

VISION

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50 Glorious Years



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Edlines

Welcome to a very special issue of **Vision** that celebrates 50 years of British participation at the annual Eurovision Song Contest.

On behalf of **Vision** readers, I am especially delighted to welcome Patricia Bredin as a guest writer: Representing the nation in 1957 with "All", only Patricia can truly explain what it was like to sing the debut entry for her country and she has readily agreed to share her memories.

Elsewhere you will find an exclusive interview with The New Seekers, who were one of the most popular acts to represent the UK during the early 70s. Not wishing to omit anyone, there is also an overview of all 50 songs and singers, together with an indication of how the contest has opened up further opportunities in show business and beyond for those who sang for their country.

So while the infamous summer of 2007 becomes a distant memory worthy of fewer points than Jemini, if that were possible, sit back and enjoy the UK's impressive and often overlooked Eurovision history.

Best wishes,

Gordon Lewis

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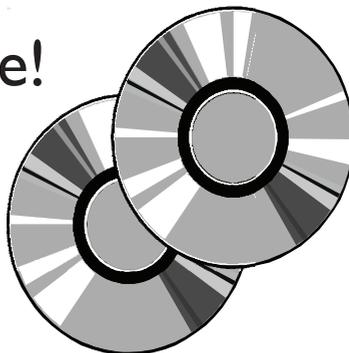
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50 Glorious

Gordon Lewis takes a trip down memory lane and recalls those songs and singers who flew the Union flag on the European stage

1957

"All"

Patricia Bredin

Lyrics: Alan Stranks / Music: Reynell Wreford

Highest UK Chart Position: Not Recorded

A little known star of the London stage, Patricia Bredin was approached by the BBC when it became apparent that none of the established singers wanted to perform "All". Ironically, it was Patricia who then flew to Frankfurt for the UK's debut at the Eurovision Song Contest. Afterwards she continued her stage career, reaching Broadway in 1962 where she replaced Julie Andrews in "Camelot". Patricia also developed a short lived film career, including the leading role in "Left, Right and Centre". For the last 30 years or so Patricia has lived in Canada, where she is currently writing her second book. "All" came 7th out of 10 songs. (7/10)



Teddy had both enjoyed successful careers prior to their celebrity marriage in 1955. Four years later they represented their country in Cannes with a memorable song and performance. Making use of a hand puppet on stage, "Sing Little Birdie" was the favourite to win, but Teddy remains convinced that it was Italian espionage that forced them into second place. Today the elderly couple enjoy their retirement while living in London. (2/11)

1960

"Looking High, High, High"

Bryan Johnson

Lyrics & Music: John Watson

Highest UK Chart Position: 20

The younger brother of Teddy Johnson and former choirboy at Westminster Abbey also represented his country on the Eurovision stage. Trained as a classical actor who featured in Shakespeare's "King Lear" and Oscar Wilde's "The



Importance of Being Earnest", "Looking High, High, High" turned Bryan into a radio celebrity overnight. However, it was always acting that

he enjoyed most of all, including national tours with the cast of "A Christmas Carol" and "Jane Eyre" during the seventies and eighties. Bryan died in 1995. (2/13)

1959

"Sing Little Birdie"

Pearl Carr & Teddy Johnson

Lyrics: Syd Cordell / Music: Stan Butcher

Highest UK Chart Position: 12

The Beckham's of their day, Pearl and

Years

1961

"Are You Sure?"

The Allisons

Lyrics & Music: Bob & John Allison

Highest UK Chart Position: 2

The Allisons caused the UK to have its first Eurovision scandal when it was discovered that the 'brothers' were unrelated to each other. Bob Day and John Alford were two friends who enjoyed making music, and saw their debut single selected to represent the nation



at the start of the swinging sixties. Sadly their success was short lived, which John blames on the emergence of The Beatles, but he still regularly

performs on the club circuit. Ill health has prevented Bob from doing likewise. *"Are You Sure?"* reached number one in the NME charts at a time when Britain had several top tens. (2/16)

1962

"Ring-a-ding Girl"

Ronnie Carroll

Lyrics: Stan Butcher / Music: Syd Cordell

Highest UK Chart Position: 46

Ronnie Carroll was already an established singer when he represented his country, having tasted chart success in 1956 with *"Walk Hand in Hand"*, but *"Ring-a-ding Girl"* failed to emulate this. He later developed a singing career on cruise ships, including the QE2, and during the last ten years has entered politics,

unsuccessfully campaigning on environmental issues during the general elections of 1997 and 2005. Ronnie now lives in London and recently released a comeback album. (=4/16)

1963

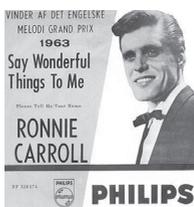
"Say Wonderful Things"

Ronnie Carroll

Lyrics: Norman Newell / Music: Philip Green

Highest Chart Position: 6

Ronnie Carroll became the first singer to represent the United Kingdom twice and has the unique honour of doing this in two consecutive years. Although



failing to improve on his previous fourth placing, *"Say Wonderful Things"* succeeded in reaching the top 10. (4/16)

1964

"I Love The Little Things"

Matt Monro

Lyrics & Music: Tony Hatch

Highest Chart Position: Did Not Chart

Considered by many as the greatest post-war entertainer of all time, Matt Monro enjoyed a career spanning 30 years and would regularly perform at sell-out venues across the globe. He became the first Eurovision singer to be appointed by the BBC, performing all six songs at the newly re-launched Song for Europe in 1964. Throughout his lifetime Matt sold in excess of 100 million records and, more than 20 years after his untimely death in 1985, there has been a resurgence of interest in both his music and career. It is, therefore, ironic that such a successful singer failed to chart with the single version of his Eurovision entry, although the EP featuring his Song for Europe entries was more successful. (2/16)

1965

"I Belong"

Kathy Kirby

Lyrics: Phil Peters / Music: Peter Lee Sterling

Highest Chart Position: 36

Also appointed by the BBC, Kathy Kirby was one of the most popular singers of the early sixties. Often compared to Marilyn



Monroe, Kathy's trademarks were lip-gloss, glamour and a powerful singing voice. She began to lose popularity soon

after her Eurovision appearance, with many blaming this on an unfortunate marriage to her manager. Bankruptcy and ill health also followed and, despite a revived interest in her music, Kathy has completely withdrawn to her London home in an attempt to avoid all publicity. Although the single stalled outside the top thirty, Kathy's Song for Europe EP reached number nine. (2/18)

1966

"A Man Without Love"

Kenneth McKellar

Lyrics: Peter Callender / Music: Cyril Ornadel

Highest Chart Position: 30

Considered by many as an unusual choice for Eurovision, Kenneth McKellar's singing abilities already spanned 20 years when he was appointed by the BBC and more than 35 albums were recorded during his lengthy career. Kenneth's trademark tartan kilt acknowledged his Scottish origins, and many of his recordings featured traditional and sacred songs from Scotland. It is believed that Kenneth still lives north of the border, his last known appearance being on BBC Radio Scotland's "The Reel Blend" in 2005. (9/18)

1967

"Puppet On A String"

Sandie Shaw

Lyrics & Music: Bill Martin & Phil Coulter

Highest UK Chart Position: 1

Successful sixties singer Sandie Shaw was appointed by the BBC for Europe and travelled to Vienna with the infectious "Puppet On A String". Her trademark barefoot performance led to the UK gaining its first ever Eurovision victory, but Sandie later claimed that participation at the event had all but destroyed her singing career. For more than three decades she refused to speak positively about the contest,



until 2003 when she unexpectedly watched the show from a Paris hotel room and realised that she had been part of something very big. Earlier

this year Sandie released a download only remix version of her winning entry entitled "Puppet's Got A Brand New String". (1/17)

1968

"Congratulations"

Cliff Richard

Lyrics & Music: Bill Martin & Phil Coulter

Highest UK Chart Position: 1

Eager to build on the success of 1967, Cliff Richard was appointed to perform the next UK entry in what was his tenth



anniversary year. The public chose the instantly memorable “Congratulations”, which also provided Cliff with another number one record in his home country and a massive hit across the globe. He was by far the most popular and successful singer to perform at the 1968 contest, broadcast from London’s Royal Albert Hall, but international victory escaped him by one point amid claims that Yugoslav vote rigging had destroyed his chance of winning. However, Cliff’s song is still a regular favourite at parties and celebrations nearly 40 years after it was first heard on television. (2/17)

1969

“Boom Bang-a-bang”

Lulu

Lyrics: Peter Warne / **Music:** Alan Moorhouse

Highest UK Chart Position: 2

Like Sandie and Cliff before her, Lulu was another star enjoying regular chart success at the time of her Eurovision appearance. The song chosen by the British public was not the best from her Song for Europe selection, but Lulu’s bubbly personality made her a firm favourite



with the international jurors. She easily won the contest, but ironically had to content herself in sharing this honour with the singers from France, the Netherlands and Spain. Since taking part at Eurovision Lulu has distanced herself from the event, but has continued to enjoy an extremely successful career. During the 1990s she reached number one by duetting with Take That on “Relight My Fire” and has recently toured with Jools Holland. (=1/16)

1970

“Knock, Knock Who’s There?”

Mary Hopkin

Lyrics & Music: John Carter & Geoff Stephens

Highest UK Chart Position: 2

Originally discovered through ITV’s talent show “Opportunity Knocks” in 1968, it was less than 18 months before the BBC were in discussion with Mary Hopkin’s manager about a possible Eurovision appearance. He agreed and “Knock, Knock Who’s There?” provided Mary with her fourth top ten hit. Following her marriage in 1971, Mary



partially withdrew from the music scene, but her vocals continued to be heard on a number of recordings, either under a pseudonym or supporting other artists. One final hit released under her own name appeared in 1976.

Today Mary continues to guest in the recording studio and occasionally on stage, but rarely gives interviews about her career. (2/12)

1971

“Jack In The Box”

Clodagh Rodgers

Lyrics: David Myers / **Music:** John Worsley

Highest UK Chart Position: 4

Despite recordings being made in the early sixties, Clodagh Rodgers did not hit the charts until 1969 when “Come Back And Shake Me” reached number three. Two years later Eurovision gave her another top five hit with what has probably become her best known song. Combining television appearances with



a successful singing career, Clodagh became household name throughout the seventies. Following the

untimely death of her husband, she temporarily withdrew from show business but has returned to the musical stage in recent years, including a UK tour as part of the cast of "Blood Brothers". (4/18)

1972

"Beg, Steal Or Borrow"

The New Seekers

Lyrics & Music: Tony Cole, Graeme Hall & Steve Wolf

Highest UK Chart Position: 2

Formed by Keith Potger in 1969 after the break up of his own group The Seekers, the most popular New Seekers line-up comprised Eve Graham, Lyn Paul, Peter Doyle, Marty Kristian and Paul Layton. Selling more than 35 million records and releasing four albums in 1972 alone, The New Seekers are particularly remembered for "I'd Like To Teach The World To Sing", a take on a Coca-Cola advertisement tune, as well as their Eurovision entry. Paul Layton continues to lead the group, which has gone through several changes in its almost 40 year history and currently features Donna Jones, Francine Rees, Mick Flinn and Mark Hankins. Marty Kristian



left the group in 2002 and temporarily returned to his native Australia. Peter Doyle had already done likewise, but sadly died in 2001. Lyn Paul developed a solo career after leaving in the seventies and has more recently starred in several West End shows, including the current touring production of "Footloose". Eve Graham remained with the group, marrying new member Danny Finn (also of Prima Donna) and later touring with him as a duo. She officially retired in 2000, but has since returned with two solo albums. (2/18)

1973

"Power To All Our Friends"

Cliff Richard

Lyrics & Music: Guy Fletcher & Doug Flett

Highest UK Chart Position: 4

Losing by one point did not deter the eternal Cliff Richard, who returned for his second Eurovision attempt in 1973. Possibly remembered for his red and black outfit and over choreographed routine, "Power To All Our Friends" helped return Cliff to the charts at a time when many of his records were proving less than popular. However, having narrowly come second in 1968, he failed to improve on that success and was forced into third place behind Spain and winners Luxembourg. Despite constant rumours in the years that followed, Cliff has never realistically considered a third appearance at the contest, but continues to perform at sell-out concerts across the country. (3/17)

1974

"Long Live Love"

Olivia Newton-John

Lyrics & Music: Valerie Avon & Harold Spiro

Highest UK Chart Position: 11

Despite some early musical activity



in her adopted Australia, Olivia Newton-John's career did not begin to develop until she returned to the UK and signed a record contract with Pye. This led to her being a regular guest on Cliff Richard's weekly television slot, with unconfirmed rumours of a romance between the two. A string of hits, including her Eurovision tribute to the Salvation Army, were followed by a move to the USA where she hosted her own TV show and starred alongside John Travolta in the movie "Grease"; a move that turned her into an international star. Olivia has continued to perform and record, her latest album released earlier this year, and survived a cancer scare in the 1990s. (=4/17)

1975

"Let Me Be The One"

The Shadows

Lyrics & Music: Paul Curtis

Highest UK Chart Position: 12

Originally formed to support Cliff Richard in 1958, The Shadows would develop their own career by focusing on the exceptional guitar skills of Hank Marvin. This led to a series of



instrumental hits throughout the sixties, including "Apache" and "Foot Tapper". By the seventies, original group members Hank Marvin and Bruce Welch had joined forces with John Farrar and diversified into vocal performances under the name of Marvin, Welch & Farrar. Former member Brian Bennett then rejoined the trio and The Shadows sprang back to life

in 1973. Two years later they were selected to represent the UK at Eurovision with "Let Me Be The One". This was followed by a string of further albums and performances until 1999 when the group decided to call it a day. However, the popularity of their music forced them out of retirement in 2004 for a farewell tour. Throughout their lengthy careers The Shadows had several members come and go, but of the Eurovision line up Hank now lives in Australia and has recently released a top ten solo album. Bruce Welch has served as a music consultant for several West End shows, while Brian Bennett has developed a successful career as a producer and composer of television theme tunes. Brian also joined Cliff Richard on a new recording of "Move It" in 2006 that featured Queen's Brian May. John Farrar has continued writing and producing, his most noticeable successes including "Xanadu" featuring ELO and "Heathcliff" starring Cliff Richard. (2/19)

1976

"Save Your Kisses For Me"

Brotherhood of Man

Lyrics & Music: Tony Hiller, Lee Sheridan & Martin Lee

Highest UK Chart Position: 1

Brotherhood of Man were originally formed in 1970, but it is the Eurovision line up of Sandra Stevens, Nicky Stevens, Martin Lee and Lee Sheridan that is still



known and loved by all. Statistically "Save Your Kisses For Me" is the most successful Eurovision winner of all time, having received the highest percentage of votes available in a single contest. The group continued their success with several chart hits, such as "Angelo" and "Figaro", and were often considered as the British ABBA. In 1982 they submitted "When The Kissing Stops" into the Song for Europe but declined to perform the entry, preferring to be remembered as contest winners rather than possible losers. Although the four members have developed separate careers outside the music industry, Sandra, Nicky, Martin and Lee are still performing as a group across the UK and Europe more than 30 years after their international victory. (1/18)

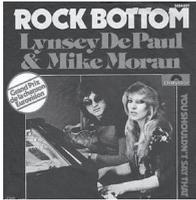
1977

"Rock Bottom"

Lynsey de Paul & Mike Moran

Lyrics & Music: Lynsey de Paul & Mike Moran

Highest UK Chart Position: 19



Two successful singer/songwriters joined forces for their Eurovision attempt. Lynsey de Paul first entered the charts in 1972 with "Sugar Me",

but is possibly more remembered for the TV theme song "No Honestly" two years later. After Eurovision she moved to California, before returning to the UK in the eighties and branching out into production, acting and even television presenting. Last year she was appointed as a director of the Performing Rights Society; an organisation that protects the copyright interests of performers, composers and lyricists. Former member of the Ian Gillan Band, Mike Moran was

no stranger to the music scene when he paired up with Lynsey to co-write and perform "Rock Bottom". This was followed by several other joint projects, but he is particularly well known for writing Freddie Mercury's "Barcelona" and the theme tune to "Taggart". Mike continues to be involved in music production. (2/18)

1978

"Bad Old Days"

Co-Co

Lyrics & Music: Stephanie de Sykes & Stuart Slater

Highest UK Chart Position: 13

Having come 2nd with "Wake Up" at the 1976 Song for Europe, Co-Co finally represented the United Kingdom two years later in Paris, albeit with a slightly different line up. In 1980 four members of the group reappeared at the UK final as The Main Event, but split soon after. Group member Cheryl Baker would join Bucks Fizz and go on to win Eurovision, while Keith Haslar now works for a magazine publisher based in London. Terry Bradford continues to have some involvement in the music industry having joined with Sussie Arvesen for album "Hands Across The Ocean" in 1995. The duo continues to record and perform together, but the whereabouts of Josephine Andrews, Charlie Brennan and Paul Rogers is unknown. (11/20)



1979

"Mary Ann"

Black Lace

Lyrics & Music: Peter Morris

Highest UK Chart Position: 42

Originally a four piece comprising Alan Barton, Colin Routh, Terry Robson, and Steve Scholey, it was Alan and Colin who ultimately would keep the band alive. After their Eurovision appearance Black Lace were transformed into a somewhat infamous duo by hits such as "Agadoo"



and "Superman" that, despite their total tackiness, were dance floor fillers during the early eighties and beyond! Having left the band to join

Smokie, Alan was tragically killed in a road traffic accident during the spring of 1995, while Colin moved to Tenerife, where he still performs well known Black Lace songs under the name of Colin Gibb. Terry Robson has left the music industry and now lives in Yorkshire, but it is not known what happened to Steve Scholey. (7/19)

1980

"Love Enough For Two"

Prima Donna

Lyrics & Music: Stephanie de Sykes & Stuart Slater

Highest UK Chart Position: 48

Formed especially for Eurovision, six piece group Prima Donna featured sisters Jane and Kate Robbins, Sally-Ann Triplett, Lance Aston, Alan Coates and Danny Finn. The group split soon after performing at the song contest, with each of the six members going their separate ways. Nothing is known of Jane, but Kate joined the cast of "Crossroads" in 1981 and, as a result, released the solo single "More Than In Love" that

reached number two. She then developed a career as a comedienne and actress. Sally-Ann Triplett would return to Eurovision as one half of Bardo, while Danny (Kevin) Finn married former New Seeker Eve Graham and toured with her as a duo before managing a company responsible for designing theme park rides. He is also a member of German based group Wishful Thinking. Alan eventually teamed up with The Hollies and toured the UK, but Lance appears to have disappeared without trace, although his sister Jay would win Eurovision as a member of Bucks Fizz. (3/19)

1981

"Making Your Mind Up"

Bucks Fizz

Lyrics: Andy Hill / Music: John Danter

Highest UK Chart Position: 1

Cheryl Baker, Jay Aston, Bobby G and Mike Nolan all successfully auditioned to form the pop group Bucks Fizz with the sole aim of winning Eurovision. Their efforts paid off and, coupled with a catchy song and cheeky dance routine, the foursome stormed to victory in Dublin. Their success continued with chart topping albums and singles, until the group were involved in a serious coach crash in 1984 from which Mike Nolan has never fully recovered. One year later and Jay Aston announced her departure, but was quickly replaced by Shelley Preston. Cheryl remained with the group until the early nineties when she became a popular television



presenter, West End star and mother. Several versions of Bucks Fizz began to appear soon afterwards; one headed by Bobby G and the other featuring Mike Nolan. Earlier this year the four original members, together with Shelley, featured on the Comic Relief single, "500 Miles", suggesting that more than 20 years of personal differences were finally resolved. They were invited to attend Making Your Mind Up in March, but the absence of Bobby G indicated that some tensions still remain. (1/20)

1982

"One Step Further"

Bardo

Lyrics & Music: Simon Jeffries

Highest UK Chart Position: 2

Having previously been a member of Prima Donna, Sally-Ann Triplett was already a Eurovision veteran when she teamed up with singer/actor Stephen Fischer for "One Step Further" and its slightly suggestive stage routine! Follow up singles failed to emulate the success of their contest entry. Sally-Ann has since become a well-known actress on the London stage, starring in "Anything Goes", "Guys & Dolls", "Grease" and the current production of "Take Flight". Stephen remains in the music industry as a session musician, mainly playing keyboards. (7/18)



1983

"I'm Never Giving Up"

Sweet Dreams

Lyrics & Music: Jan Pulsford, Ron Roker & Phil Wigger

Highest UK Chart Position: 21

Comprising Carrie Gray, Helen Kray and Bobby McVay, Sweet Dreams were the latest manufactured group to represent the United Kingdom in quick succession. Collectively their musical success was limited, but Carrie Gray married singing David Grant and has since become a well respected person in the music business.



