Life" "Hey Mr Dream Maker" and "Ocean Deep".

Between songs and several changes of jacket, Cliff talked to a hushed audience with carefully rehearsed anecdotes including the odd one about recording in Nashville; he does go on a bit! Nearing the end, it was time for Cliff to joke about "having a stranglehold on Christmas", which he disputes, before performing "21st Century Christmas". The two and half hour show finished with the rousing "Peace In Our Time" which had the grannies back on their feet. After the first couple of songs Cliff had asked them to "please sit down before anyone falls down"!!

Despite a boring stage design, some average backing dancers, and a lack-lustre choice of songs, especially those recorded in Nashville, Sir Cliff can still show today's wannabes how to be the consummate and enduring professional. I just wished he'd sung a few more hits though! ■



# ESC Online

**Martin Faulkner's** regular look at the Eurovision World Wide Web

Welcome to the pre-contest edition of Vision's look at the world of websites dedicated to the Eurovision Song Contest. And hasn't the big event rolled around quickly again?

The online Eurovision scene rarely pauses for breath, however, and the turn of the New Year saw one big change among the established sites; Adrian Bedford decided to close the doors of his excellent doteurovision portal ([www.doteurovision.com](http://www.doteurovision.com)).

Fortunately, this was to prove a temporary closure and it's now back on its feet – albeit without any of its community content, of which more later. In its place is a sarcastic reporting style which takes absolutely no prisoners, as well as some terrifically useful introductory features on mp3 and download sites, peer-to-peer applications and satellite TV, all written from a Eurovision fan's perspective – the latter including what must be a near-exhaustive list of all the ESC-relevant satellite channels out there and how to receive them.

Meanwhile, the regulars of the long-standing messageboard, which I believe had become something of a monkey on Adrian's back, took matters into their own hands and launched a brand new Eurovision

site on 1st January at [www.escnation.com](http://www.escnation.com). As an unashamedly fan-produced site, Eurovision Nation makes no claims to completeness or impartiality, but it does

feature the aforementioned fast-moving discussion forum and a fan-written "news blog" that gives a different spin on events. It also consolidates some resources that were previously located elsewhere on the 'net – including Ben Tumminaro's excellent Record Book and Scoreboard Generator, and the #esc IRC chatroom.

As anyone who's spent time exchanging views on a Eurovision site will know, we fans are very capable of

inventing and propagating the most bizarre and scandalous rumours about our beloved contest. Now there's a site dedicated specifically to generating and publishing such fake news items. You can find it at [www.esclies.com](http://www.esclies.com), and while the focus is quite Greek-heavy and suffers from the inevitable limitations of "foreigners trying to do humour", it might be one to watch in future – if only as the potential source of stories that subsequently get taken seriously by the more gullible websites!

The EBU's official Eurovision shop needs no promotion from the likes of me, but it's worth mentioning this time



because the Eurovision board game that has been in development for several years has finally come to pass. You can order it from [www.eurovisionshop.tv](http://www.eurovisionshop.tv), but the site is disappointingly vague when it comes to the details of the game, the difficulty level and so on, making it quite an expensive gamble at the best part of 20 Euros.

Of course, it wouldn't be the pre-contest edition of Vision without us taking a look at some of the websites of the artists who will be gracing our TV screens in mid-May. There aren't too many genuine local megastars taking part this time round, but Sweden's The Ark have a predictably slick and impressive site at [www.thearkworld.com](http://www.thearkworld.com), while Kenan Dogulu's site is no less



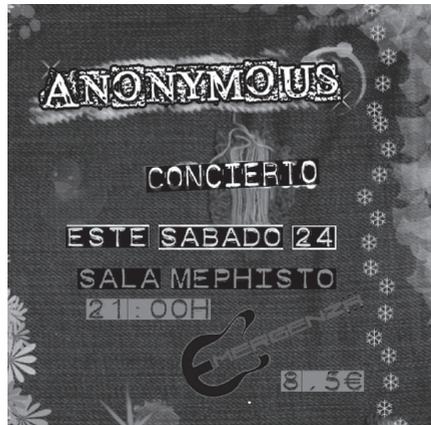
impressive, featuring an unusual design and tons of content, although it doesn't seem to have been updated with details of his Eurovision song as yet ([www.kenandogulu.com.tr](http://www.kenandogulu.com.tr)).

Despite the mellow nature of their ESC entry, Irish band Dervish show that they're not afraid of a jig and a reel at [www.dervish.ie](http://www.dervish.ie), and Karolina Gocheva's official site covers her Balkan-wide career with plenty of photos, music clips and videos, although watch out, because she can be a bit heavy on the lingerie at times! Check it out at [www.karolinaonline.com.mk](http://www.karolinaonline.com.mk).



Other established artists at this year's contest include French band Les Fatals Picards, who have an amusing (albeit French-only) site offering "songs, humour and other stuff" at [www.fatalspicards.com](http://www.fatalspicards.com); Switzerland's answer to Dracula, DJ BoBo, who ably demonstrates his popularity by announcing tour dates up to September 2008 (!) at his content-packed site, [www.djbobo.ch](http://www.djbobo.ch); and three-time Cypriot entrant Evridiki, whose striking new image can be seen alongside a comprehensive discography and all the other features you'd expect at [www.evridiki.gr](http://www.evridiki.gr). Meanwhile, at the other end of the professional scale, Andorran garage rockers Anonymous are very much in tune with the zeitgeist with their teen-friendly MySpace profile at [www.myspace.com/anonymousspunkrock](http://www.myspace.com/anonymousspunkrock).

As always, chances are that none of the above will actually go on to win the contest – but isn't that the beauty of it all? However you watch ESC 2007 and wherever you do it, I hope you have a great time, and see you next issue for some more online action!