The husband and wife team also won a MOBO award for best gospel act in 1998. Carrie regularly appears on television today and is particularly

remembered for her role as a Fame Academy judge. Bobby moved to Cardiff where he became a radio presenter for Red Dragon FM. He left earlier this year and now presents for rival Welsh station, Real Radio FM. Helen apparently left the world of show business after her brief moment of fame, although this is not certain. (6/20)

1984

"Love Games"

Belle & the Devotions

Lyrics & Music: Paul Curtis & Graham Sacher

Highest UK Chart Position: 11

Belle was the stage name for singer Kit Rolfe, while the Devotions were made up of Laura James and Linda Sofield. Due to the activities of English football hooligans leaving a trail of destruction across Europe in the months leading up to Eurovision, the retro sounding "Love Games" became the first song to be booed off the contest stage, although this



was directed at the UK rather than the singers themselves. Kit later provided backing vocals for Samantha Janus in 1991 and has regularly worked as a session singer. She also manages her own equestrian school in Essex. The current whereabouts of the remaining two members is unknown. (7/19)

1985

"Love Is ..."

Vikki

Lyrics & Music: Vikki Watson & James Kaleth

Highest UK Chart Position: 49

Beating off the likes of Alvin Stardust, Vikki was selected to perform the classy "Love Is ..." that came a credible fourth in the contest. She had originally trained as an opera singer, but quickly discovered that her voice was more suited to a popular style. Having won the Irish Castlebar Song Festival in 1989, Vikki moved to the USA where she now writes, records and performs her own special brand of Celtic music under the name of Aeone. She also composes music for television programmes on a regular basis. (4/19)



1986

"Runner In The Night"

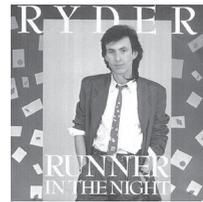
Ryder

Lyrics: Maureen Darbyshire / Music: Brian Wade

Highest UK Chart Position: 98

Lead singer Maynard Williams was

the son of actor/singer Bill Maynard who competed at the UK final in 1957. The remaining group members comprised Andy Ebsworth, Geoff Leach, Dudley Philips, Paul Robertson and Rob Terry. Maynard would go on to perform on the London stage, including the Andrew Lloyd Webber musical "Starlight Express". Andy continues to work as a musician, frequently supporting live shows across the UK. Dudley is also found within the music industry, releasing a solo album in 2005 entitled "Life Without Trousers". Rob appears to have worked as a session musician, but the whereabouts of Geoff and Paul is currently unknown. (7/20)



1987

"Only The Light"

Rikki

Lyrics & Music: Richard Peebles

Highest UK Chart Position: 96

Glaswegian taxi driver Rikki Peebles became the surprise winner of the 1987 Song for Europe with his self-penned song about alien encounters. He proudly displayed his tartan colours on the European stage, but any success was short lived. Rikki achieved what was then the UK's lowest ever placing and quickly returned to his former career in Glasgow. More recently he has been seen singing in the bars and clubs scattered around the city. (13/22)



1988

"Go"

Scott Fitzgerald

Lyrics & Music: Julie Forsyth

Highest UK Chart Position: 52

Having duetted with Yvonne Keeley and scored a top ten hit with "If I Had Words" in 1978, Scott moved to Germany where he developed a singing career within the European clubs. His strong ballad, composed by the daughter of British entertainer Bruce Forsyth, narrowly missed out on Eurovision glory by one point. Winner Celine Dion continues to enjoy an international career, while Scott returned to his adopted Germany before moving into the ambient music of African drumming and forest sounds! (2/21)

1989

"Why Do I Always Get It Wrong?"

Live Report

Lyrics: Brian Hodgson / Music: John Beeby

Highest UK Chart Position: 73

Comprising Ray Caruana, Brian Hodgson, John Beeby and Maggie Jay, Live Report came second at Eurovision but failed to set the British charts alight with their entry. Despite claiming he would never take part in the song contest again, Ray returned to his native Malta where he unsuccessfully took part in the 1994 Malta Song for Europe competition. He now fronts his own tribute band to Sammy Davis Jr. Maggie has been spotted at recent folk festivals across the British Isles, but nothing is known about Brian or John. (2/22)

1990

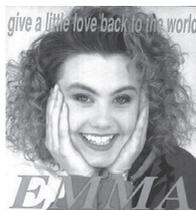
"Give A Little Love Back To The World"

Emma

Lyrics & Music: Paul Curtis

Highest UK Chart Position: 33

At 15 Emma Booth became the youngest



singer to represent the United Kingdom. She has since developed a career singing on cruise ships in the Caribbean. One of Emma's backing singers, Miriam Stockley, supported winning act Katrina & the Waves in 1997. (6/22)

1991

"A Message To Your Heart"

Samantha Janus

Lyrics & Music: Paul Curtis

Highest UK Chart Position: 30

Stage school student Samantha Janus convincingly won Song for Europe, but was subsequently criticised that her dress sense in Rome was unsuitable for a song about hungry children. However, her main interest was acting, appearing in "The Bill" before going on to star in "Game On" and "Pie In The Sky" during the nineties. She also featured in the 1998 British film comedy "Up 'n' Under" alongside Neil Morrissey and Brian Glover. Samantha then took a career break to raise a family while making the occasional appearance on screen. She has recently joined the cast of "Eastenders" as Ronnie Mitchell; cousin to Phil and Grant, and niece to Queen of the Vic Peggy Mitchell. (=10/22)



1992

"One Step Out Of Time"

Michael Ball

Lyrics & Music: Tony Ryan, Paul Davies & Victor Stratten

Highest UK Chart Position: 20

After several years of open contest, the BBC once again chose to appoint their singer and selected West End star Michael Ball whose credits included "Les Miserables". Already an accomplished singer and actor, Michael had also enjoyed chart success with "Love Changes Everything" taken from the Andrew Lloyd Webber musical, "Aspects of Love".



Since Eurovision Michael has continued to perform in musicals, including "Sunset Boulevard" and "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang". At the time of writing he was due to star

in "Hairspray" at London's Shaftesbury Theatre, having just completed the 2007 revival of "Kismet". Alongside his acting career, Michael has also released a series of albums that showcase his amazing vocal qualities, and has even branched out into occasional television presenting. (2/23)

1993

"Better The Devil You Know"

Sonia

Lyrics & Music: Dean Collinson & Brian Teasdale

Highest UK Chart Position: 15

The ever popular Sonia first shot to fame after persuading the team of Stock, Aitken and Waterman to offer her a record contract. This resulted in her debut single, "You'll Never Stop Me Loving You", reaching number one in

1989. Further hits followed and the BBC appointed her as their Eurovision singer in 1993. "Better The Devil You Know" narrowly missed out on victory, and Sonia's singing career plummeted soon after. A final single, "Hopelessly Devoted To You", was on the back of her appearance in the stage version "Grease" during 1995. An attempt to re-launch herself through "Reborn in the USA" failed. Sonia has also acted throughout her career, appearing in "Bread" and on the "Lily Savage Show" starring fellow Liverpudlian Paul O'Grady. Now married to her childhood sweetheart and manager, Sonia continues to perform across the country and starred in "Jack and the Beanstalk" earlier this year. (2/25)



1994

"Lonely Symphony (We Will Be Free)"

Frances Ruffelle

Lyrics & Music: George de Angelis & Mark Dean

Highest UK Chart Position: 25

She was an unexpected choice for Eurovision, but Frances Ruffelle had already established herself as a West End singer, starring in "Starlight Express", "Les Miserables" and "Children of Eden". "Lonely Symphony" capitalised on Frances' performance capabilities,



but poor chart success led to the scrapping of her first solo album, "Fragile", which was later released in Japan. She has continued to record and release new

material through small, independent labels, but a recent stage comeback in "Over Here!" has been delayed. (10/25)

1995

"Love City Groove"

Love City Groove

Lyrics & Music: Tatsiana Mais, Jay Williams, Paul Hardy & Stephen Rudden

Highest UK Chart Position: 7

Returning to an open selection, Love City Groove were chosen by the British public to perform their self titled entry in Dublin. Comprising Stephen Rudden, Jay Williams, Yinka Charles and Paul Hardy, their rap style brought them top ten success in the UK charts, but a follow up single peaked at 84. They released a further single under the name of 'Love City' which barely reached the top 100 and the group disbanded soon afterwards. Jay continues to release drum'n'base music, while Yinka has had some further success under the name MC Reason. Paul remains in the music business as an A&R consultant, but the current whereabouts of Stephen is unknown. (=10/23)

1996

"Ooh Aah ... Just A Little Bit"

Gina G

Lyrics: Simon Tauber / **Music:** Steve Rodway

Highest UK Chart Position: 1

Former Australian DJ Gina G arrived in the UK during the early nineties and quickly found herself winning the



opportunity to represent her adopted country at Eurovision. "Ooh Aah ... Just A Little Bit" failed to win the contest, but gave Gina her first number one hit which paved the way for further singles before a lawsuit with a former manager unexpectedly brought her career to a halt. In 2003 she took part in "Reborn in the USA", but this failed to revive her previous success, as did an appearance at the 2005 Song for Europe. She now releases on her own private label, "Tonight's The Night" reaching the top 50 last year, and is a frequent performer on the club circuit. (8/23)

1997

"Love Shine A Light"

Katrina & the Waves

Lyrics & Music: Kimberley Rew

Highest UK Chart Position: 3

An early incarnation of the Waves was fronted by singer/songwriter Kimberley Rew as early as 1975, but it was not until Katrina Leskanich joined the band that



success started to grow. In 1985 the classic "Walking On Sunshine" entered the top ten and became something of a trademark song

that still receives radio play more than 20 years after its release. The nineties brought a downturn to the band, although they regularly performed in Germany throughout this time. However, things would change when they were selected to represent the UK at Eurovision, going on to win the contest with the anthemic "Love Shine A Light". Unfortunately the band dissolved soon after, and Katrina diversified into radio presenting and occasional performing. She also entered the Swedish Melodifestival in 2005 with little success, and co-presented

"Congratulations" from Denmark later that same year. Kimberley continues with song writing and producing, while remaining group members Vince de la Cruz and Alex Cooper are involved in supporting new artists through their music agency business. (1/25)

1998

"Where Are You?"

Imaani

Lyrics & Music: Scott English, Phil Manikiza & Simon Sterling

Highest UK Chart Position: 15

Losing the contest by just six points, Imaani's "Where Are You?" has become one of the most respected British entries of all time. Sadly this was not recognised by EMI at the time and they quickly parted company with the young singer. Since then Imaani has worked as a session singer, and her amazing vocals have often been heard on tracks such as "Freak Like Me" (2000) and "Bring Me Love" (2006). She recently gave a rare performance of her Eurovision entry at Stockholm Pride. (2/25)

1999

"Say It Again"

Precious

Lyrics & Music: Paul Varney

Highest UK Chart Position: 6

Sophie McDonnell and Jenny Frost were two friends who decided to set up a group that would rival The Spice Girls. They held a series of auditions which resulted in Louise Rose, Anya Lahiri and Kalli Clark-Sternberg joining the duo. Recognised by the now disgraced music maestro Jonathan King, Precious won the UK final with "Say It Again" and gained a top ten hit into the bargain. Further singles and an album would follow, but by the end of 2000 it was decided that the five girls would pursue separate careers. Sophie entered television as

a children's presenter, while Jenny enjoyed further success as a new member of Atomic Kitten. Anya returned to acting and modelling, and has featured in Sky One's saucy soap "Dream Team" alongside fellow Precious member Louise. Kalli's current activities are not known. (=12/23)

2000

"Don't Play That Song Again"

Nicki French

Lyrics & Music: John Springate & Gerry Sheppard

Highest UK Chart Position: 34

Having worked as a session singer for many years, Nicki French first enjoyed chart success in 1995 with her cover of "Total Eclipse of the Heart". Several follow upsingles were less successful until she returned to the public eye in 2000 as the UK's latest Eurovision representative.

Sadly European televoters were not enthusiastic about "Don't Play That Song Again" which resulted in Nicki succeeding Rikki in becoming the worst



placed British entry at that time. Nicki continues to release new material and has become an established singer on the UK club circuit. Her genuine enthusiasm for the song contest has also made her a firm favourite with Eurovision fans across Europe. (16/24)

2001

"No Dream Impossible"

Lindsay Dracass

Lyrics & Music: Russ Ballard & Chris Winter

Highest UK Chart Position: 32

Like Emma before her, Lindsay Dracass was still in her mid teens when she

performed "No Dream Impossible" at the Eurovision Song Contest in Copenhagen. Many criticised her management for forcing Lindsay to sing at an event that was beyond her performance experience, and her record company refused to release any follow up material. Today Lindsay continues to perform at pubs and clubs across her native Yorkshire. (15/23)

2002

"Come Back"

Jessica Garlick

Lyrics & Music: Martyn Baylay

Highest UK Chart Position: 13



She made the final 10 for the first series of Pop Idol and, for a few short weeks, appeared on the television show that discovered the likes of Will Young, Gareth Gates and Darius. A few months later and Jessica was back on

TV to represent the UK with the strong ballad "Come Back". During the last five years she has been a special guest on several entertainment programmes and recorded a charity single with Welsh classical singer, Bryn Terfel, in 2003. Unfortunately Jessica's planned album has so far failed to materialise. (=3/24)

2003

"Cry Baby"

Jemini

Lyrics & Music: Martin Isherword

Highest UK Chart Position: 15

Chris Cromby and Gemma Abbey met each other at stage school, subsequently deciding to form the duo Jemini. Having toured the pubs and clubs of northern England, their lucky break finally came

when they were selected to sing "Cry Baby" at the 2003 Eurovision Song Contest. However, Britain and the USA were at war with Iraq, something that was opposed by the rest of Europe, and coupled with a poor performance, Chris



and Gemma were to receive the infamous 'nil points' and the UK's worst placing to date. This led to a short lived career with several television appearances during the months that followed. More recently the two singers have parted company and are understood to be working in different retail sectors within their home city of Liverpool. (26/26)

2004

"Hold On To Our Love"

James Fox

Lyrics: Tim Woodcock / Music: Gary Miller

Highest UK Chart Position: 13

Having performed the pubs and clubs of England, both as a solo singer and with future Liberty X member Kevin Simm, James Fox made his television debut as part of Fame Academy in 2003. Constantly criticised by music judge Richard Park, he later received the opportunity to sing "Hold On To Our Love" at Eurovision and was a popular choice for his army of fans. Since then he has developed a strong singing career, starring in "Jesus Christ Superstar" and the Broadway production of "Movin' Out". James has



also supported Lulu and Wet Wet Wet on their respective tours, and has travelled to Iraq where he performed for the British troops. Last November he performed with fellow Welsh singer Katherine Jenkins at the Royal British Legion's Festival of Remembrance broadcast from London's Royal Albert Hall, where he also accompanied Chris de Burgh for the hymn "Abide With Me". (16/24)

2005

"Touch My Fire"

Javine

Lyrics & Music: Javine Hylton & John Themis

Highest UK Chart Position: 18

Like Jessica and James before her, Javine also found fame by participating in a reality television show. This time it was Pop Stars the Rivals, which resulted in the formation of rival girl and boy bands. Javine narrowly missed out on a place in Girls Aloud, but this did not stop her receiving a record contract which resulted in her first top five hit. This was followed by further singles and an album, leading to her participation in the UK final where she thankfully forced Katie Price aka Jordan into second place. Javine was less fortunate at Eurovision and has now developed a career performing in stage musicals, including the recent production of "Daddy Cool" and featuring on the accompanying cast recording. She is now expecting her first child and has consequently placed her career on hold. (22/24)

2006

"Teenage Life"

Daz Sampson

Lyrics & Music: Daz Sampson & John Matthews

Highest UK Chart Position: 8

Prior to his Eurovision appearance Daz Sampson was primarily known for his

role within Uniting Nations and the hit single "Out Of Touch".

Eurovision added a new string to his bow, although some questioned the use of backing singers dressed in school uniform as being sexually provocative. Daz vehemently denied these claims, but it possibly lost him and the UK votes on the big night. An attempt to enter Eurovision 12 months later failed, but new material has been made available via his own website, while a possible return to the international stage has not been ruled out. (19/24)



2007

"Flying The Flag (For You)"

Scooch

Lyrics & Music: Russ Spencer, Morten Schjolin, Andrew Hill & Paul Tarry

Highest UK Chart Position: 5

Scooch came into existence at the end of the nineties and were often compared to the popular Steps with their catchy tunes and carefully choreographed routines. Four singles and an album were released within 12 months, but the group decided to split leaving members Natalie Powers, Caroline Barnes, David Ducasse, and Russ Spencer to develop their own careers. A one-off reunion took place in January 2004 when Scooch excited their fans at G-A-Y resulting in a mini tour of the UK. Three years later they formally reformed for Making Your Mind Up and the song that would become the 50th UK entry on the Eurovision stage. Although officially staying together as group, Russ has recently been seen treading the boards at Southampton's Mayflower theatre with the cast of "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang". (=22/24) ■



50 years after her international debut the UK's first ever Eurovision performer, **Patricia Bredin**, recalls her thoughts and feelings from 1957, and tells something of what she has been doing since

I was thrilled to be asked by **Vision** to pass on my memories of 1957. Ye God's ... how can it be 50 years when it only seems like a couple of them. Time is the strangest thing. Needless to say I admit to being 43! What gal of incredible quality and charm would admit more? Anyway, here goes ...

I was playing in the musical "Free as Air", by Julian Slade of "Salad Days" fame, at the Savoy Theatre in London's West End. I was a pretty, unworldly little thing, but I could sing. I don't really know how [the UK selection] is done these days, but back then the songs were chosen first and then each song was performed by two different stars of the day. But they had a problem! No-one would sing this little ballad "All". The people at the BBC were

stuck. It had to be performed because it had been selected.

It so happened that the secretary of show producer Francis Essex came to see "Free as Air". She went back to Francis and said that there was this sweet little thing who sang divinely, so why not get her to do the song that none of the stars would sing. So I was summoned to the BBC's Television Centre. Oh heavens! It was like visiting the On High in Hallowed Halls. I was terrified. Let's face it; those splendid ones at the BBC are indeed slightly more important than God.

I was ushered into someone's office, but can't recall who, and that same someone in deep sonorous Shakespearian tones enquired "would you care to be on television?" Can a fish swim? "Yes



Patricia winning the UK final

please" was my keen and eager reply. "Very well, this is what you will sing" I was told. "Thank you very much" said I, without question, and off I went armed with the song, handwritten by a charming elderly chap called Reynell Wreford assisted by Alan Stranks.

There were to be six heats. The alternative version of "All" was to be orchestral, so having it performed in two ways was solved. Frank Chatsfield conducted the BBC orchestra; a delightfully modest man and a wonderful conductor. I, of course, was in a haze, never having done television before. Panels across the country did the voting and I won the heat. Unbeknown to me Francis Essex had a £10 bet that I would win the thing ... and the dear lad won his bet.

I then went on to win the final by a huge landslide which was very unpopular with the audience at the Shepherd's Bush Empire Theatre. Most of them were song promoters and none of them had any interest in a dreary little ballad that none of the stars had wanted to sing. I didn't even have a dress to wear for the splendid occasion, and had been taken to the BBC wardrobe department where a sweet little Victorian dress was chosen for me. I recall it had a gold frill around the top.

After the final it was off to Germany, Frankfurt and the Hessisches Rundfunk for the big event. I didn't really believe that it was possible to link the whole of Europe by live television. It was very surreal to me. The BBC people couldn't find the sweet little dress I had worn for the British event, so I was taken around the shops to find another one. I would far rather have worn the sweet little Victorian number, but not to worry. I did as I was told in those days!

I didn't even complain when Frank Chatsfield wasn't allowed to conduct for me, but I still wondered why not. I didn't understand that little old thing called power ... Eric Robinson, a favourite with the BBC, took over. So Eric did the conducting. He was accustomed to working with important people and here he was with me, a nobody. He conducted the song as if I were accompanying him. It went at his tempo and not mine.

I felt like an appendage, with an entourage of very important BBC officials. All the other performers had their make-up artists and hairdressers with them. I had me! But that was okay - I didn't know any better. The orchestra was huge, and the strings glorious and wildly exciting, rather like those of the Three Tenors in recent years. It was like singing on clouds.

The Hessisches Rundfunk had a nickname - the German for Dog's Heaven.

It had a great number of high golden columns and, seemingly, when dogs go to Heaven they dream of a place with big golden trees! The performers had to enter down a long stair. Each conductor would appear with their performer and descend the stairs together. They would then split; the conductor to the orchestra and the performer to the stage.

When it came to the United Kingdom's turn I was utterly astonished when Eric Robinson rushed ahead of me down the stairs, leaving me to wend my way down alone. What a moron, I thought to myself, but not to worry as I had more important things to think about. Of course, "All" didn't win. It simply wasn't the right song for the event, which is no excuse for me of course. I was just thrilled to do my best for my country. I would love

to come back from Canada, where I have lived for some 30 years, to sing "All" again and possibly co-host a future show.

Since Eurovision I have married and divorced Ivor Emmanuel, the Welsh singer, drinker and womanising buddy of Richard Burton, following a very unhappy marriage. I then found perfect happiness with Charles MacCulloch of Nova Scotia and the love of my life. After my last West End musical for Sir Peter Saunders, "Cocky", at the Vaudeville Theatre, Strand, I left England for Canada and marriage.

I have now been widowed for 27 years; my adored husband dying on our honeymoon cruise of the South Pacific. I have never recovered from this tragedy and, in terrible grief, took up beef farming. We had lots of land, a huge estate and I buried myself in cows ... countless

numbers of them. A form of insanity, of course, and I don't know why someone didn't knock me on the head. But it resulted in me writing a Canadian best seller, "My Fling on the Farm", which could pose the question 'have they nothing better to read?'

It is truly amazing what can come out of the manure pile. I just didn't have the knack of employing farm help, so usually ended up doing the shovelling myself. Oh how I loved 'my girls'. They loved me to sing to them in the barn. I bred the champion herd sire of the Maritimes. He was a gentle giant of the Simmental breed.

Some years ago I became the Founding President of the Nova Scotia Youth Orchestra. I paint in oils and watercolours, and am currently writing my next book, "Legal Crimes"; the true

life story of my widowhood trials and tribulations. It is very frightening what people will do if there is loot up for grabs and one is alone and defenceless. I hope you'll all buy a copy when it comes out. I am also hoping that Dame Judy Dench will star in the movie ...

With warmest good wishes to you all.
PATRICIA. ■

***Editors Note:** Since sharing her memories of 1957, Patricia has learnt of the selection of Scooch and the UK's 50th song "Flying the Flag (For You)" in 2007. She informs **Vision** that a letter has been sent to the BBC's Director General, Mark Thompson, expressing her concern and disgust that this momentous milestone was not recognised as part of the show. No doubt Patricia will share any response with **Vision** in due course.*



Patricia: Flinging on the farm!

The Song of Songs for Europe

Thank you to everyone who took time to vote in **Vision's** special poll to determine the best British entry from the last 50 years. Voting was close, and often full of surprises, but the Song of Songs has been awarded to Katrina & the Waves and their winning entry, "Love Shine A Light".

Sandie Shaw came a close second with "Puppet On A String", with winners Bucks Fizz and Brotherhood of Man both making the top ten. Lulu was the least successful winner, coming in at 29th with "Boom Bang-a-bang", while Ronnie Carroll's "Ring-a-ding Girl" received the infamous 'nil points' from Vision readers.

And as Katrina proves that she still rules the waves, congratulations are also offered to reader **Geoff Elkin** whose name was drawn at random to win the mystery prize of a £15 HMV voucher.



Katrina: Number One again

The Results

Song	Votes	Position
Love Shine A Light	191	1
Puppet On A String	187	2
Beg, Steal Or Borrow	152	3
Ooh Aah.. Just A Little Bit	144	4
Making Your Mind Up	130	5
One Step Further	124	6
Where Are You?	119	7
Save Your Kisses For Me	106	8
Come Back	94	9
I Belong	91	10
Congratulations	89	11
Love Is ...	82	12
Why Do I Always Get It Wrong?	81	13
Knock, Knock Who's There?	75	14
Go	74	15
Don't Play That Song Again	68	16
I'm Never Giving Up	66	17
Are You Sure?	60	18
Bad Old Days	59	19
Flying The Flag (For You)	58	20
Better The Devil You Know	54	21
No Dream Impossible	52	22
I Love The Little Things	51	23
Love Enough For Two	50	24
Love Games	48	25
Teenage Life	47	26
Lonely Symphony (We Will Be Free)	45	27
Power To All Our Friends	44	28
Boom Bang-a-bang	41	29
Rock Bottom	40	30
A Message To Your Heart	40	30
One Step Out Of Time	31	32
Let Me Be The One	30	33
Sing Little Birdie	29	34
Jack In The Box	26	35
Love City Groove	24	36
Long Live Love	22	37
Say It Again	16	38
Touch My Fire	15	39
Cry Baby	14	40
Hold On To Our Love	14	40
Say Wonderful Things	13	42
Looking High, High, High	11	43
Only The Light	9	44
Give A Little Love Back To The World	8	45
Mary Ann	5	46
Runner In The Night	3	47
All	1	48
A Man Without Love	1	48
Ring-a-ding Girl	0	50

All Things British

An overview to collecting Eurovision entries from the United Kingdom.
By Richard Crane

From the very first entry in 1957 sheet music has been published to accompany the UK's entry. Collecting this warrants a separate article in itself and so, for the purposes of this article, sheet music has been omitted unless it is unique. To list all the various international releases would also take up several issues of *Vision*, but some of these have been included where they provide the collector with something different.

Where possible an indication on the current availability of each entry on CD has been included. Earlier CD releases are mentioned where appropriate, but some compilations have been ignored unless they are of particular note. All UK entries have appeared on CD single since 1989 and only those which have appeared on albums since their original release are referred to. Unless otherwise stated, all other entries are currently unavailable on CD, but any additions or amendments are welcome.

The figure in brackets refer to the

highest UK charting position of the entry followed by the number of weeks spent in the chart. These figures are taken from the Guinness Book Of Hit Singles, but other charts did exist and may have produced different placings, particularly during the earlier years of British participation at the song contest.

1957 "All"

Patricia Bredin (-/-)

Patricia Bredin did not record the first official United Kingdom entry, although cover versions do exist. Robert Earl's rendition was only released on 78 rpm (Philips PB 684) while an instrumental by Victor Silvester was issued on 7" (45) and 10" (78) (Columbia DB 3939). Both these recordings appeared in the sheet music charts, peaking at number 14 during April and May 1957. Sheet music was also issued for Patricia Bredin. With recent changes to copyright laws, it is not impossible to rule out Patricia Bredin's live performance being transferred onto CD in the future.

1959 "Sing Little Birdie"

Pearl Carr & Teddy Johnson (12/8)

The UK's second entry and the first of many runners-up in the contest. Alongside cover versions by Barry Kendall & June Lowe, as well as Bert Weedon, "Sing Little Birdie" climbed to number two in the sheet music charts. All three versions were also issued on both 7" and 78 with Pearl and Teddy's being on Columbia (DB4275).



"Sing Little Birdie" appears on numerous fifties compilations, but collectors should search out EMI's "The Magic Of Teddy Johnson & Pearl Carr" (5219852) issued in 1999 that includes the couples two Song For Europe entries from 1960. "Sing Little Birdie" is also featured on "This Is Eurovision" (Virgin VTDCD 142) released in 1997, but both CD's are now unfortunately deleted. The song was issued in Norway on yellow vinyl (Columbia 45-DD 697).

1960 "Looking High, High, High"

Bryan Johnson (20/11)

The younger brother of Teddy Johnson also finished second with his Eurovision entry but came eight places lower than Pearl & Teddy in the charts. Although the 7" (Decca F11213) is quite commonly available there is no CD compilation of Bryan's recordings. The most sought after issue of "Looking High, High, High" is the "Looking High" EP (Decca DFE6664) which was not released until 1961 and comes in a superb glossy picture sleeve. Incidentally, the B-side of the 7" and EP both feature Bryan's version of "Each Tomorrow" which came

third in the UK pre-selection.

Another collectable item is the one sided demo on Decca DRF 26791. "Looking High, High, High" has appeared on a Readers Digest CD set, but the only other CD release is the cover version by David Hughes on "The Best Of David Hughes" (EMI 5412262) and "Here In My Heart" (Vocalion CDLK4134), both of which were issued in 2002.

1961 "Are You Sure?"

The Allison's (2/16)

Despite their success in the charts and at Eurovision, there is an unusual lack of any compilation CD featuring The Allison's original Fontana recordings. While "Are You Sure?" can be found on countless sixties collections, their CD releases are currently one album of re-recordings, "All The Hits Plus More" (Prestige CDSPG 0525), which was issued in 2002 and is now deleted. Originally "Are You Sure?" appeared on 7" (Fontana H294), on the "Are You Sure?" album (TFL 5135 (mono) and STFL 558 (stereo)) and on the "Words" EP (TFE 17339). Both the LP and EP contain a brief history of the duo on the back cover. "Are You Sure?" was re-issued by Fontana in 1969 (TF1021) in an art sleeve, on Old Gold in 1982 (OG9247) as the B-side to "Bobby's Girl" by Susan Maughan, and again in 1984 on Classic Cuts (CUT 101). Perhaps the more interesting releases of "Are You Sure?" come from overseas. There is a rare American release that comes in a picture sleeve showing the duo in the studio (London 45 1977), while a French EP (Fontana 465155) features the same tracks as the UK release, but with a glossy sleeve featuring the Allison's at the airport prior to their contest performance. A German re-issue from 1982 (Fontana 8700757) features another exclusive picture sleeve.

1962 "Ring-a-ding Girl"

Ronnie Carroll (46/2)

1963 "Say Wonderful Things"

Ronnie Carroll (6/14)

Ronnie Carroll's career included seven hits in as many years, including both his Eurovision entries. "Ring-a-ding Girl" was only a minor hit and the original 7" (Philips PB1222) is now extremely rare, but "Say Wonderful Things" (Philips 326574 BF) remains relatively easy to find. Collectors should look out for the "Roses Are Red" EP (Philips 433630 BE) which comes in a black and white glossy sleeve and includes "Ring-a-ding Girl". Both songs were also released on the album "Wonderful Things And Other Favourites" (Wing WL1108) in the late sixties. They were first issued on CD in 1996 on "Roses Are Red : The Ronnie Carroll Story" (Diamond GEMCD 004), the inlay of which features extensive sleeve notes. However, this has since been replaced by "Roses Are Red" (Castle PIESD 295) released in 2003. In the nineties Ronnie Carroll re-recorded both of his Eurovision entries for inclusion on "Stars Of The London Palladium" (K-Tel ECD 3282).

1964 "I Love The Little Things"

Matt Monro (-/-)

Although the 7" failed to chart (Parlophone R5103) the "A Song For Europe" EP (Parlophone GEP 8898) reached number 16 in the EP charts and was issued before the pre-selection show. Therefore, there was little reason



for the public to buy the 7" as well. Both formats are quite rare and are sought after by Matt Monro fans and Eurovision collectors alike. Although "I Love The

Little Things" made its CD debut on "This Is Eurovision" (VTDCD 142) and is currently available on BR Music's "Eurovision Volume 2" (BS 81172), it is strangely absent from any Matt Monro compilation. One interesting overseas release is the "From Russia With Love" EP (Odeon 50E 3752) issued in France and featuring "I Love The Little Things".

1965 "I Belong"

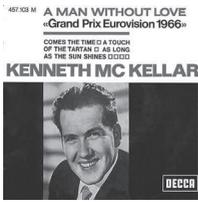
Kathy Kirby (36/3)

Unusually "I Belong" was issued in two different recordings at the same time. The original version, and that of another pre-selection song "I'll Try Not To Cry", can be found on the "Song For Europe" EP (Decca DFE 8611) which was issued prior to the pre-selection show and reached number 9 in the EP charts. When "I Belong" won the song was re-recorded, along with runner up "I'll Try Not To Cry", and these were issued on 7" (F12087). The 7" recordings finally appeared on CD in 1989 on "Secret Love" (8206282) which was replaced by "The Very Best Of" (Spectrum 5520972) in 1997. More recently "I Belong" was included on "The Complete Collection" (9824795) in 2005, while the original EP versions were eventually issued by Vocalion on "Hits, Rarities and Lip Gloss" (CDLK 4215). Kathy Kirby's most collectable recording of "I Belong" is the Italian language version, "Tu Sei Con Me", which has yet to surface on CD. Another European is worth collecting is the French EP (Decca 457062) as it features a head and shoulders picture of Kathy Kirby on the sleeve.

1966 "A Man Without Love"

Kenneth McKellar (30/4)

Despite being his only hit single, "A Man Without Love" has yet to be issued on CD. The 7" was issued by Decca (F 12341) but the matrix number would



appear to indicate that the B-side, “As Long As The Sun Shines”, was expected to be the A-side. The latter song was also in the pre-selection alongside “Country Girl” and all three songs were made available as sheet music. The “Songs For Europe” EP (DFE 8645) was issued containing all five songs but failed to chart. Only “Country Girl” has been issued on CD and this can be found on “The Decca Years 1955-1975” (Decca 4664152) re-issued in 2006. Cover versions of “Country Girl” by Tony Bennett, Scott Walker and the composer, Robert Farnon, are featured on various CD releases.

1967 “Puppet On A String”

Sandie Shaw (1/18)

The UK’s first winner has spawned countless cover versions and is often the object of ridicule, but is still played by radio stations across the country at Eurovision time! The original 7” (Pye 7N 17272) is easy to find, although not necessarily in good condition. Much harder to locate is the “Tell The Boys”



EP that contained the other four Song For Europe entries (NEP 24281) and reached number four in the EP chart. “Puppet On A String” was recorded in several different languages and issued across Europe in a vast array of different picture sleeves and formats. Listing all the variations would take up several pages, but to collect the foreign language recordings EMI helpfully issued several CD’s in 2003. The French recordings are on “Pourvu Que Ca Dure”

(5915762) while “Le Cantante Scalza” (5915782) features the Italian. “Marionetas En La Cuerda” (5988352) includes the Spanish and the German collection is named “Wiedehopf Im Mai” (5988362). Many of Sandie’s CD’s also feature her Song For Europe entries as well. Collectors will be interested in the Bear Family CD that was issued in 1999 and featured a previously unreleased German version of “Puppet On A String” that is not included on the EMI CD. “Dein Anderes Gesicht – Ihre Duetschen Aufnahmen” (BCD16353) was deleted shortly before the EMI CD was issued. Other collectable releases of “Puppet On A String” include an EP issued in the late seventies (Pye Flashback FBEP 109) which came in an exclusive picture sleeve, the mini-album “A Constellation Of Stars” (Teepee LS-1) that contained eight songs by different artists in aid of The National Society For Mentally Handicapped Children, and an Indian 7” which features “Tell The Boys” as the A-side but has the same catalogue number as the UK single. One cover version worth mentioning is by The Cocktail Cabinet (Page One POF 046) which appears to have been recorded by the song writers! “Puppet On A String” is available on countless CD’s, and Sandie Shaw made a re-recording of it as “Puppet’s Got A Brand New String” which was available as a download only track through her website earlier this year.

1968 “Congratulations”

Cliff Richard (1/13)

Despite losing by a single point to Spain, the majority of the British public thinks “Congratulations” won the Eurovision Song Contest. The song gave Cliff his ninth number one and the 7” is easily found (Columbia DB8376). Far more difficult to locate is the “Congratulations”

EP (SEG 8540) which was issued after the single topped the charts. This release was very unusual because the EP charts had been discontinued in 1967 and record companies became reluctant to continue issuing this format. Until 2007 the EP was the only place to find the majority of Cliff's 1968 Song For Europe entries, but EMI's CD re-issue programme saw all six songs issued on CD. "Congratulations" was re-issued in 1982 with the same catalogue number but in a picture sleeve, and it was also part of a 12 single box set with the catalogue number CR ONLY1. In 1993 it appeared as the B-side to "Never Let Go" (EMP281) which was housed in a poster sleeve. The rarest recording of "Congratulations" occurred in 1997 when rain stopped play and Cliff performed an impromptu sing-a-long at the Wimbledon Tennis Tournament. Four songs were issued including "Congratulations" which only appeared on the cassette release of "Be With Me Always" (EMI TCEM 453). The song has also appeared on several of Cliff Richard's live albums, but the studio and live versions currently appear together on the CD re-issue of "Cliff Live At The Talk Of The Town" (EMI 3819692) which also includes four of his 1968 Song For Europe entries. Cliff recorded his Eurovision entry in several languages and the German recording of "Congratulations" is available on several German compilations. A double CD entitled "Congratulations To Cliff" (Magic 3930630) contains the French version, alongside all six 1968 Song For Europe entries, but the Dutch and Italian versions seem confined to the Bear Family box set "On The Continent" (BCD 15903). There are countless alternative picture sleeves issued across the globe and "Congratulations" has the distinction of being the first UK Eurovision entry to be

a hit in America (it reached 99!). Finally, one of the composers, Phil Coulter, issued an instrumental version on Pye (7N17511).

1969 "Boom Bang-a-bang"

Lulu (2/13)

Ridiculed by many radio and TV presenters for its banal lyrics and song title, "Boom Bang-a-bang" gave the UK its second winner (with three other countries). It also gave Lulu her biggest chart success until she reached number one with Take That in 1993, and so the 7" is commonly available (Columbia DB8550). In a break with tradition there was no EP issued in the UK, although one did surface in Brazil. This featured a still from "To Sir With Love" on the cover and contained "Boom Bang-a-bang", "March" (from Song For Europe), "Boy" and "I'm A Tiger" (EMI Odeon 71D 4145). Apparently there was a similar EP issued in Israel. "Boom Bang-a-bang" was issued in a variety of picture sleeves around Europe, many of which are now rare. Lulu recorded her Eurovision entry in Spanish, French, Italian and Spanish, but "To Sir With Love - The Complete Mickie Most Recordings" (EMI 5603692) only includes the French and Italian versions. This double CD also features the original recording of "Boom Bang-a-bang" alongside all her other Song For Europe entries.



1970 "Knock, Knock, Who's There?"

Mary Hopkin (2/14)

Signing to the Beatles' Apple Records made Mary Hopkin instantly collectable, which automatically pushed

up the cost of her recordings. While "Knock, Knock, Who's There?" (Apple 26) was a huge hit, the art sleeve depicting an apple shaped Union Jack is difficult to find in good condition. However, the European sleeves are extremely collectable as the majority of these feature Mary on the sleeve. The single reached number 92 in America. "Knock, Knock, Who's There?" is only available on the CD compilation "Those Were The Days" (Apple CDSAPCOR 23) issued in 1995. In 2003 John Carter's original version of the song was issued on "Measure For Measure – The John Carter Anthology 1961-1977" (RPM D 268).