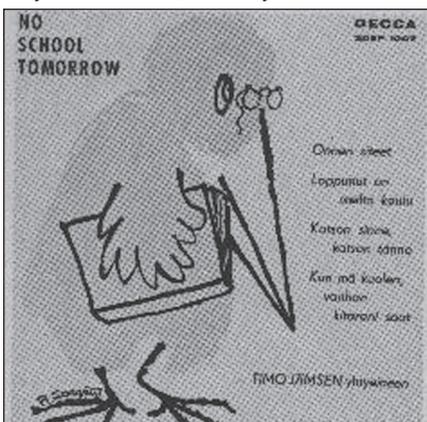
# EURO CURIOS

The 2007 Eurovision Song Contest is about to take place in Finland; a country which has long been one of the most enthusiastic supporters and consumers of the contest. For evidence of this you only have to look at the many cover versions of entries that have been translated and recorded over the years. In this special edition of Euro Curios, **Thomas Latham** takes a look Finnish covers of UK entries.

There are quite a few ...

## 1960 "Looking High High High"

This was the first UK Eurovision entry to be recorded by a Finnish artist. Under the title "Katson Sinne, Katson Tänne", it was the lead track on the EP "No School Tomorrow" (Decca SDEP 1007) released in 1960 by an artist called Timo Jämsen (aka Kaijo Ahola). The song was released on CD in 1998 on "20 Suosikkia - Yyterin Twist" (Finnlevy 3984-23695-2).



## 1961 "Are You Sure"

Translated into Finnish by Reino Helismaa as "Oletko Varma", this was recorded by Eero & Jussi Raittinen on 11th April 1961 and released on single (Decca 45-SD 5529).

## 1963 "Say Wonderful Things"

1962's "Ring-a-Ding Girl" does not seem to have been covered, so we jump to 1963 and "Kauneimmat Sanasi" with lyrics

by Sauvo Puhtila and an apparent single release by Marjatta Leppänen. However, the catalogue number appears to have escaped the archives.

## 1964 "I Love The Little Things"

With Finnish lyrics by Helena Karpela, Matt Monro's entry was released on single by Markku Salo as "Rakkauden Pienet Sanat" on HMV (His Master's Voice TJ 297).

## 1967 "Puppet On A String"

Surprisingly the UK's first winner only appears to have been covered once in Finnish. Recorded on 21st April 1967 by Marja-Leena Hentunen as "Sätkynukke", it can be found on a single (Philips PF 340791) and also appears on the 2005 double CD "Käännetyt Viisugelmet" (Warner Music Finland Oy - 5050467-8100-2-0) alongside many other Finnish cover versions of ESC entries. An English language version was possibly recorded as late as 1986 by Pauhat. Surprisingly, Sandie Shaw's SFE also threw up a separate cover version. Runner up "Tell The Boys" was recorded by Anita Lindgren on 25th April 1967 and released as a single - "Itke Vaan Jos Helpottaa" (Philips - PF 340792). It can be found on a compilation CD of Lindgren's songs (Fazer Finnlevy - 0630-19577-2), although watch out for re-recordings.

## 1968 "Congratulations"

Also appearing on "Käännetyt

Viisugelmet”, and with lyrics by Juha Harri Vainio, is “Mua Onnitelkaa” by Robin (aka Esa Simonen). It was recorded on 4th April 1968 and originally released as a single (Philips PF 340821).

### 1969 “Boom Bang A Bang”

This was released by the otherwise little known Lisbeth as a single (Columbia MY 167). “Come September”, which came third in Lulu’s SFE, was recorded on 3rd July 1969 by Jarkko Antikainen & Laura Ruotsalo as “Kahden Ollaan” and also released as a single (Decca - SD 5731). It can be found on their compilation CD “Kuin Silloin Ennen” (Fazer Finnlevy - 3984-24134-2).

### 1970 “Knock Knock Who’s There?”

This was released by Kristina Hautala as a single under the title of “Kop Kop, Ken Lie” (Columbia 5E 006 34135).

### 1971 “Jack In The Box”

Originally released as a single (Scandia - KS 853) by Eija Merilä (aka Eija Muhonen) entitled “Vieterinukke”, this can also be found on the CD “Luvannut En Ruusutarhaa” (Fazer Finnlevy 0630-14099-2). “Another Time, Another Place”, which only came 4th in Clodagh Rodgers’s SFE but was a hit for Engelbert Humperdinck, was covered by Tuulikki Eloranta as “Joskus Jossakin” and released on the 1974 LP “Hymni Rakkaudelle” (Love Records - LRC 115)

### 1972 “Beg, Steal or Borrow”

There seem to be two versions of the New Seekers’ entry. Tapani Kansa’s version of “Varkain Vien Taikka Lainaan” was originally released as a single (Sonet - T - 6570) and can be found on the double CD “Käännetyt Viisugelmet”. The song was also recorded in 1974 by Aaro Laukkonen and released on the LP “Uusia Ikivihreitä” (EMI - 5E-062-34964).

### 1973 “Power To All Our Friends”

This was recorded on 28th March 1973 as “Valtaa Ja Voimaa” by Matti Esko and released as a single (PSO - BLU 803), but there are also versions by Leo Luoto (on the LP “Uusia Ikivihreitä” - EMI 5E-062-34964) and (Tiina?) Tiikeri (on the LP “Tiikeri Soittaa Ja Laulaa” - EMI 5E-062-34963).

### 1974 “Long Love Love”

Another three versions, this time of Olivia Newton-John’s tribute to the Salvation Army. Two-time Eurovision entrant Marion Rung released “Kun Rakastaa” (with lyrics once again by Juha Vainio) as a single (EMI - 5E-006-35026), as did Päivi Paunu (Polydor 2055057). Both are available on the respective CDs “Marion Rung Aarteet” (EMI - 777-7894282) and “Oi Niitä Aikoja” (Fazer Finnlevy 0630-15355-2). Another cover of the song is by Hanne (aka Eija Höynälä) and was released on the LP “Listoilla 2” (Manhattan Man - MANC 3010). One of the songs believed to have been rejected from the 1974 SFE was “A Rose Has To Die”. This was covered by Kari Tapio as “Elää Sain Kesän Vain” and released on a single (Scandia - KS 1028). It can be found on the CD “Luoksesi Tukholmaan” (Fazer Finnlevy 0630-16437-2).