1971 "Jack In A Box"

Clodagh Rodgers (4/10)

"Jack In A Box" followed the well worn path and led to further accusations of banality towards Eurovision. Nevertheless the song was a big hit and produced several collectable variations. It is difficult to know which is the rarest, but the three-track maxi single seems to be the commonest. This was issued in a standard RCA sleeve and played at 33 1/3 rpm and featured "Jack In A Box" as the A-side with "Someone To Love Me" and "Wind Of Change" on the B-side (RCA 2066). There are two standard 7" singles - RCA 2068 which features "Someone To Love Me" as the B-side while RCA 2069 has "Wind Of Change" instead. Both these issues are usually found with the centre pushed out, indicating that these were manufactured for use in jukeboxes. Whether or not RCA 2067 is another variation is unknown. Although there were no picture sleeves in the UK, several were issued in Europe and Clodagh recorded the song in Italian and Spanish. The single was also issued in America (RCA 74-0474). "Jack In A Box" was briefly available on CD on "The Masters" (Eagle EABCD 076) issued

in 1997. It was also included on "This Is Eurovision" and is currently available on "Eurovision Volume 2" (BR Music BS 81172).

1972 "Beg, Steal Or Borrow"

The New Seekers (2/13)

Issued in a picture sleeve (Polydor 2058 201) that is now hard to find in good condition, "Beg, Steal Or Borrow" is commonly available on CD. Eurovision collectors will probably prefer to buy the 2006 compilation "Songbook 1970-74" (Universal 9832012) as it contains



the New Seekers' Eurovision entry alongside their remaining five Song For Europe tracks. Like other entries from this period it is

the foreign picture sleeves that are of particular interest to collectors. The New Seekers recorded "Beg, Steal Or Borrow" in German as "Oh, Ich Will Betteln, Ich Will Stehlen" (Philips 6006 207) and this recording appeared on the German CD "Greatest Hits" (Mercury 5653812) in 1998. The single was one of nine hits for the group in America, peaking at number 81. The most interesting foreign release is an EP that features "Beg, Steal Or Borrow", "Blackberry Way", "I'd Like To Teach The World To Sing" and "Sing Out". The EP was released on Philips (6205020), but gives no indication as to its origin. Collectors should be aware that later line-ups of the New Seekers have re-recorded "Beg Steal Or Borrow" and should check accompanying notes before making a purchase. Eve Graham also re-recorded "Beg, Steal Or Borrow" for her 2005 album "The Mountains Welcome Me Home" (Scotdisc CDITV 721).

1973 "Power To All Our Friends"

Cliff Richard (4/12)

"Power To All Our Friends" is constantly over-shadowed by "Congratulations", but it was still Cliff's biggest hit for five years and gave his career a new lease of life. Although his four other Song For Europe songs were issued as an EP in a



picture sleeve (EMI 2022), "Power To All Our Friends" was issued in the standard EMI paper sleeve making it one of Cliff's least collectable singles. Eurovision collectors buy it only for his

other pre-selection song, "Come Back Billie Jo", which has yet to surface on CD, but it still doesn't command very high prices. "Power To All Our Friends" is easily found on several Cliff compilation CD's. Like previous UK entries it is the foreign picture sleeves that command the most interest and Cliff recorded "Power To All Our Friends" in German, French and Spanish. All three versions can be found on the Bear Family box set "On The Continent" (BCD 15903)

1974 "Long Live Love"

Olivia Newton John (11/8)

Pye records were so convinced that "Angel Eyes" was going to win the Song For Europe that they pressed the single up with this track as the A-side. However, when "Long Live Love" won the company had to quickly repress the single! As "Long Live Love" had been the original B-side it was easy enough to flip sides, but several copies of the original pressing reached the shops and these are more collectable than the later issue. Unlike previous years there was

very little interest for "Long Live Love" in Europe, although at least one overseas picture sleeve exists through EMI. Olivia did record the song in German and it appeared on the CD "Die Top 70ER Schlager 1974 - 1975" (Laserlight 16095) issued in 1993. "Long Live Love" was also the title of an album released



to cash in on the songs success. It was issued by EMI (EMC 3028) and featured all six of Olivia's pre-selection songs. The album reached number 40 in the

UK and was re-issued on CD in Australia by Mushroom records (D21036). "The Definitive Collection" (Universal 5842792), issued in 2004, also includes Olivia's Eurovision entry.

1975 "Let Me Be The One"

The Shadows (12/9)

In a move similar to 1974 EMI pressed the original batch of "Let Me Be The One" with "Stand Up Like A Man" as the A-side (EMI 2269). The single came in a plain white sleeve and copies with the entry marked as the A-side are quite scarce as the record company didn't bother to withdraw the incorrect pressing. Not surprisingly The Shadows received a better welcome in Europe and there are many European issues with different picture sleeves, although they all seem to have the same B-side. "Let Me Be The One" was included on the album "Specs Appeal" (EMI EMC 3066), alongside the other five Song For Europe entries, and climbed to number 30. The album was re-issued on CD in 1992 as "Specs Appeal Plus" (EMI CDP7800422) but was quickly deleted. It is currently available as a double CD from France, "Specs Appeal / Tasty"

(Magic 3930416). "Let Me Be The One" is also available on "50 Golden Greats" (EMI 5275862).

1976 "Save Your Kisses For Me"

Brotherhood Of Man (1/16)

Number one for six weeks in 1976, "Save Your Kisses For Me" is probably the easiest to find of all the UK's Eurovision entries. Before the song won Song For Europe it was housed in a stiff glossy picture sleeve that declares "Your souvenir copy of A Song For Europe" (Pye released three of this years pre-selection songs and featured the same wording on all three picture sleeves). Despite its win, the single was then housed in a generic Pye sleeve once the initial run was exhausted. The original picture sleeve (Pye 7N 45569) is now very scarce while copies without it are practically worthless. "Save Your



Kisses For Me" came in a variety of European picture sleeves; one stating that it is the UK Eurovision entry and a later sleeve with the wording changed to declare it as the Eurovision winner or sometimes just stickered. The single was re-issued in 1982 by Old Gold with "Oh Boy" on the B-side (OG9127) and appears on many compilation CD's. It was re-recorded by the original group line-up in the nineties and is found on the cassette album "Greenhouse" (BOM 97).

1977 "Rock Bottom"

Lynsey De Paul & Mike Moran (19/7)

Despite winning the contest in the previous year, national enthusiasm for Eurovision started to decline from 1977. "Rock Bottom" fared disappointingly in the charts and appeared to curtail Lynsey

De Paul's career. However, this also co-incided with the arrival of punk music and many other mainstream artists suffered similar fates at this time. "Rock Bottom" was issued by Polydor (2058859) in its standard company sleeve and copies in mint condition are hard to find. The B-side, "You Shouldn't Say That", has never appeared on any of Lynsey's albums or compilations. The single was issued in a picture sleeve in France (2001708) but few other countries appear to have followed suit. The song was recorded in German as "Fur Immer" and this, together with the original, is currently available on Lynsey's "Greatest Hits" CD (Repertoire REP 4313).

1978 "Bad Old Days"

Co-Co (13/7)

Co-Co narrowly missed representing the UK in 1976, but two years later they were back with a slightly altered line up. The inclusion of Cheryl Baker in the group has led to increasing demand for Co-Co's releases. "Bad Old Days" was issued by Ariola Hansa (AHA 513) initially in a picture cover which shows the B-side as "Keep Singing Those Love Songs" whereas this was actually "Get You Out Of My Life". If any copies were pressed with the original track they would be highly collectable, if indeed they still exist. In the Netherlands the single was issued in an art and picture sleeve with the same photograph as the UK, but both sleeves have the same catalogue number (15546 AT) and the same B-side. The group also issued an album "Bad Old Days" (AHAL 8005) which is very scarce. Despite Cheryl Baker's involvement there has been no Co-Co material issued on CD and even the version of "Bad Old Days" included on "This Is Eurovision" is taken from the vinyl recording.

1979 "Mary Ann"

Black Lace (42/4)

Of all the UK's entries this is one of the most difficult to find. Issued by EMI (2919), the single sold poorly and only the initial batch was released in picture covers that mention nothing about the group's participation in the contest. In contrast, the German picture sleeve does refer to the song as being the "Englischer Beitrag" (English entry)! Extremely hard to find in mint condition, and not available anywhere on CD, EMI still own the rights to the song. Black Lace have been unable to persuade them to make the track available for CD release.

1980 "Love Enough For Two"

Prima Donna (48/4)

Like "Mary Ann", this is virtually impossible to find in mint condition and in its original picture sleeve. The single was issued by Ariola (ARO221) and, once again, makes no mention of Eurovision. The song finished third and, given the fact that the group included Kate Robbins and Sally Ann Triplett, it is surprising that the song has yet to surface on CD.



1981 "Making Your Mind Up"

Bucks Fizz (1/12)

Given the runaway success of "Making Your Mind Up" you could be forgiven for thinking that it wasn't particularly collectable, but even this number one single has produced a couple of rarities. The first of these is the orange label. At the time of its release RCA were in the process of changing their labels from orange to black and a handful of copies were pressed in the original colour. These would have mainly been

for promotion and jukeboxes, but a few did reach the shops. All copies carry the same catalogue number (RCA 56). In Ireland an identical single was issued in a picture sleeve and it is also worth seeking out the German picture sleeve single (RCA PB 5339). In 1986 Old Gold paired "Land Of Make Believe" with "Making Your Mind Up" (OG 9617) and initial pressings were distributed in picture sleeves. Old Gold later re-issued the single on CD in 1996 (12623 63582) but this time with an art sleeve. Finding "Making Your Mind Up" on CD is easy but, apart from the various Sony / BMG Bucks Fizz compilations, watch out for several re-recorded versions. Some of these are by Bucks Fizz featuring Bobby G, but the majority are by Bucks Fizz featuring Mike Nolan. It was the latter line-up that re-recorded the song for release as a CD single in 1998. "Making Your Mind Up '98" was issued on President (PTCD607). There is an official live version on "Live At The Fairfield Hall, Croydon" (Jet JETCD 1001) which was issued in 1991 with the group at that time featuring Bobby, Cheryl and Mike. In the same year a remix of "Land Of Make Believe" was issued on 12" (Living Beat SMASH 19), but a planned 7" and CD single were cancelled. The flip side of this 12" features a mega mix which includes "Making Your Mind Up". Probably the rarest release of the track comes from Australia. To promote the group's debut album RCA Australia issued a flexidisc (PROMO 54) which featured snippets from four tracks including "Making Your Mind Up". Completists might also want to look out for the parody "It's Only A Wind Up (Making Your Mind Up)" by Brown Ale. It was issued on Radioactive in 1981 (RAD 502) and is allegedly performed by Andy Hill and Nichola Martin!

1982 "One Step Further"

Bardo (2/8)

Another single that is relatively easy to find also holds the distinction of being the first UK entry to have been issued as a picture disc (Epic EPCA11-2265). This is particularly hard to locate, but the original 7" issued on Epic (EPCA 2265) did feature a picture sleeve while initial



copies have a paper label rather than the more common plastic moulded centre. "One Step Further" has been issued on the "This Is Eurovision" CD

but, once again, this recording was taken from a vinyl single. In 2006 a limited edition CDR of Bardo material was made available and this included not only the single version but also the original demo sung by Andy Hill.

1983 "I'm Never Giving Up"

Sweet Dreams (21/7)

Just two years after winning the contest, interest in Eurovision began to wane again. When Ariola issued "I'm Never Giving Up" (ARO 333) hopes were high for a good placing in both the contest and the charts. They even issued a picture disc (AROPD 333), but the lack of support, both at home and abroad, led to Sweet Dreams being quickly dropped by the label. Finding a 7" in mint condition is difficult and the picture disc is much rarer. One other Sweet Dreams' collectable is the sheet music, early copies of which state the song is recorded on Arista Records rather than Ariola. "I'm Never Giving Up" has yet to appear on CD.

1984 "Love Games"

Belle & the Devotions (11/8)

Following a bad reception during the

contest the British public rallied around Belle & the Devotions and "Love Games" is one of the few UK entries to increase its chart position a week after the contest. The single was released by CBS (A 4332) and, like Bardo, early copies were pressed with a paper label. For the first time the track was also issued on 12" (TA 4332) which featured an extended version. "Love Games" was included on the "This Is Eurovision" CD but was the vinyl recording.

1985 "Love Is ..."

Vikki (49/3)

Despite coming 4th in the contest "Love Is ..." failed to crack the Top 40. Signed to PRT (Precision Records & Tapes), formerly Pye, the single was issued in a glossy picture sleeve (7P 326) and later copies had "The UK's Eurovision Song Contest Entry" stickered on it. The single was also released on 12" (12P 326) with an extended version of "Love Is ...". In 2002 Sanctuary issued a compilation of Song For Europe entries entitled "Puppets On A String" (CMRCD 498) and this included "Love Is ...".

1986 "Runner In The Night"

Ryder (98/1)

The first UK entry that failed to chart in 22 years is now impossible to find. The single was issued by Virgin Records' offshoot Ten Records (TEN 1) and comes in a glossy sleeve depicting only the lead singer, Maynard Williams. In fact, Ryder had problems getting signed to any record label so Williams had 500 copies of the song privately pressed to create interest. The first issue of "Runner In The Night" is stickered with "Song For Europe 1986" while later copies show the word "Winner". The B-side of the single

features an alternative ballad version. Despite Virgin Records issuing the "This is Eurovision" CD, the company decided against including "Runner In The Night" among its tracks and the song remains unavailable on CD.

1987 "Only The Light"

Rikki (96/1)

Issued by Scottish independent label OK Records, "Only The Light" was released in a glossy picture sleeve (OK 010) and as an extended 12" (OKL 010) that appeared in a plain company sleeve. Rikki was also the first UK Eurovision artist since Bucks Fizz to have an album released. Named after the single, the album was issued on vinyl LP (OKLP 3006), cassette (ZCOK 3006) and, for the first time, CD (CDOK3006). The LP featured the single version of the title track, while the cassette and CD included a new extended mix of "Only The Light". The CD also included extra tracks not available on the other two formats.

1988 "Go"

Scott Fitzgerald (52/2)

Coming second to Celine Dion by just one point failed to gain Scott Fitzgerald any public sympathy and his failure to enter the Top 40 led to Scott Fitzgerald returning to his adopted Germany. "Go" was issued by PRT (PYS 10) and the B-side featured a live version of the song. The single was also issued on 12" (PYT 10), but this had the same tracks as the 7". The composer, Julie Forsyth, and her partner Dominic Grant recorded a version of "Go" that was only issued in the Netherlands. Despite no official CD release, "Go" was issued on the Norwegian release "Melodi Grand Prix



1988" CD and featured all 22 original entries from 1988.

1989 "Why Do I Always Get It Wrong?"

Live Report (73/1)

Although the format had already been around for several years "Why Do I Always Get It Wrong?" was the first UK Eurovision entry to be issued as a CD single. It was released by PRT on the



Brouhaha label (CD CUE7) alongside a standard 7" (CUE7) and a 12" (12CUE 7). All formats featured card art sleeves but, despite being

placed second in the contest, none of the formats sold well and the CD single is now one of the hardest to find. The 12" featured an extended version while the CD single carried both versions of "Why Do I Always Get It Wrong?".

1990 "Give A Little Love Back To The World"

Emma (33/6)

Although Emma's song was the first UK Eurovision single to make the Top 40 since 1984, it is almost as difficult to find as other entries from the same period. "Give A Little Love Back To The World" was issued on Big Wave as a CD single (BWRCD 33), 7" (BWR 33) and cassette single (another first!) (BWRMC 33). All formats are extremely scarce, but the CD single is particularly collectable as it also includes an extended version of the song.

1991 "A Message To Your Heart"

Samantha Janus (30/3)

The music industry was so sure that Samantha Janus would triumph at Eurovision that she was snapped

up by the newly formed Hollywood records. Although "A Message To Your Heart" just made the Top 30 she was quickly dropped by the record label and Samantha turned her back on music in favour of acting. The song was released on 7" (HWD 104), cassette single (HWD 104MC) and CD single (HWD 104CD). As in previous years the CD single featured an extended version of her Eurovision entry. In 1997 her new found fame as an actress obviously influenced Virgin's decision to include "A Message To Your Heart" on the "This Is Eurovision" CD.

1992 "One Step Out Of Time"

Michael Ball (20/7)

Michael Ball had already reached number two with "Love Changes Everything" three years prior to his Eurovision entry, but "One Step Out Of Time" stalled at number 20. Signed to Polydor it was issued on 7" (PZ 206), cassette (PZMC 206) and CD (PZCD 206), although there were no extended versions this time! Michael Ball has a very loyal fan base and the CD single has become very collectable in recent years. Although "One Step Out Of Time" is readily available on CD, Eurovision collectors should seek out "Michael Ball" (Polydor 5113302) from 1992, "The Best Of Michael Ball" (Polygram TV 5238912) issued in 1994 and "The Collection" (Spectrum 5517712) from 1995, as they all contain pre-selection songs as well as his Eurovision entry.

1993 "Better The Devil You Know"

Sonia (15/7)

"Better The Devil You Know" came second in Eurovision and gained the highest UK chart placing since 1984. Sonia was signed to Arista and the single was issued on 7" (74321146877), cassette (74321146874) and CD single (74321146872); the latter featuring an

extended' version. All formats are still relatively easy to find, but Eurovision collectors tend to seek out the album "Better The Devil You Know" (74321149802) as this also included three of her Song For Europe entries. The album has now been deleted, but Sonia's Eurovision entry can be found on her recent "Greatest Hits" (Sony BMG 88697106052) issued in 2007.

1994 "Lonely Symphony (We Will Be Free)"

Frances Ruffelle (25/6)

Following the success of two established artists the BBC turned to Frances Ruffelle and, while there was no doubting her stage credentials, she appeared to lack the commercial appeal of her predecessors. After "Lonely Symphony" won the pre-selection the title was lengthened to "Lonely Symphony (We Will Be Free)" and the song was issued by Virgin on 7" (VS 1499), cassette (VSC 1499) and CD single (VSCD 1499) including an extended version. A one-track promo also appeared (VSDJ 1499) which featured alternative artwork to the commercial release. Unlike many other UK entrants, Frances decided not to record any of her other Song For Europe entries and her album, "Fragile", was shelved in the UK. However, some UK copies have surfaced, while Dutch and Japanese import issues feature different bonus tracks. The lack of commercial success has increased her collectability.

1995 "Love City Groove"

Love City Groove (7/11)

With the exception of 1957, "Love City Groove" was the first UK entry not to be issued on a commercial 7", but



was still subject to several alternative formats, remixes and re-recordings. Despite selling over 250,000 copies, the song is becoming more and more difficult to find. Originally it was issued on CD single (Galaxy GXY 2003CD), cassette (GXY 2003MC) and 12" (GXY 2003T) with a vast number of mixes spread across the different formats. The group also recorded the album "Hard Times" (Saturn 2CD) but this was quickly shelved. Alongside the original version the album included the Soul Mix of "Love City Groove", but this is actually a re-recording done by a slightly altered line up in 1996. This later recording also surfaced on a German CD single titled "Love City Groove – The Remixes" (SPV 05544383) that featured five remixes of the new version, the original recording and the Seek Understanding Beyond Immediate Perception Mix. A 7" single was issued in France, although which tracks are featured remains uncertain.

1996 "Ooh Aah ... Just A Little Bit"

Gina G (1/25)

Although this is probably the easiest of UK Eurovision entries, to find, its release still produced several collectors' items. Initially "Ooh Aah ... Just A Little Bit" was issued on CD single (WEA 041CD), cassette (WEA 041C) and 12" (WEA 041T). However, chart rules at the time only permitted three formats to be counted, so when WEA decided to issue



a second CD (WEA 041CDX) the 12" was withdrawn. Although the four mixes on the 12" were all transferred to the new CD single, the 12" is now very scarce. The second CD single also included three postcards and was labelled "Limited Edition Eurovision Special". Across

the different formats are eight different mixes, although some of the versions have different timings. "Ooh Aah ... Just A Little Bit" almost reached the Top 10 in America and was issued as two-track and seven-track CD singles, neither of which featured any new versions. The rarest UK release is the jukebox 7" issued in a plain white sleeve (WEA 041LC). Following Gina's chart success WEA issued an album, "Fresh" (0630178402), which reached number 12 in the charts and included two versions of "Ooh Aah ... Just A Little Bit", both of which were taken from the CD singles. A new remix was also included on Gina G's 2005 album, "Get Up And Dance", which the singer privately released through her website.

1997 "Love Shine A Light"

Katrina & The Waves (3/12)

The UK's fifth Eurovision winner provided Katrina & The Waves with the highest chart placing of their career, meaning that



"Love Shine A Light" is relatively easy to find. The first CD single (WEA 106CD1) featured the radio and unplugged versions, while the second (WEA 106CD2) included the radio version and Xenomania Club Mix. A cassette single was also issued (WEA 106C), but collectors should look out for two promotional releases. There is a two-track CD single (WEA 106DJ) in a card sleeve which has different art work, as well as a 12" single (SAM 2074) housed within a plain black sleeve that features the Xenomania Club Mix instrumental which was not available commercially. "Love Shine A Light" was also included on the album "Walk On Water", but this failed to chart.

1998 "Where Are You"

Imaani (15/7)

The CD (EMI CDEM 510) and cassette (TCEM 510) singles both contain the same tracks, and there were no other commercial releases for "Where Are You". Two promo's exist, the first issued by EMI prior to Imaani winning Song



For Europe which is a one-track CD with a black and gold inlay (CDIMADJ 001) and includes a short biography of the singer. These are now extremely

scarce, but the rarest item is another one-track promo (CDIMADJS 001). These were distributed by EMI in Birmingham and very few exist. They were housed in a Union Jack card sleeve with the wording "Support Imaani's UK entry to the Eurovision Song Contest" but, more importantly, the CD came with a folded poster of the standard CD sleeve laid over the top of a Union Jack.

1999 "Say It Again"

Precious (6/11)

"Say It Again" was a commercial success and the single was issued by EMI on (CDEM 544) and cassette (TCEM 544). Alongside the Cutfather & Joe Mix and the James Lavonz Full Vocal Mix, the CD single also included the video. While the standard release is not difficult to



find, there is also a one-track promo that comes in a card sleeve with a different photo of the group on the cover (CDEM DJ S

544). A promotional 12" was also issued (12EMDJ 544) in a plain black sleeve featuring the More-Choo Vocal Mix and Dub, neither of which have

been released commercially.

A follow up single, "Rewind", peaked at 11 and was issued on two CD singles, the second of which featured the previously unreleased Erick Morillo Remix (CDEM 557). EMI also released the self-titled album, "Precious" (5221350), and this included the single mix and video for "Say It Again". As in the previous four years a free sampler was issued featuring extracts of the finalists (GBSC1999), and the snippet of "Say It Again" is very different to the official release. Such samplers were discontinued after 2000.

2000 "Don't Play That Song Again"

Nicki French (34/2)

Given Nicki's popularity on the club circuit, it was surprising that "Don't Play That Song Again" was not issued as a 12", but it was released on CD (RCA 74321764572) and cassette (74321764574). A one-track CD promo with white label was also made available to the press and radio (FRENCH 1). Composers Gerry Shephard and John Springate recorded their own version of "Don't Play That Song Again" on a private CDR pressing, "One More Time With Feeling", which was only available by mail order. 2000 also saw the first official Eurovision compilation (BMG 74321765872) containing all entries, paving the way for what is now an annual release.

2001 "No Dream Impossible"

Lindsay (32/4)

The various mixes of "No Dream Impossible" make collecting this Eurovision entry complicated. The official CD single (Universal TV 1589562) features the Wip Wip'd Dream Radio Edit, orchestral and Acoustic Dream versions, alongside the standard version and video. The cassette (1589564) omits the orchestral version, but includes the



Extended Sugar Rae Mix that can also be found on the two-track promo CD (Lindsay 1) which comes with a completely different picture inlay to the commercial release. There is also a 12" promo (Lindsay 04) which features the W.I.P. 12" Mix, Underground Mix and Sugar Rae Extended Mix. This was issued in a plain white sleeve and the catalogue number is scratched into the run-out groove rather than the label.

2002 "Come Back"

Jessica Garlick (13/6)

"Come Back" is another complicated release. The original CD single featured the Single Edit and Club Mix (Columbia 6725662), but promotional copies with the same catalogue number and inlay include a Karaoke Mix as well. According to Columbia's pre-release information, the single was due to be followed by a second CD featuring an interview between Jessica and Darius (6725665), but this appears to have been withdrawn and no promo's are known to exist. "Come Back" was also issued on cassette (6725664).

2003 "Cry Baby"

Jemini (15/3)

Forever infamous as the UK's first ever 'nil points', "Cry Baby" is already becoming hard to find. Following disinterest from any major label the release was eventually self-financed on the Integral label. There were two CD's and both feature the single version. The first (INTEG 001CD) also included the extended single version and Funkimorodo House Mix, while the second (001 CD2) replaced these mixes with the Andy Rossa Force Four Remix

and video. The single version and both remixes were also found on cassette (INTEG 001X). Handwritten CDR's exist with a very slightly different mix of "Cry Baby", while a white label multi-track promo was also distributed ahead of the formal release.

2004 "Hold On To Our Love"

James Fox (13/7)

"Hold On To Our Love" was issued on two CD singles by Sony, both of which contained the standard version. CD1 (6748731) had a live acoustic track as the second song, while CD2 (6748732) contained a new demo track, the backing track mix and the video. As the picture inlay for both releases was the same, the first CD featured yellow wording yellow lettering while blue was used on the second. Some copies were stickered with the words "UK Winning Entry Eurovision 2004".

2005 "Touch My Fire"

Javine (18/4)

As in 2004, "Touch My Fire" was issued on two CD's with near identical sleeves, apart from the colour of the wording. Music industry confidence in Javine was high and this led to a bidding war for "Touch My Fire" which was won by



Island. The first CD (9871693) contains the standard version with the K-Gee Mix, with the second (9871694) adding the video and Soulavengerz - Get Your Groove On Mix. A one-track promo CD was issued to radio (JAVINECD1) within an art sleeve inlay, while a CDR issued to clubs features alternate remixes, none off which have yet gained a commercial release.

2006 "Teenage Life"

Daz Sampson (8/6)

For the first time in seven years a UK Eurovision entry entered the Top 10. With "Teenage Life" being available on only one CD (BMG 82876834222) featuring several mixes of the song plus the video, it is not particularly collectable as yet. However, the one-track promo, featuring the same inlay within a polythene sleeve, is much harder to locate. Controversy erupted when it was revealed that Daz had promoted the song a year earlier under the name Spacekats, and CDR's containing four mixes of the song are in circulation.

2007 "Flying The Flag (For You)"

Scooch (5/5)

Although Scooch failed to fly high in Helsinki the single reached the Top 5 and was number one on the physical sales chart. "Flying The Flag (For You)" was issued as a two-track CD (WEA 421CD) and, for the first time, a DVD single (WEA 421DVD) was also released.



However, there were no less than three promotional items in circulation; a one-track promo CD in a card sleeve similar to the commercial issue (WEA PRO 16344), a flight pack which included the same one-track promo together with imitation flight tickets, biography and photographs all housed in a folder, and a seven-track CDR which features several mixes unavailable anywhere else. Incidentally, prior to Scooch being signed to any label, "Flying The Flag" had charted for a single week on downloads alone!

And for the completist, the two songs that were chosen too late for the 1956 Eurovision Song Contest.

1956 "Ev'rybody Falls In Love"

Denis Lotis & The Keynotes (-/-)

Although Denis Lotis never recorded the song, sheet music does exist bearing his name. The song was released by Dickie Henderson (Oriole CB1346) and this version also appears on a six-track EP which was issued by the World Record Club. Titled "Tops In Pops" (R 52) and made available by mail order only, the EP includes "Little Ship" by Julie Dawn (see below) and two songs by Bryan Johnson. "Ev'ry Body Falls In Love With Someone" was also recorded by Matt Monro on Decca (F 10816) on 78 rpm and 7", but did not appear on an album until 1986 when Castle released it as part of their Unforgettable range (UNLP 020). The first CD release was in 1991 on "Matt 'n' Mel" (Eclipse 8206422) which included 18 tracks by Matt Monro and six by Mel Torme. This has since been deleted, but earlier this year Not Now Music issued the track as part of "Matt Monro" (NOT1CD108).

1956 "Little Ship"

Shirley Abicair (-/-)

Shirley Abicair performed the second song from 1956 but, like Denis Lotis, failed to make a recording. She did, however, feature on the accompanying sheet music. Julie Dawn's version was



included on the same six-track EP mentioned above, and was released on 78 rpm and 7" (Oriole CB1347) as the B-side to "Two Different Worlds".

Julie also appeared on a separate sheet music release. A further cover version was recorded by Jackie Lee and released on 78 rpm (Polydor BM 6045). ■

50 final facts You Probably Didn't Know

William Wordsworth, The Beatles, Pan's People, The Police, Sheena Easton, Bonnie Tyler, Colvilles Limited (Clydebridge) Social Club, "Songs of Praise", "Jonathan Creek", the soap opera "Crossroads" and the film "Batman Returns" – their connections with British pre-selections for the Eurovision Song Contest are all revealed in this **Eurocurios** special! By
Thomas Latham

1957

The Glasgow jury for the first heat of 1957's "Festival of British Popular Songs" (which voted second last) consisted of a Mr & Mrs T. A. Wright and ten members of the Colvilles Limited (Clydebridge) Social Club. Mr Wright was the spokesperson who announced their votes. Lita Roza who won that heat with "The Way It Goes" was a late replacement for singer Patti Lewis who had appeared in several comedy shows on ITV the previous year.

1959

"Sing Little Birdie" was covered in Danish as "Syng Lille Lærke" by a trio called Pigerne (which translates as 'the girls'). It can be found on the B-side of the single "En Smule" (Philips – 355 183 PF) by Birgit Brüel (DK65) who was a member of the group.

1960

The top three in the first heat held on Tuesday 2nd February were 1) "Unexpectedly", 2) "Each Tomorrow" and 3) "Mi Amor", meaning that (UK59) Pearl Carr & Teddy Johnson's "Pickin' Petals" failed to reach the final. However, their entry in the second heat – "When The Tide Turns" – was more successful, being one of four songs to go through (two entries tied for third place and there was no provision for this in the rules). As a result there were seven songs in the final rather than the planned-for six.

1961

According to the show's script, in case there were technical difficulties with calling up the regional juries in the pre-planned order, arrangements were to be made so that Katie Boyle could be cued to any changes by 'phone or map lights'.

1962

George Harrison once told Jackie Lee that the Beatles had performed her SFE entry - "There's No One In The Whole Wide World" - in concert during 1962.

1963

An instrumental version of "Say Wonderful Things" by French guitarists Les Fingers can be found on their 2CD "Complete Sixties Instrumental" on Magic Records (MAM 101 - 3930345).

1964

Members of the Edinburgh jury were advised by letters dated 30th January to arrive at Broadcasting House in Queen Street at 7 pm on 7th February, and that they would probably be free to leave by 10.15 pm.

1965

"I Belong" was recorded in the Catalan language by Jacinta as "Sóc D'algú" and released as a single (EDIGSA CM 96).

1966

The lyrics to Robert Farnon's song "Country Girl" were adapted from William Wordsworth's poem "The Solitary Reaper" about a Highland lass, which therefore made it very suitable for a song due to be performed by Kenneth McKellar in a kilt.

1967

Sandie Shaw's live performance of "Puppet On A String" from "The Rolf Harris Show" broadcast on 25th February was recently released on a CD given away free with the "Sunday Express".

1968

The postcard votes for Cliff Richard's SFE were counted by the 'Solicited

Correspondence' department based at Kensington House. Counting commenced on Thursday 8th March and the result was due to be available by midday the following Monday. However, there were concerns that the process would overrun since postcards were counted as second class mail and some might arrive late.

1969

Dave Sealey recorded a version of "I Can't Go On Living Without You", which was released as a single in 1969 on the then new DJM label (DJS 210 - 1969). To help him learn the song he was sent a copy of Elton John's demo version on acetate produced by Dennis Berger. For Lulu's own version, the Latin feel of the demo was dropped in favour of a more 'poppy' sound.

1970

There were accusations of voting irregularities with the Irish jury at the ESC, but Mary Hopkin (UK71) told the New Musical Express that even if she were to suddenly become the winner, she wouldn't accept it. In her opinion "it was a fair competition and the best song won."

1971

RCA decided to release the two songs that had tied in second place in SFE, "Someone To Love Me" and "Wind of Change", as part of a three-title maxi-disc (with "Jack In The Box"). Playing at 33 1/3 rpm and priced at 50p, it was on sale in shops from Friday 6th March.

1972

In 2003, Eve Graham (UK72) gave an interview in which she claimed "nothing could coax me out of retirement now."

She has since released two solo CDs on the Scotdisc label.

1973

The rejected songs from the final 18 were "All Get Together", "Do I Hear Music", "The Good Book", "I Can See", "Jeannie", "Jigsaw World", "A Little Understanding", "May The Sun Never Set", "Never Found A Girl To Love", "Songs", "This World Is Ours Today" and "Where In The World".

1974

It is thought that "A Rose Has To Die" written by Ben Findon (and a hit for The Dooleys in 1978) was originally submitted for this SFE ...

1975

...or it might have been this one. Former Eurovision winner Grethe Ingmann (DK63) released Danish versions of both that song (in 1974) and "Let Me Be The One" (in 1985).

1976

One insider at the BBC referred to the songs from this SFE in an internal memo as "diabolical... dreary..." and unoriginal.

1977

The BBC's press release showed a curious concern for people's marital status this year. David Mindel ("After All This Time") was married to Cherry Gillespie of Pan's People fame; Carl Wayne ("A Little Give, A Little Take") was married to actress Susan Hanson (Miss Diane in "Crossroads"); all the members of Beano were married except one (lead singer Freddie Phillips), but half of High Society were single (although all three of their song's writers were married).

1978

Jacqui Sullivan, who sang the self-composed "Moments", had been a member of High Society the previous year.

1979

Cheryl Baker (UK78/81) sang all the vocals on the demo for "Harry My Honolulu Lover" before it was given to The Nolan Sisters to perform at SFE.

1980

Donna Jones (lead singer with Pussyfoot) had previously been a member of the Chrys-Do-Lyns with Lyn Paul (SFE77). She and fellow Pussyfooter Mick Flinn are now both current members of The New Seekers (of which Lyn Paul was a member at ESC72).

1981

"Making Your Mind Up" was recorded by Eve Graham (UK72) and Danny Finn (UK80) in the 1980s for a proposed album of cover versions which, sadly, was never released.

1982

Andy Hill (who co-wrote "Making Your Mind Up") sang lead vocals on the demo for "One Step Further".

1983

For the follow up to "I'm Never Giving Up" ("Electric" - Ariola ARO 317) their record company reduced Sweet Dreams' name to simply Dreams.

1984

In an interview in 1997, Bonnie Tyler recalled how, after the success of "Total Eclipse Of The Heart" at the beginning of 1983, she was called in to the BBC and told that they wanted to change the format of SFE in 1984 to one singer performing all the

entries with the public deciding the winner. As she had just had an international number one and was working on a new album she did not have the time to take them up on the offer.

1985

Vikki may have come 4th at Eurovision, but she did win the Castle Bar Song Contest held in Dublin in 1989.

1986

Palace (who came 5th) consisted of Michael Palace, Dedi Madden and John Bartlett. Michael Palace was really Dan Duskey, who had performed for Ireland at the 1982 ESC as part of the Duskeys (when "Here Today, Gone Tomorrow" had finished 11th).

1987

Mal Pope (who came 7th with "Everybody") is now a regular guest singer on BBC 1's "Songs of Praise".

1988

The rejected songs from the final twenty were "Celebrate", "Feel Like Loving", "Finish What You Started", "Heart To Heart" (confusingly, having the same title as one of the final eight and very close to "Heart What Heart" which had made the final 44), "How Long", "Only The Sorrows", "Our Forever Dream", "Pretending To Care", "Slow Emotion", "Something's Going On", "Tonight I'll Fall In Love Again" and "You Don't Know Me".

1989

Simon Spiro had previously been a backing singer for Johnny Mathis, Frankie Valli, Sheena Easton and Freddie Starr, while Kim Goody had backed The Police, The Kinks, Heatwave and Imagination.

1990

Sandie Shaw (UK67) recorded the demo of "Sentimental Again".

1991

Malcolm Roberts, who came last in SFE with "One Love", had previously finished 13th at the 1985 ESC for Luxembourg (as one of the singers of "Children, Kinder, Enfants"). His most successful participation in a contest had come in the 1969 Rio de Janeiro Song Festival with the song "Love Is All".

1992

If negotiations with Michael Ball had failed to secure his services for this SFE, the format would have reverted to that of 1991 whereby eight different performers each sang one song. The BBC's plans to feature a single artist singing all the songs would then have re-appeared in 1993 instead.

1993

Dean Collinson, who sang lead vocals on the original version of "Better the Devil You Know", has recently been playing Pharoah in "Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat" starring Lee Mead (winner of the BBC's "Any Dream Will Do" programme). You can hear his version of UK93 (by the band Blue) via www.DeanCollinson.com

1994

Lynsey de Paul (UK77) was on the panel to select the final eight songs. One of her favourites was "Love Parade", which had to be disqualified as it had already been selected as Frances Ruffelle's forthcoming single and had therefore broken the rules.

1995

Sam Fox was persuaded to enter "Go For The Heart" for Eurovision by her mother.

1996

Both the Smurfs (in English and Swedish) and the Wurzels (in West Country dialect) have released cover versions of "Ooh Aah... Just A Little Bit".

1997

Kerry, who sang lead vocals on "Yodel In The Canyon Of Love", re-emerged on a recent series of "X Factor", where she made it all the way through to the final twelve.

1998

Gary Osbourne, who wrote a number of lyrics for Elton John before co-writing "The War Of The Roses" for SFE86, was a member of the final judging panel this year. They were given the task of reducing the final thirty songs down to eight after only listening to them once each.

1999

Catherine Porter (who recently appeared as the blonde assassin who shoots the murderer of Bruce Wayne's parents in the film "Batman Begins") claimed in an interview with The Mirror that her SFE entry "Crazy" had been written about her ex-boyfriend - the comedian Alan Davies (then appearing on the BBC as "Jonathan Creek").

2000

The girls from Sexy Sadie are believed to have gone on to become members of So Solid Crew. Harvey, another member of that group, is the partner of Javine (UK05).

2001

"Men" was written by Kimberley Rew as the follow-up single to Six Chix's "Only The Women Know" from the previous year. Somewhere out there is a demo of the song sung by that sextet.

2002

Zee performed three songs live at the Royal Albert Hall on 8th July 2002, including her disqualified (it had already been released on a Hungarian compilation) SFE entry "Never In A Million Years".

2003

The dress worn by Gemma Abbey (of Jemini) was designed by Scott Henshall who appeared on the 2006 series of "I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here". He has also designed dresses for other well-known songstresses such as Victoria Beckham, Paris Hilton and Kylie Minogue.

2004

Trevor Horn (TaTu's producer) is said to have offered a song to the BBC for SFE this year.

2005

One of the songs submitted by Gina G for this year's MYMU, but rejected by the BBC in favour of "Flashback", was "Kinky", which can be heard on her CD "Get Up And Dance" (available from www.ginag.com).

2006

Michelle Lawson recorded an early version of "Beautiful Thing", though this was not officially released before MYMU and hence did not break the rules.

2007

Daz Sampson wanted to take part with the song "Goodbye" with vocals by Jessica Garlick (UK02). Carol Decker of T'Pau eventually did the demo. ■

Thanks to Richard Crane and Gordon Lewis.

Quiz Time

This issue's quiz takes a look at the contribution of the Francophone countries – both good and bad – over the past five decades of ESC, with a bonus non-Eurovision question thrown in for good measure.