### 1975 “Let Me Be The One”

And now the cover versions come thick and fast. The Shadows’ ESC song translates into Finnish as “Saanhan Olla Hän”. Kai Hyttinen’s version was released on a single (Philips - 6034058) and can be found on the double CD “Käännetyt Viisugelmet”. However, there are also several other versions. One by Black & White, on an eponymously-titled LP (Manhattan Man - MANC 3022), sits among covers of songs like NL75, IT75, FI75 and ABBA’s “Honey Honey”. Tapani Kansa’s version of the

1975 UK entry is on the LP "Kuinka Paljon Rakkautta" (Scandia SLP 622). Kristian Jerström released his on 7" (EMI – 5E-006-35090), while Raimo Kero's is on the LP "Paarhat Rexi" (Satsanga – KOTLP 24). Finally, there is the cover by Aaro Laukkonen, which makes an appearance on "Maailmalla Soi 1!" (Sonet TLP 2001). "This House Runs On Sunshine", third in the SFE, was covered as "Jätkälle Jäi Lippalakki" by Karma and released as a single (Polydor 2055071). It can be found on the CD "Hyvää Huomenta Suomi" (Fazer Finnlevy 0630-14093-2).

### 1976 "Save Your Kisses For Me"

With this UK winner, Finnish cover versions reach their peak with at least ten or eleven of them! The version on the double CD "Käännetyt Viisugelmet" is Tapani Kansa's "Saasta Suukkosi Vain", but at least three others are also available on compact disc. The group Friends released it as a single (Philips 6034166) which can be found on the CD "Finnhits 04" (Fazer Finnlevy – 0630-14179-2). Danny (aka Ikka Lipsanen) covers the song on the LP "Huipulla 10 Euroviisu Special" (Scandia – SLP 632) alongside other covers of ESC76 songs by a variety of Finnish artists; you can find it on the CD "Danny Taikaa Kaikki Parhaat 1964-1999" (Fazer Finnlevy 3984-26286-2). Matti Esko's version of "Saasta Suukkosi Vain" is from the LP "Kaupungista Pois" (Blue Master – BLU-LP 194), and is on the CD "Lämmin Hellä Ja Pehmeinen" (Fazer Finnlevy 0630-10814-2). Other covers are by Markku Hannula & Anneli Huovinen on the LP "Listoilla 6" (Manhattan Man – MAN 3031); Jukka Heino on "Euroline (Euroviisut 1976)" (Discovox – DCLP 113); Matti Ruohonen & Teppo Ruohonen on a single (M & T – MTP 1008); Veijo Ullakko on "Mitä Soumi Soittaa 6" (Kotka – KOTLP 16); Jörgen Petersen on "Soitellen" (Top Voice – TOP-LP 534);

Ari Oinonen's presumably instrumental version on "Jokamiehen Hammond" (EMI 9C-054-38228); and there may also be a version recorded by Kai Hyttunen. Co-Co's runner-up in the SFE, "Wake Up", was recorded as "Pois Vaan" by Tapani Kansa and released as a single (Scandia KS 957), although this may be as the B-side to "Hafanana".

### 1977 "Rock Bottom"

Returning to three versions, the first entitled "Päin Seinää" is taken from the double CD "Käännetyt Viisugelmet" by Danny & Armi, which was released as a single (Scandia – KS 990). There is another duet version of "Päin Seinää" by Leni & Veijo Ullakko on the former's solo LP "Parhaat Leni" (Satsanga – KOTLP 27), while you will find what is probably an instrumental version of "Rock Bottom" on Jörgen Petersen's LP "Eurooppa to Hits" (Blue Master – BLU LP208); the artist being known as an arranger for Finnish singers.

### 1978 "Bad Old Days"

Co-Co's entry may have had the poorest result for the UK at that time, but it was still covered in Finland. Once again Danny & Armi did the honours with "Jäi Taakse Päivät Nuo" appearing on "Huipulla 15" (Scandia - SLP 909), but this was a compilation of ESC78 covers. The same is true for Esa Katajavuori's version on the LP "Euroviisut 78" (RCA PL 40094), only this time all the covers were performed by the same artist.

### 1979 "Mary-Ann"

These compilations of ESC entries in Finnish seem to have become an annual tradition in Finland by 1979, and Seppo Närhi's "Mary Ann" is no different. It appears among other artists' covers of songs from that year on the LP "Eurovisio

Special" (Scandia - SLP 911), although it was also released on a solo LP by the singer.

### 1980 "Love Enough For Two"

Kari Tapio (aka Jalkanen) produced a solo version of the group-sung "Jos Näytät Tien Sydämees", which again featured on the Eurovision compilation "Eurovisio Special 80" (Scandia SLP 917). The song also featured on a single (Gold Disc GDS 261).

### 1981 "Making Your Mind Up"

Bucks Fizz's winning song was, as might be expected, covered a few times in Finnish as "Ei Määrää Sua Toiset". Again there was the annual compilation this year, "Eurovisio Special 81" (Fazer Finnlevy FL 5095), where the song was covered by Robin Wikman, who also released it as a single (Fazer Finnlevy - FS 139). A singer called Daniel releases his version on the cassette "Rolling Hits 1" (Rolling Records - ROLLKAS 002), which is a fairly anonymous compilation of cover songs. Risto Raitanen performed vocal duties on an otherwise similar project with the cassette "Kuuma Linja" (Steel - STC 124).

### 1984 "Love Games"

The annual compilations had disappeared by 1984, but the cover versions continued. Appearing on the double CD "Käännetyt Viisugelmet" is Vicky (aka Virve) Rosti's version of "Miksi Rakkaudella Leikit", which was also released as a single (Delta - DES 77). Also available is Koivistolaiset's cover on the compilation cassette "Super Turbo 2" (Steel - STC 154). Other compilations to feature versions are the cassettes "Taxiby Night" (Master - TKTC 45) with vocals by Johanna, and "Kevään Suosikit" (Master - TKTC 56) where the performance is by Marjo Tuominen.

### 1985 "Love Is"

The last cover for a while was Seija Simola's "Rakkaus Kestää" on the solo LP "Ota Kii Pidä Mua" (Polarvox - LJLP 1057). This has also been released on the CD "Parhaat" (Polarvox - LJCD 1081).

### 1997 "Love Shine A Light"

Surprisingly there is no cover of Gina G's 1996 entry that I can find, so the next one is Heidi Kyrö's version of Katrina's winning song as "Päivänvaloon". It can be found on a several compilation CDs including "Vauhtihitit" (AXR - AXRCD 1167).



Heidi shines a light of love

### 1998 "Where Are You?"

One of the best-received British entries to the song contest of the last ten years is Imaani's 1998 runner-up, which was recorded by Eurovision stalwart Katri Helena (FI79/93) as "Missä Oot" and released on the CD of the same name (Fazer Finnlevy 3984-25351-2).

Which, unfortunately, brings us up to date – a sad indication of the fortunes of our entries in the ESC in the last decade (unless, of course, you know different).

Thanks to the Database of The Finnish Institute of Recorded Sound, 1901 – 1999.

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

# Record Reviews

## ACHILLEA

### The Nine Worlds

*Sequoia X118*

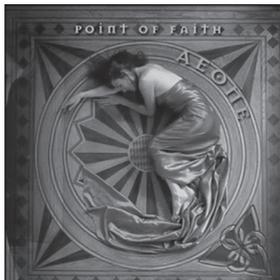
This new world music CD stems from the inspiration of Jens Gad, the guitarist who worked with Michael Cretu on Enigma. Why this is of interest to Vision readers derives from his collaborator in Achillea, vocalist Helene Horlyck, who participated in Song For Europe 2000 with "Aria". Her classically trained and operatic vocals spread across an album of bewildering styles of mainly chill-out electronica. Telling a story (loosely) of the Viking peoples, Horlyck has co-written most songs with Gad. However, one "Othila-The Rune Masters" is a collaboration with John Tonks and feels like another Song For Europe collaboration like "Aria". To these ears, the lengthy "Odin's Hill" is the best track. This is not immediately accessible music, but like Secret Garden repays repeated listening. **MKP**

## AEONE

### Point Of Faith

*Angleterre Music (Private)*

Sounding more like Kate Bush than a schlager artist, former UK entrant Vikki Watson has released a very interesting, different and challenging CD exploring faith and spirituality. Somewhat like Bush and perhaps Enigma, the songs are deeply layered revealing surprising shapes in their instrumentation. Points of reference include Irish and world music, but overall it is more upbeat than those references suggest. The layered vocals are standouts (all done by Aeone herself) particularly on the opening



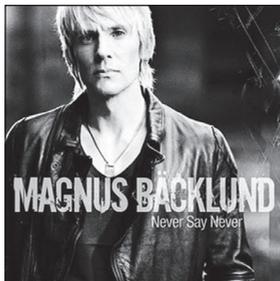
track "One Tribe" and "Umbra Nihili". "I Will Remember You" was featured in the series 'The Mists Of Avalon'. This is serious engaging music designed to stimulate the brain. Who would have thought that any former UK entrant would produce an album of such depth? **MKP**

## MAGNUS BACKLAND

### Never Say Never

*Warner Music 5051011733758*

The ex-Fame singer released this album following his appearance in Melodifestival 2006 with "In The Name Of Love", which is included among the 11 tracks on offer here. If you know that song, you won't be surprised to learn that Magnus stays in a rocky bombastic vein, well suited to his voice. Somewhat unexpectedly, Magnus covers "Changes", the old Black Sabbath/Ozzy Osborne



song, and he does it justice too. Gyllene Tider drummer, Micke Andersen, does sterling work supporting Magnus. The only trouble is that the tracks aren't necessarily distinctive from each other. Worth sampling. **MKP**

## BELINDA CARLISLE

### Voila

*Rykodisc RCD10883*

The former member of the Go-Go's enjoyed 23 solo hits in the UK between 1987 and 1999 before rejoining the Go-Go's. Despite being born in America her British chart career was far more successful, but in recent years she has made France her home. It is therefore not surprising that her first album of new material for 11 years has a French title, but more surprising is that all the songs are sung in French. The album kicks off with "Ma Jeunesse Fout Le Camp" which sounds like it could have been taken from an Amina album. The reason for this eastern influence is the vocal performance of Natacha Atlas who joins Belinda on several tracks. There are two songs written by Serge Gainsbourg; "Bonnie Et Clyde" and "Contact". "Pour Ant Tu M'aimes" is co-written by Francoise Hardy and has an edgy sound to it. This is followed by the passion of Jacques Brel's "Ne Me Quitte Pas" (If You Go Away) and the disco sound of "La Vie En Rose". While all of these French songs are given a new lease of life by Belinda Carlisle, it is the two tracks that are not instantly recognizable as French classics that provide the most interest. The first

is "Merci Cherie", which IS the winning Eurovision song and wasn't originally sung in French despite its title, and "Jezebel" which is an American country song originally made famous by Frankie Elaine. "Merci Cherie" is superb while "Jezebel" is a rousing way to finish an album so full of contrasts. Fans of Belinda Carlisle will welcome her return to the recording studio, but this album will find legions of new fans and reach a far wider audience than her previous material. As an added bonus there is a limited edition version of the album which includes a second disc featuring six of the songs sung in English, but they sound so much better in French! Everyone should own a copy of this album. Bravo Belinda! RC

#### JONATAN CERRADA

##### Siempre 23

BMG 82876598602

This CD was released after little Jonatan's princely appearance at Eurovision in Istanbul, but has now resurfaced in a double pack with a DVD bonus of



a documentary following Jonatan's career pre-ESC and a video clip of "A Chaque Pas", which is included in the twelve tracks here. The songs play all too safely to Jonatan's little boy lost

voice and you rather long for a slice of urgency to slash through the proceedings. That is not to say that this CD is not good, rather that it is competent, competent, competent. There is little here to suggest that Cerrada will extend his career beyond that of a Shayne Ward. Only worth investing in if you want "A Chaque Pas". MKP