1. Which French-language entry gave Ralph Siegel his first trip to ESC as a composer?
2. Vicky Leandros represented Luxembourg at ESC 1967 and 1972 - but which country's national final did she enter in 2006?
3. What was the last Swiss entry to be performed in French?
4. And how many times did a Luxembourg entry contain no words of French?
5. France were due to participate in ESC 1974 with "La Vie À 25 Ans" by Dani. Why did they withdraw?
6. Nathalie Sorce finished last in 2000 with "Envie De Vivre". Which was the only country to vote for her song, awarding it two points?



Nathalie Pâque: How old?

7. Another Nathalie - Pâque - was the youngest ever lead singer of an ESC entry when she performed "J'ai Volé La Vie" in 1989. But how old was she on the day of the contest?
8. The UK is often held up as the most consistent ESC nation (at least until recent years!), but only one entry from France failed to make the top 5 up to and including 1970. Name it.
9. Which ESC winner was recorded in French by the original singer as "Un Tout Petit Pantin"?



Vicky Leandros: Going strong

10. How many times have Monaco entered the contest?
11. And finally, what is the only French-language song by Celine Dion to hit the UK singles chart?

Answers on inside back cover



Let's Dance!

Gordon Lewis looks back on the recent Eurovision Dance Contest

The inaugural Eurovision Dance Contest was held in Studio 1 at BBC Television Centre on Saturday, 1st September 2007 and did not disappoint. Presented by Graham Norton and Claudia Winkleman, the popular couple proved themselves to be among the most entertaining Eurovision presenters ever, as did singer Enrique Iglesias who performed "Tired Of Being Sorry" and "Do You Know?" during the interval. The BBC should also be congratulated on their production of such a high profile event that was broadcast live to 25 countries, and many people are already excited about the second dance contest that will also be held in London in less than 12 months time.

Each dancing couple performed twice; the first performance being a style chosen from either five international standard dances, Slow Foxtrot, Slow Waltz, Viennese Waltz, Quickstep and Tango, or five Latin styles, namely Samba, Rumba, Paso Doble, Jive and Cha-cha-cha. Accompanied by a varied selection of popular and traditional music, the second performance had to combine established styles within a

cultural interpretation of the relevant participating country.

National voting decided the ultimate winner through the now established televoting process, and individual calls were converted into the usual Eurovision format from one through to "douze points" before being announced by each spokesperson. However, the Greek votes were made by jury as ERT, in full consultation with the EBU, did not broadcast the show live due to the state of emergency in Greece following extensive forest fires throughout August.

Len Goodman and Bruno Toniolo added the television commentary for British viewers and were often critical, if not scathing, of some acts. In contrast, they also reserved their greatest praise for Russia, Ukraine and the United Kingdom who provided the most

professionally executed routines of the night. It was disappointing, therefore, that UK hopefuls Brendan Cole & Camilla Dallerup only managed to come 15th, just ahead of Switzerland who scored 'nil points', suggesting that the British public can do nothing right in the eyes of the European voters. Nonetheless, congratulations are offered to Finnish couple Jussi Väänänen & Katja Koukkula, who won the first ever dance contest just seven days after being chosen to represent Finland. ■



The results

The winners from Finland



Country	Performers	First dance	Second dance	Points	Position
Finland	Jussi Väänänen & Katja Koukkula	"All In Love Is Fair" (Rumba)	"The Unforgiven" (Freestyle Paso Doble)	132 points	1st
Ukraine	Ilyia Sydorenko & Julia Okropiridze	"Istanbul, Not Constantinople" (Quickstep)	"Hop-Cja" (Freestyle Paso Doble/ Ukrainian Hopak)	121 points	2nd
Ireland	Mick Donegan & Nicola Byrne	"Why Do Fools Fall In Love" (Jive)	"Fandango" (Traditional Irish Dance)	95 points	3rd
Poland	Marcin Hakiel & Katarzyna Cichopek	"Sway" (Cha-cha-cha)	"Private Emotion / She Bangs" (Freestyle Rumba/Samba)	84 points	4th
Austria	Andy & Kelly Kainz	"Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy" (Jive)	"The Black Pearl" (Freestyle Paso Doble)	74 points	=5th
Portugal	Ricardo Silva & Sonia Araujo	"Hanky Panky" (Jive)	"Libertango" (Tango Freestyle)	74 points	=5th
Russia	Vladislav Borodinov & Maria Sittel	"Theme from Romeo & Juliet" (Rumba)	"Tzygansky Tanetz" (Freestyle Paso Doble/ Gypsy Dance)	72 points	7th
Germany	Oliver Seefeldt & Wolke Hegenbarth	"Lady Marmelade" (Samba)	"Total Eclipse OfThe Heart / Holding Out For A Hero" (Freestyle Mix)	59 points	8th
Denmark	David Jørgensen & Mette Elkjær	"Love Fool" (Rumba)	"Lovestoned / I Think She Knows" (Freestyle Show Dance)	38 points	=9th
Spain	Abraham Martinez & Amagoya Benlloch	"Baila Morena" (Cha-cha-cha)	"El Gato Montes" (Freestyle Paso Doble)	38 points	=9th
Lithuania	Gintaras Svistunavičius & Gabrielė Valiukaitė	"Carmen" (Paso Doble)	"Cuban Pete" (Lithuanian Folk Dance/Jive)	35 points	11th
Netherlands	Redmond Valk & Alexandra Matteman	"Sex Bomb" (Cha-cha-cha)	"Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow" (Freestyle Rumba)	34 points	12th
Greece	Spyros Pavlidis & Rania Koliou	"Everybody Needs Somebody To Love" (Jive)	"Theme from Zorbas the Greek" (Freestyle Syrtaki)	31 points	13th
Sweden	Martin Lidberg & Cecilia Ehrling	"Final Countdown" (Paso Doble)	"Disco Inferno" (Freestyle Dance Fusion)	23 points	14th
UK	Brendan Cole & Camilla Dallerup	"The Way We Were" (Rumba)	"James Bond Medley" (Freestyle Medley)	28 points	15th
Switzerland	Sven Ninnemann & Denise Biellmann	"Malagueña" (Paso Doble)	"Feeling Good" (Freestyle Swing)	0 points	16th

In Conversation with... The New Seekers

Celebrating 35 years since their appearance at Eurovision with "Beg Steal Or Borrow", the New Seekers are alive, well and touring theatres across the UK. **Marcus Keppel-Palmer** visited them to chat about times past and present



I am sitting in a beautiful kitchen in Hertfordshire sipping a cup of coffee as the rain beats down and I am surrounded by three of the New Seekers; two members of 1980 Song For Europe group Pussyfoot and two thirds of a Bee Gees tribute act. In fact it is original member, Paul Layton, and "newcomers" Mick Flinn and Donna Jones (they joined the New Seekers in the early 80s), who have kindly invited me to their house. Mick welcomed me in, his Australian accent still to the fore, and he, Paul and I chatted while Donna was otherwise engaged. Paul and Mick are enthralled going through the OGAE Song For Europe book reminiscing about songs and songwriters. Paul sings a few snatches of "Are You There". They obviously stop for some time over 1972 and again 1980 (Mick and Donna's moment of glory), and look for the song Marty Kristian wrote in 1983. But interest wanes during the 80s and Mick and Paul agree that the songs had got worse since their day.

By now Donna has joined us, as has Rusty the dog, and I start by asking them what prompted the New Seekers to get together again and go out touring. Paul is effusive. "Really it was our new manager, Nic Culverwell, who prompted and inspired us to go back out on tour. We had stagnated and got bored doing the Butlins circuit, playing to audiences that weren't really interested in the New Seekers. So we drifted into other business interests. Marty Kristian decided to retire which was sad, but Nic got us back together and convinced us to do theatres again. And we love it, reconnecting with an audience that is there to see the New Seekers. I think we are rebuilding an audience." Mick joins in. "Our philosophy on stage is to be an entertaining unit. The show doesn't just play the hits. The first half is an acoustic set, telling the story of the band, while the second half is more of the hits. But of course the harmonies are to the fore!" Donna adds "we just needed someone to believe in us. Nic, who is a long term fan,



Mick Flinn, Donna Jones and Paul Layton

came along and just generated the buzz. And the new audiences are into it. We released a live album earlier in the year, taken from those dates we did last year."

Mick kindly gets me a copy of the live album. I have brought the two recent collections with me. I ask if they have any pressure they can bring to bear to get more of the old New Seekers recordings released by the record labels, including "Tell Me". Sadly no. So I ask if there are plans for new recordings. Enthusiastically, Mick confides. "Yes, we are back in the studio recording at the moment. Paul and I have been writing songs and we have been looking around for songwriters to give us songs to sing. We approached Terry Britten. We are working with a young producer and although we are doing demos at the moment, the plan is to come back and later in the year release a single. But we recognise we need to find the right song, one that has that 'wow!' factor. We want people to stop in their tracks and go 'it's the New Seekers'. Of course, we'll let

you know when you are releasing it."

The enthusiasm is infectious. It is hard to believe that the New Seekers have been going since 1969, originally with the classic line-up of Paul, Lyn Paul, Eve Graham, Peter Doyle and Marty Kristian. Paul admits that it was hard when Marty finally stepped out a year or two ago. "But he only lives nearby, so we see each other and play golf together. He is very supportive of the

current tour, but he wouldn't come back. He says his heart isn't in it". Paul has just celebrated his 60th birthday, but he can remember the Eurovision glory days clearly. "We were young and it was very exciting to have so much attention. We had to do a photo session at King's Cross station and then we took the train up to Edinburgh. I remember we were filmed all the way up on the train. When we arrived at Waverley Station there were Rolls Royce's waiting for us and a huge crowd of people mobbed us. The hotel was besieged and the kids broke down the revolving door. It was New Seeker mania!"

"It was funny" Paul continues. "There was a huge banner at Edinburgh airport which was filmed welcoming us to Scotland. But we never saw it as we were on the train! The contest itself passed in a bit of a dream. I thought the whole presentation was a bit stiff, but it was fun with our producer, David Mackay, conducting. It was difficult on stage as we couldn't really hear the

monitors." I mention Jemini. Paul laughs. "Lyn and Peter did a great job vocally; they really delivered the song. Afterwards, we complained about the political voting – we got no votes from Ireland! I liked the Vicky Leandros song which won, but didn't really get a chance to mix with many of the other performers. It was disappointing not to have won, because that would have opened up doors in Europe. Mind you, we toured a fair amount and recorded 'Beg Steal Or Borrow' in German. I found it more difficult to learn it in German than to do songs in Russian. We once toured in Russia and learnt a song in Russian. Unfortunately, when we went to Tallinn we got booed off stage for singing in Russian!"

Back to 1972. "After Eurovision we went straight on tour, starting in Scotland. We hadn't appreciated quite how popular we were. The first night we had no stage front security. We were mobbed and the stage was rushed. We boys ran out the back and just managed to survive intact!" I ask how this teenybopper mania came about. Paul replies "I think it was definitely because of the power of television. We were on the 'It's Cliff' show every week, not just selecting the Song For Europe song, but singing other songs and participating in sketches and so on with Cliff, Olivia Newton-John and Una Stubbs. I don't think we had appreciated the power of television. We wanted to give each of the songs a level playing field." And how had the songs been selected? "We had no input into that. The songs were selected for us

by the music publishers. I think we all thought 'Beg Steal Or Borrow' would win. I also liked the Roy Wood song, 'Songs Of Praise'."

Turning to Mick and Donna, we discuss their Song For Europe appearance, 'I Want To Be Me' by the group Pussyfoot, which came a close third. Watching the performance now, with Donna on lead vocals, one is struck that the song was ahead of its time and a performance that was perhaps raunchier than might have

been the norm. Donna agrees. "Yes, I think the performance was really ahead of its time. But we were so close to winning. I think we either got very high points or very low points from the juries. Everyone in the studio loved it! I think it was a very controversial song. We thought we might have a hit, but although Muriel Young put us on her



Donna: Infectious enthusiasm

TV show afterwards, that was that." Of course, Pussyfoot were no one off group. Mick explains. "Donna and I had made several recordings as Pussyfoot. We had a number one in Australia with 'The Way That You Do It', while 'Lay Your Love On The Line' was a Radio 1 record of the week. Another song, 'Dancer Dance', was a hit in the club charts. But I think we tried too many styles of single. In fact, in 1980 we were on our way to Australia, when over the tannoy at the airport we were told we were in Song For Europe!". "And did you know," Donna adds, "I was seven months pregnant at Song For Europe. I don't think anyone noticed. That was why we added the other girls in." I ask whether there is any possibility of Pussyfoot's recordings being released

on CD, but both Mick and Donna think there is little chance of them seeing the light of day at this remove.

So what do the three guys think of Eurovision now? Donna says that she doesn't really watch it now. "We are normally working, but I think it's gone off the boil now." Mick agrees. "Song For Europe has lost the plot. In choosing a song now, the show has become a joke. I really think we should be getting six top songwriters to contribute a song each, a

"The first night we had no stage front security. We were mobbed and the stage was rushed"

proper song, not one they think would do well." What about you, I proffer? Paul says "when we wrote songs in the past we would do one and say that's not great, but it'll be a Eurovision song. I don't think there's been a really good song since 'Beg Steal Or Borrow'. Mind

you, nowadays it's all about gimmicky presentation like Lordi. I blame Terry Wogan. He is very funny, but I think the act has worn thin."

"Don't get me wrong", Paul continues, "we plug Eurovision a lot in the shows and we talk a lot about 'Beg Steal Or Borrow'. But back in the 70s Eurovision was credible, albeit aimed at the poppier end of the market. Unfortunately, in the UK as the years went by there were fewer light entertainment shows on TV and fewer venues for light entertainment. I think that is why Song For Europe has lost its way."

Another cup of coffee has materialised and we take a few photos. I ask them what their favourite New Seekers' songs are. Paul has first stab. "I really like

'Beautiful People' which has a great lyric, while 'Pinball Wizard' is my favourite to play live as we really get a chance to rock out." Mick agrees. "Yes, I really like 'Pinball Wizard' too. And I really like some of the very old songs like the cover of 'Blackberry Way' and 'There's A Light'. I think the hits were very commercial. I like the fact that we now do a live medley of some of the songs which gives us a chance to do some of the non-hit favourites. And I like 'Anthem' which we also do live. It always used to be difficult to do live with the multi-tracked vocals." We all take time out to do a quick chorus from what is one of my major favourites. And Donna's? "I love 'When I Was Small' on stage. I think that is a great song. And I like the hits like 'Sentimental' and 'Fool', and of course 'Look What They've Done To My Song Ma'.

We return to the topic of the new touring New Seekers. I sense that there is a real enthusiasm from these veterans of the music industry and a real joy at rediscovering that enthusiasm. Of course, they have other interests, such as Donna's comedy show "Mutton", but they have planned tour dates well into 2008. And finally, the Bee Gees? Mick explains. "I run a local charity concert to raise money for cancer research and we were looking for support acts for my daughter's group. I look like Barry Gibb and Paul looks like Robin Gibb, so we thought why not do the Bee Gees!"

Paul Layton, Mick Flinn and Donna Jones are three of the warmest, most engaging people you could hope to pass an afternoon with. It is refreshing to find UK performers who remember Eurovision with passion and pleasure. They certainly deserve to enjoy a higher profile nowadays, so go see a show and buy their single and just luxuriate in the harmonies that have been the signature of the New Seekers sound for over 35 years. ■

Eurovision 2004 and I became friends with Irina Gligor who wrote the Romanian entry for Sanda Ladosi, and was also one of the backing singers and dancers. Irina told me she was going to be studying in Nottingham for a year, had already released an album in Romania and had also been successful in several music contests including the Mamaia Festival. We agreed to keep in contact while she was in the UK and Irina asked me whether I knew anyone involved with the British music scene.

As it happens I personally know Marc Andrewes, who wrote "All Time High" for Energia in the 1999 UK Song For Europe, so contacted him with the suggestion that he should listen to Irina's music. Marc agreed, but could not promise anything. However, he invited Irina to London a few weeks later to record a dance track that Marc felt would suit her voice. The song, "Get The Freak Out", was circulated to DJ's around the country and received very positive feedback. Soon signed by Universal (Promo CD BIONDI0510), a great video was shot

All Time High

Have you ever wondered what it's like to have a song in the UK final? Prompted by Richard's Round Up from the last issue that referred to former finalists Energia, **Ian Fowell** takes the time to find out more



Irina Gligor

around London that appeared on several satellite channels. Sadly, though, it wasn't enough and the song was pulled from release at the last moment.

In 2006 "Get The Freak Out" was selected as the UK entry at the Euro Video Grand Prix; a new music competition held in Tirana, Albania. There were many other Eurovision artists taking part in the competition, so Irina drove to Albania from Romania to represent the UK. The competition was judged by a jury, but the UK did not win. Nonetheless, I was very proud that I introduced Irina and Marc to each other and, with Marc's latest project, "This Game", available on iTunes and a top 10 club hit, I decided

to catch up with him to talk about his career.

Ian Fowell: What was it like being in the Song For Europe competition in 1999?

Mark Andrewes: Fantastic. I loved Eurovision growing up in the 1970s - the first song I can remember watching was

"Ding Dine Dong" in 1975 – so, being a songwriter and producer, entering the British competition seemed the obvious thing to do. I put in several songs during the 90s that did nothing. Then came "All Time High" in 1999. I actually wrote that while waiting at Los Angeles international airport for a flight back to London, which sounds terribly pretentious, but it's true. I can remember writing the lyrics while having a cigarette outside the concourse, which must have taken me all of three minutes. And let's face it, it shows. Not my best work by any means, but somehow it must have struck the right chord with the judges at the time.

I remember coming back to my flat one night to find not one but two answerphone messages from none other than Jonathan King telling me to phone him urgently. "Oh at last" he snapped at me. "If you'd called me any later I was going to tell you it hadn't got through to the final eight." My head was spinning. Celebrity judges phoning me up was not a common occurrence. Suddenly there was so much to sort out – I had to be ready for a possible Top of the Pops appearance in a matter of weeks. I phoned Ann McCabe, the lovely session singer I had booked to record the demo, to make arrangements. Not least we had to think of a name for the act - I came up with a shortlist, but Ann dismissed all of my suggestions. "No, no, we need something with energy – what about Energia?" It was perfect and I've stuck with it as a production name ever since.

Suddenly my name appeared in

Music Week, strangers were discussing my track on the Internet, people were phoning and writing to me asking for promo copies. After years of trying in this business it felt like I'd arrived. Then, of course, it was narrowly beaten in the Radio 2 competition. To get so far and not actually get to perform live on TV was bitterly disappointing. Still, I decided to make the most of the opportunity so I did some remixes, pressed up a thousand CD singles and took them round to specialist shops and clubs. The record was even stocked in Oxford Street's Virgin Megastore during Eurovision week! It was played in gay clubs and made the top five of a club chart published in *Boyz* magazine. It really was the launch pad for my career and I've had many club hits with Energia since then.

IF: You've worked with another Eurovision-related artist too

MA: Yes, Irina Gligor, who co-wrote and performed the Romanian entry with Sanda in 2004. After you mentioned her to me, we made contact and met up in a dance studio in London, and immediately hit it off. At the time I had just written a new track,

"Get The Freak Out", which was based around this great, bitchy punchline "get your sad rags on and get the freak out!" It seemed perfect for a powerful singer like Irina.

We made a video with Irina driving across London with her 'ex' tied up in the boot. Great fun and it was shown on a number of music video channels. It also got quite a bit of UK airplay. Then, just

I loved Eurovision growing up in the 1970s - the first song I can remember watching was "Ding Dine Dong" in 1975

as the record appeared to have peaked, something extraordinary happened – Irina e-mailed me to say the song had been chosen to represent the UK in the Euro Video Grand Prix 2006.

IF: So you got to represent the United Kingdom after all. What was that like?