#### DOCE

1979 - 1987

Polygram 8314992

At Harrogate in 1982 twelve of the performers were known by one name only. Although Nicole may have won, it was opening act Doce for Portugal that many remember fondly. Dressed up as dandy highwaywomen, Doce sung "Bem Bom" and this collection includes it, but in English. Most of the rest of this selection is sung in Portuguese and a fair bonkers collection it is too. Doce seem to be direct descendants of Baccara, and their happy clappy tunes include "OK KO", "Ali Baba" and "Jingle Tonic". The CD insert booklet is not informative at all, but does have a series of fetching photos of the girls throughout their career. There is a version of this release that has "Bem Bom" in its original version. Well worth a taste if you have a sweet tooth. MKP

#### FABRIZIO FANIELLO

##### Hits & Clips

Universal/CAP Sounds

1075348

He's back! Almost one year after an unexpected and disappointing result in Athens the fabulous Fabrizio releases his greatest hits album featuring 17 of his classic songs alongside two versions of the brand new "Love Me Or Leave Me". Those who

have followed Fab's career since his Eurovision debut six years ago will be pleased to find that "Another Summer Night" and "I Do" are both included, together with his others singles including "Let Me Be Your Lover" and "Show Me Now". In true Fabrizio style the majority of tracks are uptempo and performed in English, but the romantic and slower "Sa L-Ahhar" reveals a more sensitive side to the popular performer that is often overlooked. "Heavenly" and, in particular, "The Touch Of Your Breath" are other such songs that show the sincere emotion that is evident in both Fabrizio's voice and heart. This is an album that the regular Fab fan will want to own, but is also the perfect introduction to those who have yet to fully appreciate his musical charms. As a bonus, this release also includes a DVD with 12 videos to accompany the songs as well as three live performances of "SempliceCose" ("Heavenly" performed in Italian), "Sa L-Ahhar" and "Another Summer Night"; the latter appearing to be the encore at a Maltese pop concert. And if that doesn't give you enough of Fabrizio, there is also a 14 minute "Behind The Scenes" that provides an insight into the man from Malta's career. "Hits & Clips" is the perfect companion for a summer of love. Available from [www.fabriziofaniello.com](http://www.fabriziofaniello.com) GL

#### TED GARDESTAD

##### Droppar Av Solregn

Universal 549881-2

Somewhat of a tragic figure, Ted Gärdestad appeared in Eurovision with "Satellit" and was a participant in Melodifestival on four further occasions. Although

he wrote with his brother, Ted was part of the ABBA set-up as Bjorn and Benny produced several of his albums. This 20 track compilation summarises Ted's career and includes a couple of unreleased tracks. There are two tracks in English, one of which was released posthumously in an orchestrated version. Ted's style was gentle, almost Cat Stevens' like. If he hadn't died so young, who would bet against Ted getting more Melodifestival wild cards? A good introduction for those who haven't yet been acquainted with one of the major figures in Swedish popular music. **MKP**

**RED HURLEY**

**I Will Sing**

*Rosette ROSCD 2071*

More than thirty years since he appeared on the Eurovision stage Red Hurley is still recording and touring, and listening to this album it's easy to see why he is so successful. His voice has a richness never noticed before. The album includes tracks written by Phil Coulter, Brendan Graham and Rolf Lovland as well as Red Hurley himself. Red has co-written one of the standout tracks, "I Wanna Live With You". There is also his own interpretation of "Love Changes Everything", a stunning Mike Batt composition, "Whatever You Believe", and "Bring Him Home" (one of the songs performed at George Best's funeral). Red Hurley has just signed up to appear on an American TV show which is expected to be seen by over 30 million viewers. The title track of the album was so popular when played on Radio 2 that it was made available as a download single on Christmas Day. It is without doubt a show stopping song

that will surely become Red Hurley's signature tune. I hope this album receives the UK success it deserves, so seek it out. **RC**

**INCOGNITO**

**Bees & Things & Flowers**

*Dome CD 74*

Incognito chalked up 14 hits between 1980 and 1999, the most successful of which were "Always There" and "Don't You Worry 'Bout A Thing". They also charted six albums before they dropped out of sight. However, Incognito never stopped recording and their brand of Jazz Funk has remained popular abroad. In recent years the line-up has become more fluid and each album features different vocalists. On "Bees & Things & Flowers" Jocelyn Brown returns for a new version of "Always There" and on "Raise". Carleen Anderson (former member of the Style Council and solo artist) joins the group as lead singer on three tracks, but the reason why this album is reviewed here is the vocals of Imaani who has been overlooked by the major record companies. Despite her success in Birmingham, the follow up to "Where Are You" failed to gain a UK release and her vocal contributions on "Freak Like Me" went unnoticed as the hit single was credited to Tru Faith & Dub Conspiracy. In recent months we've had the chance to hear her smooth vocals again on club hits by Copyright and My-ore, but it's with Incognito that she soars highest. Both "Everyday" and "Crave" are perfect, and it's such a pity that so few people will hear them. Fans of Incognito and Jazz Funk will love this album, but if you enjoyed Imaani's Eurovision entry then please check this out. **RC**

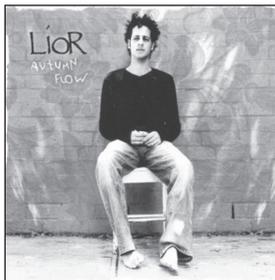
**LIOR**

**Autumn Flow**

*Red Ink/Sony/BMG*

82876897682

Have you ever had a day when your timing is off and you can't seem to catch up with yourself? Well, Lior must be feeling like that now. Although based in Australia, he represented Israel at Eurovision in 2003 and this album was originally recorded the following year. In 2005 Lior was nominated



for three ARIA awards (the Australian equivalent of the BRITS), including album of the year, and in 2006 he received another two nominations. In 2007 he now turns his sights on the UK. Things started off well when Radio 2 play listed the first single "This Old Love", but then the success of Paolo Nutini, James Morrison and Mika just seem to overshadow Lior. Sony BMG pulled the plug on the single and the album is taken off the schedule, but Lior will have his day. "Autumn Flow" is an incredible album with hints of the three artists mentioned earlier, but also nods to Prince on "Superficial" and early Marc Bolan on "Stuck In A War" (where he sounds uncannily like Damon Albarn too!). His Middle Eastern influences can be heard on "Sitting With A Stranger", but it's the pure