MA: Absolutely amazing. The Euro Video Grand Prix was a Eurovision-style event held in Albania for the first time in 2006. Many countries sent their Eurovision representatives of the year – Dima Bilan performed for Russia with “Never Let You Go”, Romania sent Mihai Traistariu with “Tornero”, Croatia

had “Moja Stikla” by Severina - so it was kind of a ‘second chance’ contest but based around the video rather than just the song. Each artist performed live on stage, just like ESC, but with the video also shown on a giant screen behind. For a small country like Albania

they managed to put on an outstanding show, just as slick and professional as Eurovision itself is these days. The BBC didn’t show it, but it was broadcast in over 20 countries across Europe.

Irina put together a backing group with two other girls and had a terrific dance routine. The atmosphere backstage was great, very friendly. Mihai was ever so nice and took some pictures of me with the girls. The only downside was the very partisan voting from the Eastern European-biased judging panel. There was supposed to be a panellist for each country, but really it was a farce – for

example our ‘British’ judge was actually someone with a Croatian-sounding name who is unheard of in the UK. Sadly, not a single Western European country received any points, so I now know how Jemini felt. However, the same fate applied to many other countries, so we didn’t feel too bad.

IF: What are you up to now?

MA: I’ve recently released a new single on iTunes called “This Game”. The track is a re-working of an old 80s record. I’ve actually done the vocals myself on this one – for the first time since my early days when I was lead singer in a few bands in the 1990s - so I’ve briefly come out of

retirement and started performing again. The video was filmed partly in the London Underground, which was a novel experience with people coming up to ask who I was and wanting to take photographs of me ... which doesn’t happen often! We’ve also sent a team of models out on to the

streets to promote the song – our ‘Biondi Bombshells’ - with video screens attached playing the track. There’s going to be a feature on it in Nuts magazine and it also reached number nine in the official Music Week upfront club chart.

IF: Would you ever enter Eurovision again?

MA: If the BBC asked me, yes. There’s no open competition these days so you have to get asked. But if they are reading this and want to get in touch who knows!? ■



ESC Online

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

I seem to say it every year, but the summer really is a quiet time in the world of Eurovision. Nevertheless, there are plenty of Internet-based distractions to help while away those idle hours during the ESC "off-season".

Of course, one well-established stop-gap is rapidly approaching—love it or hate it (and, following its disappearance from the ITV schedules, the latter appears to be the prevailing view in this country), it's almost time for Junior Eurovision again. While there doesn't appear to be much of a fanbase out there once you get beyond the rather sprawling official site and the JESC sections of the bigger news sites, the ever-reliable TV & Radio Bits does



contain a neat review of the kiddie contests to date, including results tables, screenshots, editorial comments and brief details of the UK preselections. You can

find it at www.tvradiobits.co.uk/eurovision/eurojunior.htm

And speaking of official sites, the Eurovision Dance Contest will have been and gone by the time you read this, but there should be plenty to look back on at www.eurovisiondance.tv if the event tickled your fancy.



Hungary's fortunes at ESC took a turn for the better this year with Magdi Rúzsa's impressive performance, so hopefully they'll be persuaded to stick around for next year, particularly as the contest appears to be finally generating some local interest. Fan site <http://eschungary.extra.hu> is primarily in Hungarian,



<http://eschungary.extra.hu>

but a good number of the news stories are also translated into English, meaning that it should be a useful resource for tracking the "other" MTV's plans for 2008.

I was shocked to note recently that I've never given a plug to the Eurocovers weblog (<http://eurocovers.blogspot.com>), so I'll happily rectify that oversight this time around. In its own words, Eurocovers is "a celebration of the highest form of praise for the Eurovision song: the cover version". This mission statement is reflected in a huge and incredibly impressive range of posts on a near-daily basis, with exhaustive information

on cover versions old and new, and download / viewing links for a lot of them. It probably has to be seen to be believed – but to put the site’s depth of research into some perspective, it recently added the 10,000th (!) cover version to its database, as well as heralding this milestone with a comprehensive run-down of the ten most covered ESC songs of all-time. Enough said!

While we’re on the subject of blogs, www.melodimen.blogspot.com will almost certainly appeal to those of you who like a good key change, a healthy dose of glitter and glamour and, well, anything

www.melodimen.blogspot.com



Swedish really (as long as they steer clear of those nasty real instruments), while <http://popunlimited.blogspot.com> is a more general blog with a nostalgic taste for 1990s pop music that includes semi-



regular features on topics as diverse as ESC 2001 interval act Aqua and, believe it or not, a retrospective on the brief career of 1995 UK also-rans Deuce. It’s well worth checking out for its non-Eurovision content too.

I know I’ve mentioned Jamie McLoughlin’s long-standing Whoops Dragovic site before, but he deserves an extra plug for coming up with one of the most bizarre and original uses of YouTube



www.geocities.com/jamoismac/ralphsiegelshow.html



I’ve seen on an ESC site – namely “The Ralph Siegel Show”, a collection of shoddily animated adventures involving everyone’s favourite German repeat offender and his surreal battles with arch-nemesis Johnny Logan. I wouldn’t necessarily recommend it to those of a nervous disposition – humour is a subjective thing, of course, but if I said that the episode titles include “Ralph Siegel and the Naughty Films” and “Ralph Siegel Tries To Go On a Date With a Woman”, you’d probably get the idea of the level we’re talking about! For everyone else, though, the URL is www.geocities.com/jamoismac/ralphsiegelshow.html and it’s a grand way to pass a few minutes of your day.

And that’s all for this issue. As always, I’d love to hear from you if you have any recommendations or comments, so feel free to drop me a line at m.d.faulkner@hamburg.de In the meantime, enjoy what’s left of the summer and happy surfing! ■

The Eurovision Panel

Was the 2007 Eurovision result good or bad for the future of the contest?

Ed: Good: a ballad, not in English, and what my mother would call a 'proper song'. A complete contrast to last year. Bad: leads people to ramble on about political voting, barely sold a single copy and Wogan is certain to say he doesn't remember it come May 2008. All in all, I liked the song and performance a lot and was happy with the result. And it means that the last four winners have been in complete contrast to each other (although Elena Paparizou would probably have killed to be like Ruslana). That contrast hopefully means that there will be fewer notions of a 'typical ESC song' in years to come, which will make for a more varied contest. (That said, "Take Me To Your Heaven" Mark Two will probably walk it in Belgrade...)

Andy: Definitely good. We've seen two countries being run away favourites, but a Ukrainian victory would not have been the right thing for future of Eurovision; with it ESC could have turned even more to the comical side. Victory for Serbia is a victory for the ballad and a non-English song, which is pretty unique in recent years. Also, this probably should encourage Western countries to work harder on their pre-selections.

In the first of an occasional series, Eurovision experts and fans from a wide spectrum consider the burning issues. This panel comprises **Luke Fisher**, UK editor of *oikotimes.com*, **Markus Tritemmel** from Graz, Austria, who writes for the *OGAE*

Austria magazine, **Ed Ley**, who now lives in Prague, and **Andy Mikheev**, who lives in Almaty, Kazakhstan and runs the *ESCKaz* website



Luke: On first glance the results of the semi-final in particular were very bad for the contest. I know people say that the Eastern countries put in more effort, and in some cases it's definitely true, but for not one Western country to get through wasn't good; and also for countries like Turkey and FYROM to continue qualifying no matter what song they send almost devalues the idea of having a semi-final. However, if we look a little deeper then perhaps this year's results were a good thing. For years, people - and I'd say mostly the British - have been complaining about the political voting, and this year it finally climaxed and was more obvious than ever. I'm hoping that this will act as a catalyst so that changes are made, which is what we need

for the future of the contest. Hopefully it'll be a case of 'one step backward, and two steps forward'.

Markus: The result is definitely not a pointer to the future. I found it great that once again a ballad in a native language won, but I think in future the more comic numbers (like Ukraine this year) will still have good chances of winning. However, we will certainly see more countries from Eastern Europe continuing to win, just as in recent years. I think we will also see a trend back to native language songs, following the first native language victory since 1998.



Does the panel think the Junior Eurovision Song Contest has a future?

Luke: I've never liked Junior Eurovision, and now with Spain withdrawing I think the fat lady is almost on her last chorus. I don't like it for several reasons. Firstly, the talented 14 year old will never win – it will always be the cute 9-year old purely because the viewers think "aww, isn't s/he cute". I also agree with what TVE have said in their explanation for withdrawing, in that it's not really about children. Dressing up 10 year olds with make-up and having them sing about how they'd rather "be dead than plain" just isn't right for kids of that age in my opinion. And more recently it seems as though it's lost all sight of why it exists,

with parents of other children trying to get songs disqualified and things like that. JESC 2008 will take place in Cyprus, and I think this one will happen. After that, I'm not sure. It might go to being an 'every two years' event before they finally pull the plug. I think the future lies in the Dance Contest, as these shows are very fashionable all over Europe at the moment.

Markus: Honestly, I don't think this contest has made any strides in becoming important. I have absolutely no interest in it and I don't know how many times it's taken place nor who has won so far. So for me, no!



Ed: Spain, the only country to produce a proper hit from it ("Antes Muerta Que Sencilla") has just withdrawn, which must be a bit disheartening for the powers-that-be. I never pay any attention to it (probably too scared of liking the songs), but as long as enough countries want to take part, and no countries feel under pressure to take part, there is no reason why not. Actually, a few withdrawals can only be a good thing - do you really want to sit through another batch of semi-finals every year?

Andy: With the current system - no. It is based on commerce, and does nothing good for children, and more and more countries are realising that. Spain, the most successful country in JESC,

has withdrawn from the competition. There is a way to make it a festival of child music, an uncommercial event, that will actually have some benefits for the children. Right now they cannot even watch it, it is so late in the night in some countries! Also a rule that the song should be written by the child himself is ridiculous. I doubt if 20% of former JESC entries have been written by children. I see the Russian winners from last year are being exploited by the national broadcaster; they are now stars and are invited to every show, just as with the Belarus winner from 2005. But children, even talented, should have a life! However, I'm very much looking forward to the Eurovision Dance Contest, but I already have concerns about the organisation of the competition. If handled right it could become a top European show, but now I doubt its success.



Markus Tritemmel (left) and friend

So not much hope for the Junior Eurovision from our panel then. Finally, does the panel think there should continue to be a Big 4 with direct entry into the final?

Andy: I think yes, as these countries still are the biggest financial sponsors of the contest and this is very important to keep it going. Is it, however, of benefit for them to be directly qualified into final, and not take part in semi? I don't think so, and may be they should get rid of this privilege themselves. With the newly proposed system of semis, I think there is a way to keep this privilege by giving the Big 4 countries the right to perform in the semi-finals as interval acts.

Markus: Yes, of course. Except that I would make it a Big 5 including Austria (OK that's a joke!). Honestly, I believe that a contest without Spain, France, Germany and the UK wouldn't be the same type of contest anymore. I also believe that, if for nothing else other than the financial reasons and interests, this rule should stay.

Ed: They should be asked directly about this. If they keep getting the communal bad results, they might want to reconsider their options and see if being in the semi is actually not such a bad idea. Given three of the countries tend to send songs that are 'growers' (the exception being the UK, of course ...), it wouldn't hurt them to be heard twice. I hope at least one of them does really well next year but, that said, not with an undeserving song.

Luke: Yes, without question. There's no doubt in my mind that the credibility of the contest just wouldn't be as much as it is now without the Big 4 entering, even if some of them are sending bad songs. There's also the money issue. I don't know how much we contribute in the UK to Eurovision itself, but in 2006 the EBU press conference said that the BBC's contribution to the Union is 56 times more than that of BNT in Bulgaria, so the money has to talk.

So that's it from the panel this time. If you would like to participate in a future Eurovision panel, please contact Vision at the usual address. ■

Whatever happened to... Maggie Moone

Marcus Keppel-Palmer investigates what has occurred to Maggie Moone, joint winner with Prima Donna of the 1980 Song For Europe



The finish to the 1980 Song For Europe was shrouded in controversy as two songs finished level on 131 points after the 14 juries had voted. With the budget day news coming up, Terry Wogan swiftly called all the juries to decide between the two songs and, by an 8 to 6 margin, "Love Enough For Two" got the ticket for the Hague. Sadly for them, "Happy Everything", written by Don Black and Geoff Stephens and sung by

Maggie Moone, was the unlucky loser.

Born in Birmingham in 1953, Maggie (originally Sandra Lippitt) was the daughter of a fireman. From a very early age, Maggie showed aptitude for the entertainment industry and it was no surprise that she trained as a dancer in her teens, joining the Bluebell Girls troupe. She then teamed up with Mo Rivers in a singing duo called the Dee-Lights, but success eluded the pair, so Maggie, now known as Sandy

Ann Leigh, turned to a solo career. Her big break came when she won the New Faces TV talent show, impressing not just judges, Tony Hatch and Mickie Most, but also Don Black who was watching.

Black and Geoff Stephens had written their musical concept album, "Dear Anyone", and asked Maggie, now settling on the name Maggie Moone, to take on the lead role of Pandora. Although the album was released, and Hot Chocolate had a hit with "Put You Together Again", the show was never staged. However, it was the springboard for the entry into the 1980 Song For Europe. With the competition bug firmly in place, Maggie also participated in the 1981 Seoul Song Festival coming second to Al Green with "No Hard Feelings".

In 1980 Maggie married millionaire businessman, Colin Davies, although when they met he was already married. Despite the financial security, Maggie worked hard singing on TV, radio and in theatres. She was best known in the 80s for her TV work, regularly guesting on Morecambe & Wise and on the Russ Abbott Show. Maggie's best known foray onto television though came with the show "Name That Tune", hosted originally by Tom O'Connor and then by Lionel Blair. Maggie and Sheeba (who represented Ireland in 1981 with "Horoscopes") were the resident singers, who would both sing songs in the intervals and sing the questions during the Sing-A-Note round. One of the most well-known sequences came

when Maggie sang and danced with the conductor of the orchestra, Alan Braden, as he continued conducting throughout!

Now based in Solihull, Maggie and Colin divorced in 1992 and Maggie engaged in an affair with James Hewitt, whose subsequent friendship with Princess Diana reinvigorated press interest in Maggie. She also became very interested in polo, forming an all-female polo team called the Moonbeams. Indeed, Maggie and James met at a polo match. Careerwise, Maggie performed regularly on stage, particularly doing pantomime and touring for several years with Mark Rattray performing songs from the musicals. Maggie also performed on cruise ships and for the Armed Forces.

It was on a cruise that she met and fell in love with Sir William Gibbons, 9th Baronet of Stanwell Place. The press portrayed Maggie as a scarlet woman as Sir William was still married at the time, but after the divorce came

through (on grounds of adultery), Sir William married Maggie, who is now Lady Gibbons. Maggie renewed her professional relationship with Mo Rivers and, as Maggie & Mo, they recorded an album of wartime songs and perform together. Most recently, Maggie has started to design her own name jewellery collection.

"Happy Everything" may have missed out on Eurovision in the cruellest of circumstances, but it seems that it has been happy everything after for Maggie Moone. ■



Maggie with Don Black and Geoff Stephens

Retrospective 2007

Part Two comments and results

Darren Jenkin returns with a selection of reader's comments and the results of the 2007 Retrospective poll. *As always, the views and opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those held by the Editor, Vision magazine or OGAE UK*

ALBANIA

Phillip Ronald Price: "Never really got started"

Davina Revie: "Shouldn't have bothered turning up"

ANDORRA

Alan Murrell: "Mcfly v Busted. Their best ever entry"

Richard Farnham: "Failure of its non qualification is the absolute proof that the semi voting system doesn't work"

ARMENIA

Marie Bennett: "Good ballad, naff shirt"

Kath Dobson: "Hug a hoodie"

Mark Sorrell: "Some bloke was blowing an instrument under a tree. We've all been there"

AUSTRIA

Andi Musson: "Get a life? Get some votes more like"

Barry Friend: "Horrible nasty noise"

Duncan Hartley: "A really top class voice and performance"

David Revie: "Get a song"

BELARUS

Andy Roberts: "Over rated. Too orange"

Pam Yates: "Burton man, yeh!!!"

Sally Frith: "He can put his slippers under my bed anytime!"

BELGIUM

Paul Marks Jones: "Fresh and funky"

Charles Patrick: "If Kate Ryan couldn't make it this had no chance"

BOSNIA HERZEGOVINA

David Allan: "Walking lampshade"

Paul Johnston: "Instantly forgett... no, it's gone"

Perran Richards: "Looks like a gherkin"

Duncan Hartley: "OK-ish song in a low key moaning ethnic way"

BULGARIA

Serbia Sam: "Mullet on the drums"

Michael Potter: "Different but sticks out"

Mark Sorrell: "Perfect mix of ethnic and modern, energetic hand raising power drums"

CROATIA

Colin Hyde: "Bring back Claudia Beni"

Terry Clarke: "Dragonfly needed swatting"



Belarus: Slippers



Finland: Scary

CYPRUS

Terry Clarke: "Had quite a bit of work done hasn't she?"

Mark Sorrell: "Vocally this was shouted and ruined by her trying too hard"

CZECH REPUBLIC

Theresa Collins: "Too loud and lacking a tune"

Martin Frampton: "Collect your bus passes boys and leave"

Barry Friend: "Sounds like a bunch of cavemen"

DENMARK

Andi Musson: "DQ = Didn't Qualify. Sob"

Paul Johnston: "Somebody drag that Queen off"

Mark Sorrell: "Queen Priscilla of the Danes"

ESTONIA

David Allan: "Hedge, backwards, dragged"

Mark Sorrell: "Were those teeth all her's?"

FINLAND

Pauline Wright: "Scary woman"

Marie Bennett: "It rocked"

Kath Dobson: "Lordi's missus complete with bingo wings"

FRANCE

Andy Roberts: "Breath of fresh air"

Kath Rose: "Bit Plastic Bertrand"

Sally Frith: "Forget the cat they're barking"

(FYR) MACEDONIA

Serbia Sam: "Legs"

David Revie: "Legs she has, song she hasn't"

GEORGIA

Phillip Ronald Price: "Lovely lady but song was poor"

Jess Cully: "Welcome to the family. Very pleasant"

GERMANY

David Blunt: "It just didn't swing did it?"

Rod Maybour: "What a hunk and a great song"

Laura Steele: "The mob are missing their leader"

GREECE

Paul Marks Jones: "Wooden isn't the word"

Irene Revie: "He's not a natural mover is he!!!"

Charles Patrick: "He gets my pom poms shaking"

Jess Cully: "Rickyos Martinopolous"

HUNGARY

Andi Musson: "Pity the bus didn't arrive before she started singing"

Gemma Richards: "Jools Holland would love this"

Duncan Hartley: "A gutsy song from a really good singer"

ICELAND

Rod Maybour: "Looking old now"

Barry Friend: "Over dramatic headache music"

Duncan Hartley: "Scarier to look at than Lordi"

Retro Results		
Semi-final		
1st	Serbia	281
2nd	Denmark	256
3rd	Switzerland	250
4th	Slovenia	197
=5th	Belarus	194
=5th	Hungary	194
7th	Andorra	187
8th	Netherlands	163
9th	Latvia	159
10th	Cyprus	158
11th	Norway	147
12th	Georgia	145
13th	Bulgaria	109
14th	Malta	101
15th	Austria	91
16th	FYR Macedonia	89
17th	Portugal	79
18th	Turkey	75
19th	Estonia	70
20th	Moldova	62
21st	Iceland	59
22nd	Poland	43
23rd	Montenegro	34
24th	Israel	30
25th	Albania	27
26th	Czech Republic	26
27th	Belgium	13
28th	Croatia	12
Final		
1st	Russia	711
2nd	Hungary	617
3rd	Greece	532
4th	Serbia	505
5th	United Kingdom	504
6th	Ukraine	480
7th	Latvia	441
8th	Sweden	399
9th	Slovenia	391
10th	Finland	330
11th	Georgia	303
=12th	Belarus	298
=12th	Bulgaria	298
14th	Spain	297
15th	Germany	285
16th	Lithuania	274
17th	Turkey	257
18th	Moldova	224
19th	France	195
20th	FYR Macedonia	176
21st	Armenia	90
=22nd	Bosnia Herzegovina	85
=22nd	Romania	85
24th	Ireland	37



Lithuania: Budget

IRELAND

Colin Hyde: "Nervous performance of an awful song"

Gemma Richards: "She looks like a milkmaid"

Kath Rose: "She sounds like Larry the Lamb!"