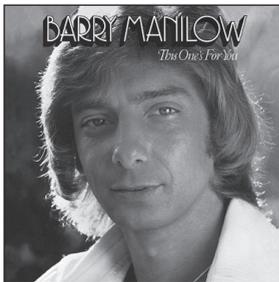
beauty of his voice on all the tracks that will win you over. With patience "This Old Love" can be a hit, so move over Paulo, James and Mika. This time next year Lior could be BRIT nominated. My only disappointment is that his participation in Eurovision seems to have been entirely overlooked in his biography! **RC**

### BARRY MANILOW

#### **This One's For You**

Sony BMG 82876867192

Although he was a million selling artist in America in 1976, at the time he was a 'one hit wonder' in the UK with "Mandy" (written by Scott English, co-incidentally). This album features four American hit singles and reached number 6 in the album chart. "Looks Like We Made It" was to be his third number one single in



just over two years and with nine of the original 11 tracks on this album being written, or co-written, by Barry it is, therefore, very surprising that one of the bonus tracks is a cover version of "Don't Throw It All Away". Quite how Barry came to hear a song written by two English men is anyone's guess, but his unfinished version of this SFE entry is fantastic. In fact, it may even be the best version! Quite why it has remained unreleased for over

30 years is a mystery, but it has finally been rescued from the vaults. **RC**

### MAYWOOD

#### **Maywood/Different Worlds/Colour My Rainbow/Cantado En Espanol**

EMI 0946 3616292 8

When sisters Alice May and Caren Wood represented the Netherlands in 1990 with "Ik Wil Alles Met Je Delen" they had already enjoyed more than 10 years of their joint musical career. This 4 CD collection brings together Maywood's first three albums, all of which were recorded in English, together with an album of their greatest hits performed in Spanish. Although three of the four albums included here have been previously available on CD, "Colour My Rainbow" makes its first appearance in this format and does not disappoint. With songs such as "Be My Man" and "Get Away" the party certainly begins in style, but elsewhere the thought provoking lyrics of "One-way Street" 'where's there's simply no return' and "Circumstance", 'where I wouldn't stand a chance' reveal a more serious side to the duo. Of course, the two earlier albums did not escape a similar seriousness, with "It's A Different World" and "What A World" being two examples from "Different Worlds". Maywood's self-titled debut album also features the rather sentimental "Mother, How Are You Today". It's a song that you either love or hate, and proved to be a disaster when used as a single to launch Alice and Caren's career in the UK! Elsewhere "Cantado En Espanol" contains 12 of the sisters' hits, with particular reference to the Spanish sounding originals "Pasadena", "Rio"

and Mano". The collection also features several bonus tracks, including both sides of Maywood's 1979 debut single "Since I Met You"/"If You And I", three German language recordings, an extended version of "Get Away", two additional English songs and the amazing live Gospel medley that certainly proves the girls could perform to the highest of standards. Sadly there is no room for the English version of their Eurovision entry, "No More Winds To Guide Me", which was, like their other later recordings, released by a variety of different record companies. However, if Maywood had been given the opportunity to represent their country during the earlier stages of their career, it is possible that they would have improved on their 15th position in Zagreb with much stronger material. By the nineties the sisters were performing what seemed to be weaker songs and were obviously less united on stage than they had previously been. A developing feud between the two unfortunately led to a final single in 1994, but a string of greatest hits and re-releases since then has helped to keep their music alive. **GL**

### MATT MONRO

#### **From Matt With Love**

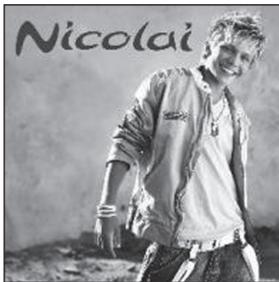
EMI 3725582

In the years since his untimely death EMI were initially very slow to recognize the demand for Matt Monro's recordings, but in more recent years fans have seen the market flooded with compilations of commonly available songs. However, this policy eventually paid off when "The Ultimate Matt Monro" appeared, and since then fans' needs have been catered for with "Rare Monro". Here

we are again with another crowd pleaser. "From Matt With Love" contains five hits alongside well known songs like "On Days Like These", "Born Free", "The Music Played" and "Days Of Wine And Roses", all of which are commonly available. However, there are a few gems among the remaining twelve tracks. This includes a Spanish version of "Love Story (Where Do I Begin)", "Till The End Of Time" from 1964, and "I'm Glad There Is You" from 1966, but the best track has to be "Be My Lady" which was recorded in 1983. It's an amazing song and shows just how superb his voice was two years before his tragic death. If only EMI would issue a CD of his 80's recordings. There is so much emphasis on his career in the 60's that these great tracks just get completely forgotten. At the time of writing "From Matt With Love" had peaked at number 30, proving that there is still a market for quality music, but EMI must really try harder! **RC**

**NICOLAI**

**Nicolai**  
*Universal UMD*  
 0602517130906



Now that Junior Eurovision is beginning to establish itself, it probably comes as no surprise that some of the entrants are now having careers. Dino

and Isabel, winners both, have had albums released and now joining them is Nicolai, Denmark's 2005 JESC representative. Among the 12 tracks is a remix of his song "Shake Shake Shake". Nicolai has co-written all the tracks here, which is a vindication of one of the rationales behind JESC. However, despite his youth he may scare the horses as Nicolai reveals himself to be a rapper with all the bling attached. Rap in Danish sounds quite cuddly and Nicolai tends to talk about girls - as in "Drommerpig" of whom his dream girls are Mary Kate and Ashley Olsen. Nicolai: more Olsen Twins than Olsen Brothers. **MKP**

**LIAM REILLY**

**Sings The Greatest Hits Of Bagatelle**  
*Emerald EMCD 9005*  
 1990 ESC runner-up Liam Reilly may have performed in a solo capacity at Eurovision, but back home in Ireland he was well-known as the lead singer and chief songwriter for the rock group Bagatelle. To coincide with the group reforming for a series of concerts, Reilly has recorded a solo album revisiting all his past glories. A version of the classy piano ballad "Somewhere In Europe" nestles neatly among Bagatelle classics like "Summer In Dublin" (recently voted as one of the top three Irish singles of all time), "Trump Card" and "Second Violin". The music is anthemic, fusing piano balladry with more traditional elements, but unlike their forerunners Horslips, lyrically Reilly's themes are rooted in the present day Dublin experience. Reilly has also done a version of "The Streets Of New York"

which was a huge hit for the Wolfetones. This is timeless music, recorded and sung by a classy musician. **MKP**

**CLIFF RICHARD**

**Cliff In Japan**  
*EMI 3819622*  
**Established 1958**  
*EMI 3819682*  
**Live At The Talk Of The Town**  
*EMI 3819692*  
**Help It Along**  
*EMI 3819702*  
**Small Corners**  
*EMI 3819712*  
 EMI re-issue another five of Cliff's original albums starting with 1968's "Cliff In Japan". Given that it was issued shortly after "Congratulations" it is a surprise that the album only peaked at number 28. The album was his first live release and features hits like "Bachelor Boy", "Living Doll", "Move It" and "The Minute You're Gone". It has now been extended to 18 tracks, but of these five re-issues it is of least interest to Eurovision collectors. "Small Corners" reached number 33 in 1978 and was Cliff's third album of gospel songs. Curiously it has been boosted by three bonus tracks which all seem to date from the nineties! "Established 1958" was recorded in 1968 and was the last time that Cliff recorded with the Shadows in a studio. Among its bonus tracks is Cliff's 1968 pre-selection entry "High And Dry", making it surprising that none of the others are included here. Bizarrely, though, the other five songs have been added to "Live At The Talk Of The Town" which was released in 1970! The album already includes a live version of "Congratulations", but the addition of the remaining Song For Europe

entries seems senseless. Although that now means Eurovision fans will have to buy both albums to get all six 1968 SFE tracks, it is 1973 that is proving elusive. For reasons known only to EMI they have decided to add "Tomorrow Rising", "Ashes To Ashes" and "The Days Of Love" to "Help It Along". The CD now includes the studio version of the title track (although I've always doubted that the original album featured a live version anyway!) and all these bonus tracks make perfect sense. What doesn't is the failure to add "Power To All Our Friends" and "Come Back Billie Jo". With the only other albums issued between 1972 and 1974 being "The Best Of Volume 2" and "Take Me High (Soundtrack)" where do EMI propose to place these missing tracks? In 1973 EMI in the Netherlands issued a compilation called "Power To All Our Friends" which featured most of Cliff's SFE entries from both years. What's wrong with a CD version of that album? So instead of buying just one CD, or possibly two, EMI have so far spread the 12 songs over three CD's (four if you count the various hits compilations that already include "Power To All Our Friends"). So while Cliff fans will probably welcome these re-issues, for Eurovision fans it is a mixed blessing. **RC**

**MARTIN STENMARCK**

**9 Sanningar Och En Lög**

*Universal 170495-6*

"Las Vegas" may not have set the world alight, but Martin Stenmarck has not looked back since. This album has seen plenty of success in Sweden and lead track "7milakliv" won the

Grammy in February 2007 for best single. Incidentally MF07 finalist Sarah Dawn Finer provides vocals across the ten tracks on view here. Martin has co-written eight of the tracks, all in Swedish, and so there is no room for his ESC entry. This is an album that I didn't warm to immediately, but after hearing several times the songs really burrow into your consciousness. My favourite track is the final one, "Hem". The sound is radically different from his ESC entry and has no link to schlager either. Pianos and guitars abound, and much of the album is mean, moody and magnificent. Worth investigating. **MKP**

**VARIOUS**

**2007 Dansk Melodi Grand Prix**

*My Way M 20121-2*



The official Danish selection album boasts a superb inlay booklet, following criticism labelled at previous years' CDs, now including lyrics to all entries. As we know, the selection was controversially won by the upbeat "Drama Queen" by DQ, beating the soul of James Sampson and the anthemic ballad "Sa Naer Som Nu" by Stig Rossen. There were 16 songs in all encompassing a range of styles with former Danish representatives Aud Wilken

and Jurgen Olsen on display. Will Danish schlager be sufficient to take them back to the ESC final? **MKP**

**VARIOUS**

**Eurovision 2007**

*Edel Records 0179162ERE*

With its somewhat confusing name, this CD is the official version of YLE's 2007 selection that saw 12 artists with two songs each. The hopes of the host nation rest with Hanna Pakarinen, former Pop Idol winner, and she should do moderately well. It is a shame, though, that many of the other songs were such an uninspiring lot. All credit to Finland for joining its Scandi-neighbours in releasing a CD compilation of entries. I liked Jani & Jetsetters' faux Western Surf sound and Jann Wilde & Rose Avenue, while having a soft spot for "Vaaratar" by Katra and Humane's "Plane Away". I am sure that everyone heading over to Helsinki will make this an essential purchase! **MKP**

**VARIOUS**

**Festivalfavoriter Hits Och Rariteter 1960-1969**

*EMI CMCD 6470*

**Festivalfavoriter Hits Och Rariteter 1969-1983**

*EMI CMCD 6471*

**Festivalfavoriter Hits Och Rariteter 1983-2006**

*EMI CMCD 6472*

This superb set of three budget priced CDs collects together 75 Swedish Melodifestival songs from across the years that mainly consist of non-winners and some rarities, including alternate versions of winning MF songs which were not performed on the ESC stage. The non-winners do not overlap the "Rätt Låt Vann" series released in the late 1990s. Particularly welcome

are English versions of Bjorn Skifs' 1978 entry, the Swedish version of Nova's 1973 entry and Osten Warnebring's 1960 winner which was sung at ESC by Siw Malmquist. The collections cover many MF entries long since undeservedly forgotten and comes right up to date with BWO from 2006. Essential for anyone interested in Swedish pop music. **MKP**