Steve Dobson: "What language is this in?"

ISRAEL

Ian Hughes: "Push the fast forward button"

Barry Friend: "Pathetic juvenile political gesture"

David Revie: "Push off"

LATVIA

Alan Murrell: "Great to hear Italian back in ESC"

Carly Bickley: "Old Divo"

Paul Johnston: "Il duffo"

LITHUANIA

Colin Taylor: "A nothingness"

Serbia Sam: "Budget catwoman with a boys haircut"

Jess Cully: "A welcome return to the ESC for the Shadows"

Mark Sorrell: "Has a group ever been so misnamed?"

MALTA

Irene Revie: "Enough with the fans"
Sally Frith: "She's got vertigo, I've got earache"

MOLDOVA

Paul Marks Jones: "She clearly waxes"
Mark Sorrell: "Almost saw some Moldavian minge"

MONTENEGRO

Alan Murrell: "Should've stayed with Serbia"
Mark Sorrell: "The guitarists must think they are in Status Quo"

NETHERLANDS

Richard Farnham: "A weak song but an absolute cracker of a performance"
Mark Sorrell: "Edsilia is fun but she needs a good song"

NORWAY

Colin Hyde: "Costume changes emphasise how stereotypical this is"
Duncan Hartley: "An attractive number and better than many qualifiers"



Moldova: Waxes

Retro Results

Overall

1st	Serbia	279
2nd	Switzerland	209
3rd	Hungary	161
4th	Greece	154
5th	Denmark	152
6th	Russia	131
7th	Belarus	130
8th	Georgia	129
9th	Slovenia	122
10th	United Kingdom	119
11th	Latvia	118
=12th	Andorra	115
=12th	Ukraine	115
14th	Bulgaria	103
15th	Cyprus	92
16th	Sweden	90
17th	Norway	87
18th	Netherlands	71
19th	Moldova	61
=20th	Malta	59
=20th	France	59
22nd	Iceland	47
23rd	Romania	46
=24th	Germany	44
=24th	Portugal	44
26th	FYR Macedonia	43
=27th	Austria	42
=27th	Spain	42
=27th	Turkey	42
30th	Estonia	39
31st	Israel	34
32nd	Lithuania	32
33rd	Finland	28
34th	Armenia	24
35th	Albania	22
36th	Poland	16
37th	Montenegro	13
=38th	Bosnia Herzegovina	11
=38th	Ireland	11
40th	Czech Republic	10
41st	Croatia	4
42nd	Belgium	1



Turkey: Small package

POLAND

Theresa Collins: "Cringeworthy"

Irene Revie: "It's like three different songs joined together"

PORTUGAL

Andi Musson: "Robbed again of a place in the final"

Richard Farnham: "Memories of how ESC used to be"

ROMANIA

Chelle Richards: "Very noisy"

Sally Frith: "In any language this is drivel"

Davina Revie: "Where do they find these people?"

RUSSIA

Kyp Koumi: "Sexy stuff. Deserved top three"

Terry Egan: "Song number one in their dreams"

SERBIA

Colin Taylor: "Makes me tingle"

Gemma Richards: "Looks like a butch Harry Potter"

Kath Rose: "Roland from Grange Hill"

Michael Potter: "The best of both nights"

SLOVENIA

Kay Richardson: "My Dad would love this"

David Allan: "Drunk woman at a party"

Irene Revie: "She'd be useful during a power cut"

Mark Sorrell: "Brightman of the Balkans"

SPAIN

Irene Revie: "Bit shouty but some good guy candy"

Mark Sorrell: "It's not bad but a very dodgy live vocal from the boys"

SWEDEN

Marie Bennett: "Glamtastic"

Martin Frampton: Androgynous grandson of Slade with a touch of rocky horror"

Mark Sorrell: "Anyone who writes a song about men in uniform gets praise from me!"

SWITZERLAND

Paul Johnston: "A pain in the neck"

Terry Clarke: "Looks like their voters aren't alive"

Mark Sorrell: "Dummies on stage looked more alive"

TURKEY

David Blunt: "Irritatingly good"

David Revie: "Ugh"

Mark Sorrell: "Proof that good things come in small packages"

UKRAINE

Chelle Richards: "Dr Evil"

Steve Dobson: "The Buggles are back!"

Terry Egan: "Deserved second ... from bottom"

UNITED KINGDOM

Kev James: "Postcard humour at its British best"

Sally Frith: "Where did they say the exits were?"

Duncan Hartley: "Sadly nobody wanted David's nuts"

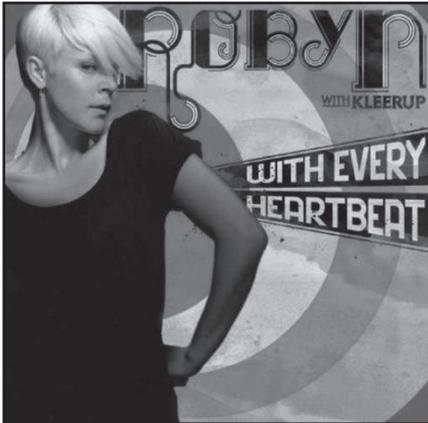
Mark Sorrell: "You don't get anything to suck on if you fly Virgin" ■

Richard's Round Up

What's new from OGAE UK President **Richard Crane**

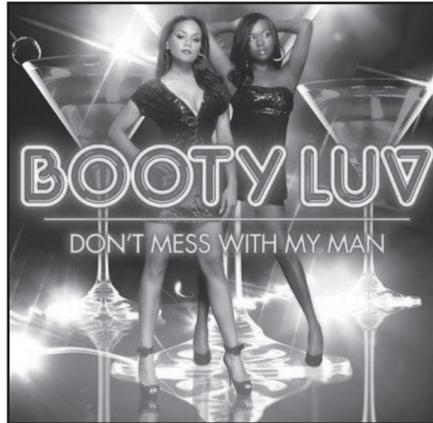
Welcome back, and I hope you managed to find some sun during the past few months!

The success story of 2007 has to be Swedish singer Robyn. In 1996 she had her first UK hit with "You've Got That Something" which peaked at number 54. During the next two years three more singles cracked the Top 30 including "Show Me Love" which reached



number 8 in 1998, while a year earlier Robyn had taken part at Melodifestivalen. Since parting with her record company and financing her own label, Konichiwa, Robyn released a limited edition EP titled "Rakamonie" last November. This was followed by "Konichiwa Bitches" in March 2007, an album, "Robyn", in April and the July single "Every Heartbeat". All this was achieved independently but, when it became clear that Robyn had a huge hit on her hands, she joined forces with Island Records. In an interview with Music Week, Robyn said "the deal was really important. I didn't want

to compromise the freedom I've built up through my own company ... but at the same time I am gaining access to the structure and a machine which can handle a release in a way that you can't with an independent label". The venture has now given Robyn a number one single and a Top 20 album, so expect to hear more from her during the next year.

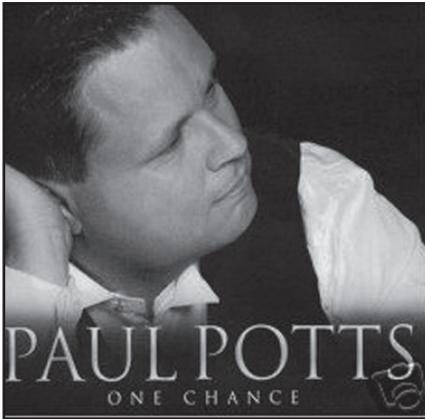


Returning to British celebrities, and Carrie and David Grant have apparently signed up for a new talent show from the makers of Big Brother. Bucks Fizz's "Greatest Hits" just made the UK Top 40, spending a single week at number 40 and giving them their first chart album in over 20 years. Elsewhere Roy Wood sees the re-issue of his debut solo album, "Boulders" (EMI SHVLR 803). The album originally reached number 15 in August 1973 and includes his version of "Songs Of Praise", which was performed by the New Seekers at Song For Europe a year earlier. Following on from his

performance in "Kismet", Michael Ball returns in the new West End revival of "Hairspray", while Nadine and Cherise (from Big Brovaz) re-join Booty Luv for a third single, "Don't Mess With My Man". Javine is expecting a baby with former So Solid Crew member, Harvey, and Don Black has recently been inducted into the Songwriters Hall Of Fame.

Secret Garden continue to work on their next album, which will see international singers performing new lyrics written by Brendan Graham to accompany existing instrumental tracks. Rolf Lovland is also raking in more royalties from cover

year. On a brighter note you do get "A Windmill In Old Amsterdam" on the double CD! My thanks to Marcus for letting me know that the latest artist to have his songs turned into a musical is none other than Udo Jurgens! Although no trace of a commercial release for "Life" by ATFC, Lisa Millet's "Don't Bring Me Down" did come out on a Defected Records 12" (DFTD162) and CD (DFTD162CDX). He may be in his eighties, but Denis Lotis still makes the occasional appearance in his local pub in Norfolk. While researching some information on Denis I discovered a CD



versions of "You Raise Me Up" thanks to the continuing number of artists choosing to cover this song. Although it features on two of his albums, Josh Groban's download only version charted at number 74 on the singles chart, while "You Raise Me Up" is also featured on the recent number one album by Paul Potts (Sony / BMG 88697138682), although his version is sung in Italian!

Ronnie Hilton's "The Ultimate Collection" (EMI 3948172) features the CD debut of his 1957 UK pre-selection entry "For Your Love" but, disappointingly, not his version of "Once" from the same



release from 2003 on Vocalion, "Mr Dee & Me" (CDLK 4185), which was recorded in 1999 with Brian Dee.

Finally, an unfortunate sign of the times. Dervish were due to play at a local venue a few weeks after their appearance in Helsinki. When I enquired about the availability of tickets I was told the performance was cancelled. Before I could say anything the girl at the end of the phone said it was "due to their bad performance in Eurovision"! I hope Dervish recover from this setback, but it looks as if Eurovision has possibly killed their 20 year career! ■

Record Reviews

BUCKS FIZZ

The Very Best Of

Sony /BMG 88697099312

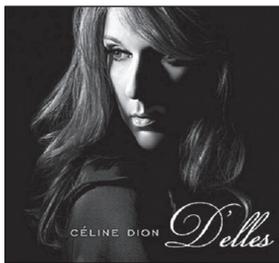
It's nearly 20 years since Stylus issued "The Story So Far" and that has now been deleted for a long time. This new compilation merges both phases of the groups career and is an excellent reminder of just how good Bucks Fizz were. Although they had 20 hits, only 18 are here with "Magical" and "Rules Of The Game" both missing. It is great hearing songs like "Now Those Days Are Gone" and "Golden Days" again, and they have really stood the test of time well. Bucks Fizz recorded some of the finest pop songs of the eighties and it's good that their back catalogue has recently been re-issued and re-discovered. The only minor disappointment is the exclusion of "You Love, Love", which was released as a single in 1988. Unfortunately the videos for their singles have not fared as well. Many of them are particularly kitsch now (the eighties being visually dreadful), but you don't have to watch 'em! Just put the CD on and enjoy some great pop. **RC**

CELINE DION

Delles

Sony BMG 88697047962

At last! A decent album of new material from Celine Dion. Whether it is her stint in Vegas that has widened her vocal range or the simple fact that she is singing in her native tongue, "Delles" is superb. It's just a pity that her English language albums don't seem to have the passion that her French



albums do. Stand out tracks include "Immensite", "La Diva" and "Je Ne Suis Pas Celle". There is also a limited edition CD & DVD set and an even more limited CD & DVD box set. Whichever you choose to buy, you won't be disappointed. **RC**

DQ

Drama Queen

My Way M 201272

Not being a huge fan of "Drama Queen", meeting Peter, the man behind DQ, changed my opinion. He was one of the nicest guys I've ever met, and one of the hardest working! From the opening track you can imagine this album as the soundtrack to an unwritten musical. Like "Drama Queen" it's uplifting and fun. It is the sort of album to put on just before you go out to a party or clubbing! My favourite track is "A Daydream Nightmare", which sounds like ABBA meets Erasure, but every track is great. The album finishes with a remix of "Drama Queen" and I dare you to keep your hands still! It's impossible! **RC**

FRANCE GALL

Evidemment

WEA 2564620572

Like Francoise Hardy, France Gall has continued to be a

successful recording artist in France. This compilation CD was issued on the 40th anniversary of her Eurovision win and concentrates on France's recordings for Warner Music between 1974 and 1996. The best known tracks are probably the duet with Elton John, "Donner Pour Donner", and the single "Ella, Elle L'a" which narrowly missed the UK charts in 1987. On the early tracks France uncannily sounds like Lynsey DePaul, while standout tracks include "Si Maman Si" (from 1977),



"Cezanne Peint" (1984) and "Plus Haut" (1996). However, even though this is a UK issue, all the sleeve notes are in French. Some tracks have not dated particularly well, "Hong Kong Star" for example, but the majority have stood the test of time and justify career comparisons to Marianne Faithfull. Like fine wine, they both get better with age. **RC**

ZELJKO JOKSIMOVIC

The Platinum Collection

City Records CD 000552

One of the most popular Eurovision performers in recent years, and a huge star in his homeland, Zeljko Joksimovic is back with a new album. "The Platinum

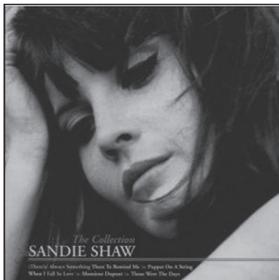
Collection" contains 18 of his most popular songs, including two new hits. While his 2004 entry is included, fans hoping for an album of "Lane Moje" remakes will be disappointed. What you will get, however, is a quality release packed full of pop, rock, ballads and ethno; all of which are taken to a new level by Zeljko's stunning voice. Being a greatest hits album, it's difficult to pick out a standout track, but one of the new hits, "Nije do Mene" is superb and would not sound out of place on the Eurovision stage. Other highlights include the lightly Latino-flavoured "Michelle", and his duet with Dino Merlin (ESC 1999), "Supermen". Admittedly a couple of the ballads are somewhat on the dreary side, but don't let that detract from what is overall an excellent album. Zeljko has recently been playing to packed stadiums across the Balkans and, with a repertoire like this under his belt, it's easy to see why. This should be an essential part of the CD collection of both Eurovision fans and Balkan music lovers alike. **AR**

SANDIE SHAW

The Collection

EMI Gold 3891132

Designed to tie in with the 40th anniversary of her Eurovision win, this budget price compilation features eight of 17 UK hits including,



of course, "Puppet On A String". The inclusion of "Tell The Boys" is an added bonus, but Sandie's versions of "Downtown", "I Get A Kick Out Of You" and "When I Fall In Love" feel awkward. On the plus side there is "Message Understood", "I'll Stop At Nothing" and the wonderful "Monsieur Dupont". The many album tracks give an alternative side to Sandie and there are a handful of foreign language recordings to further complete the picture. Not an essential purchase, but a perfect introduction to Sandie Shaw. **RC**

SONIA

Greatest Hits

Sony / BMG88697106052

A misleading title if ever there was one! If this had been called "Greatest Hits



1991-93" then fair enough, but this new compilation contains just five of Sonia's 12 hits. The real surprise is the failure to include "You've Got A Friend", which Sonia performed with Big Fun to raise money for Childline in 1990, as this was released by Jive which is now owned by Sony BMG! So while we await the other half of Sonia's greatest hits what is included here? There are no extended mixes, no previously unissued numbers and none of Sonia's other Song for Europe entries. The album is little more than

a compilation of dull cover versions of seventies floor fillers! That's not a swipe at Sonia, but at the record company who gave her such dreadful material to work with. Yet on the positive there are a handful of gems here, like "Not What I Call Love" and "From Me To You" (both of which were co-written by Sonia). Other tracks worth noting are "Breakdown" (co-written by Lee John of Imagination) and "Just One Look" which was written by Pam Sheyne and Ian Levine. There is far more to Sonia than the singles included here but, until something better comes along, this will have to make do. **RC**

CYRIL STAPLETON & HIS ORCHESTRA

Cyril Stapleton & His Orchestra

REX Rexx 114

After such a build up, this is such a disappointment. The thought of two previously unheard Matt Monro tracks sounded so exciting, but what a let down. "O'Oh La La Boom Boom" and "Live A Little, Love A Little" appear to have been recorded for a French film as Matt sounds more like Maurice Chevalier! Although the tracks were recorded before 1956 the inlay contains no recording information and, given the way Matt Monro's name is emblazoned over the front cover, further details about these historic discoveries was naturally expected. The remaining tracks are fairly pleasant and typical big band recordings from the era, but nothing makes up for disappointment of the Matt Monro tracks. On the plus side "Blue Star" features vocals by Julie Dawn, who was part of the 1956 UK pre-selection. **RC** ■

Vision Smalls

FOR SALE

Various Eurovision CD's for sale from across the years. Please e-mail Graham Ridge at silverstreaker@easy.com for list.

Many national finals on VHS available for sale or swap in exchange for CD or vinyl singles. Contact T J Loveridge, The Bungalow, 56A Fulbridge Road, Peterborough PE1 3LB

WANTED

Ukraine 2006 CD single. Contact T J Loveridge, The Bungalow, 56A Fulbridge Road, Peterborough PE1 3LB

Searching for the promotional edition of Sopho's eight track CD of "Visionary Dream" (Georgia 07) and also Magdi Ruzsa's latest album "Ordogi Angyal" which includes the Hungarian version of "Unsubstantial Blues". Please contact Hazel Ford, 32 Lakeswood Road, Petts Wood, Orpington, Kent BR5 1BJ

OGAE UK Accounts

OGAE UK - Subscription Account (Vision and Eurosong News)

Income and Spending between
1st April 2006 and 31st March 2007

Income Categories

Interest Income	£1.13
Membership	£5,931.50
Total Income Categories	£5,932.63

Expense Categories

Bank Fee	£12.00
Election Costs	£8.65
Eurosong Expenses	£2,520.65
Ex-gratia payments	£250.00
Vision Expenses	£3,625.91
Total Expense Categories	£6,417.21
Grand Total	-£484.58

Cash Position as at 1st August 2007

Total cash	£5,666.04
Debts*	-£4,872.00
Total assets	£794.04

* This figure comprises outstanding payments owed to Eurosong News

OGAE UK - Convention Account (Convention and Tickets)

Income and Spending between
1st April 2006 and 31st March 2007

Income Categories

Ticket Receipts*	£12,049.75
Convention Receipts	£2,338.90
Total Income Categories	£14,388.65

Expense Categories

Ticket Payments*	£11,200.00
Convention Payments	£1,765.73
Total Expense Categories	£12,965.73

Grand Total **£1,422.92**

Cash Position as at 31st July 2007

Total cash	£2,535.93
Debts	£0.00
Total assets	£2,535.93

* due to the timing of the Eurovision Song Contest, ticket receipts and payments for any one contest may be received and/or paid in two different financial years, providing a temporary distortion to the annual summary

Prepared by Simon Bennett and Gordon Lewis

Quiz Answers

1. "Bye Bye, I Love You" (Luxembourg 1974) 2. Germany 3. "Dans Le Jardin De Mon Âme" 4. Twice (1960 and 1992) 5. As a mark of respect following the death of President Georges Pompidou 6. FYR Macedonia 7. 11 (five days short of her 12th birthday) 8. "Chez Nous" (1966 - finished 16th with one point) 9. "Puppet On A String" 10. 24 (1959-1979 and 2004-2006) 11. "Pour Que Tu M'aimes Encore"

THE 'LAST' PAGE

Czech Republic 2007 – Semi final



**“Malá Dáma”
Kabát**

Received one point from Estonia