**VARIOUS**

**Melodifestivalen 2007**

*M & L Records MLCD 0011*

Once again Swedish Melodifestival spread its wings over several weeks of Saturday night TV culminating in a final of quality. This double CD has all 32 songs presented in order of performance and a mixed selection they are too. The Ark won with their glam rock song, but along the way fell Andreas Lundstedt with his Justin Timberlake R'n'B song, Magnus Uggla with his marching anthem, Nanne with what was frankly a mess and old timers Svante Thuresson and Anne-Lie Ryde. Everyone will have their own favourite, be it ballad or schlager, and this collection will allow you to recapture those memories. Naturally, an absolute must! **MKP**

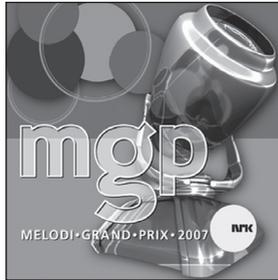
**VARIOUS**

**MGP Melodi Grand Prix 2007**

*NRK N50046-2*

Once again, NRK releases a CD of all the entries in the 2007 Norwegian Melodi Grand Prix won by the Thomas G:sson song "Ven A Bailar Conmigo". This CD contains all 18 songs that were performed leading up to the final. This was a fairly varied selection with "Hooked On You" and "Chicken Rodeo" initial favourites. Many of

the artists and songwriters returned from previous years, including Malin Shavenius, Teeny from Wigwam and my favourite Trine Rein. In common with the rest of Scandinavia, it is noticeable that most of these entries



are in English. However, it is also noticeable that the final is chock full of songs which are by-numbers schlager, novelty songs and rock-lite. File under could do better. **MKP**

**DIONNE WARWICK**

**Love At First Sight**

*Collectors Choice CCM760*

With the exception of one minor hit in 1974 the seventies were barren years, chart wise, in the UK for Dionne Warwick. After seven years with Pye Records she signed with Warner Brothers where she recorded five albums, none of which were a commercial success. The only hit was the single, "Then Came You"; a duet with The Detroit Spinners which reached number one in America. Collectors Choice have now re-issued all five albums for the first time on CD. The final album was released in 1977 and is full of beautiful vocals. Highlights include "Early Morning Strangers" and "Don't Ever Take Your Love Away". The interest here for Eurovision fans is indicated by the title track.

How Dionne came to record the song isn't documented (despite the detailed sleeve notes), but her version of the SFE entry "Do You Believe In Love At First Sight" is as good as, if not better than many of her hits. Despite its release as a UK single, the song has never previously appeared on a UK CD, so its release by Collectors Choice is very welcome. **RC**

**Singled Out**

**THE PROCLAIMERS  
feat. BRIAN POTTER &  
ANDY PIPKIN**

**"(I'm Gonna Be) 500 Miles"**

*EMI 3880422*

Here it is! The long awaited Bucks Fizz reunion recorded for posterity on CD single! In reality, this is comedian Peter Kay's attempt to raise money for Comic Relief by resurrecting the Proclaimers' infamous hit record while calling in a host of celebrities, past and present, to sing-along in true karaoke style. Brian Potter (Peter Kay) and Andy Pipkin (Matt Lucas of 'Little Britain' fame) feature on the first version of the song, while the original recording from 1988 provides the second track. It's not quite the reunion that Bucks Fizz fans were expecting, because it's impossible to distinguish the additional voices, but look carefully at the featured video and you will see Cheryl, Jay, Mike, Bobby and Shelley all singing along, as well as several glimpses of the lovely Sonia too! Sadly, these much loved Eurovision performers are less obvious to spot in the accompanying photo gallery. In addition to the CD there is also a DVD version of this release (EMI 3880429) containing the same track listing. **GL**

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## MISCELLANEOUS

Please would Martyn Knight and the others I write to regularly please contact me at 8 Caton Grove, Blackpool, Lancs FY3 7HP or e-mail [eurofan12001@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:eurofan12001@yahoo.co.uk) I've lost my address book, but do not want to lose contact with you! Thanks, Andi Musson

# 42 nations - 42 songs

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# Quiz Answers

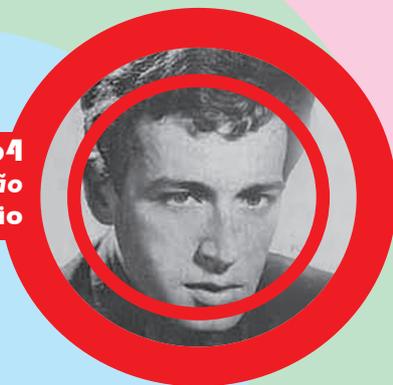
1. Michael Ball, Frances Ruffelle and Colm T Wilkinson
2. Jane Comerford (Texas Lightning)
3. 'Miss Saigon'
4. Javine
5. Carola
6. Maria in 'The Sound Of Music'
7. Marta Roure (Andorra 2004)
8. Ingrid Bjørnov & Benedicte Adrian a.k.a. Dollie De Luxe (Norway 1984)
9. 'Kristina från Duvemåla'
10. Tommy Körberg
11. 'Notre Dame de Paris'
12. Lyn Paul
13. 'Time'
14. 'Anything Goes'

# THE 'LAST' PAGE



**Germany 1964**

*Mann Gewöhnt Sich So Schnell An Das Schöne*  
Nora Nova



**Portugal 1964**

*Oração*  
Antonio Calvário



**Switzerland 1964**

*I Miel Pensieri*  
Anita Traversi



**Yugoslavia 1964**

*Život Je Sklopio Krug*  
Sabahudin Kurt

**All four songs received 'nil' points**